

NVC: Heathlands

13th - 16th August 2010

Led by Ben Averis

Level: Intermediate



Photographed by: Martyn Jamieson

Kindrogan Field Studies Centre

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The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 Centres

Course outline: The course begins after dinner on the 13th and ends after breakfast on the 16th, though people can leave at the end of the evening session on the 15th if they prefer as there will be no actual teaching on the 16th. On the 14th and 15th we will visit local sites with a range of different heathland types. We will classify their vegetation using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). In doing so, we will consider the ecology of the various heathland types and their place in a wider British context. There will also be indoor sessions on the evenings of 13th, 14th, and 15th. The NVC teaching will make use of publications such as volume 2 (mires and heaths) of the NVC series. However, it will not be based strictly around the collection and analysis of quadrats; it will be more general, considering different approaches to vegetation classification.

Your tutor: Ben Averis is a consultant botanist who has been using the NVC for 21 years. He is a co-author of an illustrated Guide to British Upland Vegetation (JNCC 2004).

Equipment to bring with you:

Wellingtons and/or waterproof walking boots (some are available at the centre at a small cost)
Waterproof clothing (some are available at the centre at a small cost)
Lunch Box , vacuum flask
Rucksack
Plenty of spare warm clothing
Hand Lens

Recommended reading:

British Plant Communities. Volume 1 - Woodlands and Scrub. (J.S. Rodwell (Ed.; 1991; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge).

British Plant Communities. Volume 2 - Mires and Heaths . (J.S. Rodwell (Ed.; 1991; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge).

An Illustrated Guide to British Upland Vegetation (Averis, A.M., Averis, A.B.G., Birks, H.J.B., Horsfield, D., Thompson, D.B.A. & Yeo, M.M.; 2004; UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee).

Plant identification books such as:

The Wild Flower Key (Francis Rose)

Wild Flowers of Britain & Ireland (Blamey, Fitter & Fitter)

Grasses, sedges, rushes & ferns of the British Isles & NW Europe (Francis Rose)

British mosses & liverworts (E.V. Watson)

Bryophytes of native woods (Carol Crawford)

Booking Procedure

To book a place on this course, please complete the booking form and send it together with a deposit of £50.00 (cheque payable to Field Studies Council). Provisional bookings should be made by telephone. Payment of the balance of the course fee will be 30 days before the beginning of the course. Cancellation after this date may leave the customer liable for the full amount – a condition which is accepted when the booking is confirmed. You are recommended to take out personal cancellation insurance to cover this eventuality.

Course Fees & What's Included

Resident - £175 Sole Occupancy / £145 Shared Accommodation includes tuition, full board accommodation, transport to sites, use of library, from supper on 13th August until after breakfast on 16th August 2010

Non – Residential - £128 includes tuition packed lunches, evening meals and transport (in other words everything but bed and breakfast).

Transport – Any excursions during the trip will be made in either the Centre vehicles or private cars. The cost of this is included in the fee. For anyone who kindly uses their own vehicle for the course excursions will be reimbursed for petrol costs at a set rate.

Times – Resident and Non-resident visitors are requested to arrive at the centre before 7pm on 13th August and report to reception. Supper will be served at 7.30pm after which there will be an introductory talk about the centre. Breakfast is served at 8am. Tuition will end on the evening of the 15th with departure after breakfast on the 16th August.

Weekend/Mid week Courses – Courses that run from Friday to Sunday or mid week may finish late, so to accommodate this we maybe able to offer extra nights accommodation.