

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Friday 6th – Friday 13th August 2010

*a course led by Judith Allinson
at Malham Tarn Field Centre*



The Course

Malham Tarn Field Centre is an excellent place to study grasses, sedges and rushes. Few other places can boast that one third of the c.107 British members of the sedge family (Cyperaceae) can be seen within walking distance! Grasses and Rushes are very well represented too.

This is because of the diversity of habitats: heather moorland, peat bogs, limestone grassland and limestone pavement, ash and oak woodland, high altitude fens and calcareous flushes. There are even artic-alpine species which used to thrive when conditions were much colder, and now only survive in a few sites.

On the course we will concentrate on learning how to use keys to help recognise the species, and on seeing the plants in their habitats.

The course will include:

- ♦ An introduction to the more common grasses, sedges and rushes.
- ♦ An introduction to flowering parts and vegetative characters helpful in identification of these plants, and examination of these under a microscope.
- ♦ Use of keys.
- ♦ Expeditions through the beautiful Craven countryside to many different habitats to find the more unusual grasses, sedges and rushes.

A significant amount of time will be spent studying grasses, sedges and rushes in their vegetative state. Once you can recognise a plant by its leaves you can recognise whether it flowers or not. The AIDGAP Key to grasses (by Pankhurst and Allinson) will be introduced and used on the course.

According to the interests of the group there will also be opportunity for discussion of grasses, sedges and rushes as indicator species of habitats



Pale Sedge (Carex pallescens) by Judith Allinson

and grassland management; of National Vegetation Classification types; and for photography.

People who come on the course include environment consultants, amateur botanists, teachers and people on holiday wishing to learn a new natural history skill.

Malham Tarn NNR is designated a Grade 1 SSSI by Natural England. At least one day will be spent studying this internationally famous site with its calcareous mire, fen and willow carr, raised bog, calcareous grassland and limestone pavement.

The Tutor

Judith Allinson, formerly a full-time tutor at Malham Tarn, is an experienced course leader. She co-wrote the AIDGAP key to grasses, and has carried out botanical survey work for English Nature.

Course Fees & Booking process:

Resident – sole occupancy	£570.00
Resident – sharing	£500.00
Non-Resident	£375.00

Resident fees include tuition, full board accommodation and course transport. Non-Resident fees includes tuition, evening meals, packed lunches and course transport.

First telephone the Centre to check availability, then return a completed booking form with your deposit of £50 to confirm your place.

Please note the booking conditions on the booking form, in the FSC Courses Brochure or on the FSC website.

Arrival / Departure Times:

Please aim to arrive between **4.00pm and 5.30pm on Friday afternoon**, allowing time to settle in before the evening meal at 6.00pm. The course will begin formally after dinner with an introduction to the Centre.

The course will end on Thursday evening, with departure after breakfast on Friday morning.

Travelling Here:

The Centre is located 4 miles North of Malham Village and 7 miles East of Settle.

Grid ref: SD 895673. Post code BD24 9PU.

- **By Train** The nearest stations are Settle and Giggleswick. We can arrange to collect you from and return you to the station by Centre minibus depending upon demand. **Please call & let us know of your arrival time in advance.** Taxis from the station should be booked in advance – call 01729-822219 or 01729-824888.
- **By Car** Please follow the directions attached.
- **Car Sharing** If you would like to be put in touch with other participants who are coming from your area, please let us know.

Excursions

Excursions away from the Centre will use Centre minibuses. On occasion it may be necessary to use private cars, in which case anyone who kindly uses their car will be refunded the petrol costs.

Other Courses This Week

- Interpreting the Landscape in Acrylic & Collage
- Fly Fishing in the Dales

Your partner or friend could join you for your stay to do their own thing. Please ask for details.

Suggested Reading & Equipment to Bring:

- ♦ Jermy, A C et al *Sedges of the British Isles* (BSBI) 2007 or 1982.
 - ♦ Cope, T & Gray, A *Grasses of the British Isles* (BSBI) 2009
 - ♦ Hubbard C E *Grasses* (Pelican)
 - ♦ Stace, C *New Flora of the British Isles* (Cambridge University Press)
 - ♦ Fitter R, Fitter A & Farrer R *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes & Ferns of Britain and Northern Europe* (Collins)
 - ♦ Rose F *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns of Britain and North Western Europe* (Viking)
 - ♦ Clapham A R, Tutin T G & Warburg E F *The Excursion Flora* (Cambridge University Press)
 - ♦ A hand lens of at least 8x magnification*
 - ♦ Camera and binoculars if you wish.
 - ♦ A dissecting kit if you have one for microscope work*
 - ♦ Waterproof Jacket and Trousers *
 - ♦ Walking boots, Wellington boots *
 - ♦ Warm clothing, hat, scarf, gloves; thick socks
 - ♦ Small rucksack, flask / water bottle,
 - ♦ Sandwich box *
 - ♦ Sun cream; insect repellent
- * *These items can be borrowed at the Centre*

Malham Tarn experiences an upland climate - at any season it can be bright and fine, but can also be cold, windy and wet. Please be prepared by bringing warm and waterproof clothing, and strong waterproof footwear. Some surfaces around the buildings are uneven and may be slippery therefore visitors are advised to wear flat shoes.

Flowers of the Dales Festival

This Course is part of the Flowers of the Dales Festival, which features a wide range of events and activities to help people discover and celebrate the wonderful wildflower habitats found in the Yorkshire Dales. The Festival runs from May to September and is being co-ordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. www.ydmt.org



Malham Tarn Field Centre is one of seventeen Centres in the UK run by the Field Studies Council, an independent educational charity formed in 1943 to help people discover, explore, understand and be inspired by the natural environment.

The Centre stands high up (altitude of 381m) in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in a peaceful woodland setting beneath dramatic cliffs and overlooking Malham Tarn. The Tarn is the focus of an internationally important National Nature Reserve and the area is known for its magnificent limestone scenery, with the famous features of Malham Cove and Gordale Scar within walking distance.

Tarn House was built by Thomas Lister during the eighteenth century and extended by Walter Morrison, an eccentric philanthropist, who inherited the property in 1857. Many eminent guests stayed at the house including John Ruskin, Charles Kingsley and Judge Hughes. The estate was given to The National Trust in 1946, who lease the House to the FSC for educational purposes. The Field Centre opened in 1948.

The Centre is an ideal place to study a variety of topics and we offer courses at all levels for schools, colleges and universities, for vocational training and a wide range of special interest courses for adults and families. At any time we may have a variety of groups at the Centre. The Head of Centre leads a well-qualified and experienced teaching team with a full complement of staff on the domestic and administrative side. Courses are also run by carefully chosen guest tutors.



High Stables



Accommodation & Facilities The Centre comprises three buildings - Tarn House, North Wing and High Stables. North Wing is close to Tarn House separated by a cobbled courtyard. High Stables is a few minutes walk up a woodland track, where there is also a large parking area. Visitors to the Centre can expect to find a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Warm and comfortable sleeping accommodation is distributed across all three buildings. Many rooms have en-suite facilities, beds are prepared, towels provided and tea and coffee making facilities are available in your room.

There are four well equipped study rooms, a drying room, library, TV lounge, common room and tea room in Tarn House and North Wing. A second common room and bar are located at High Stables.

The tuck-shop sells a range of confectionery, drinks, toiletry items, stationery, postcards and souvenirs. The publications shop is located in the office and sells maps, books, FSC fold-out charts and keys. It should be noted that the nearest shops and cash machines are 7 miles away.

Mobile reception is variable – public telephones are available if yours does not work! Computers have internet access, with wireless broadband accessible from your laptop, in some areas.

Catering The dining room is located in Tarn House. In addition to a cooked breakfast and wholesome home-cooked evening meal, materials are provided for you to make a picnic lunch to enjoy wherever your course may take you. Special diets can be catered for by prior arrangement. Drink making facilities are available at all times in the tea room.

Important It is in your own interests to inform the Centre of any medical problems, disabilities, allergies or dietary requirements you may have. All information will be treated in confidence.

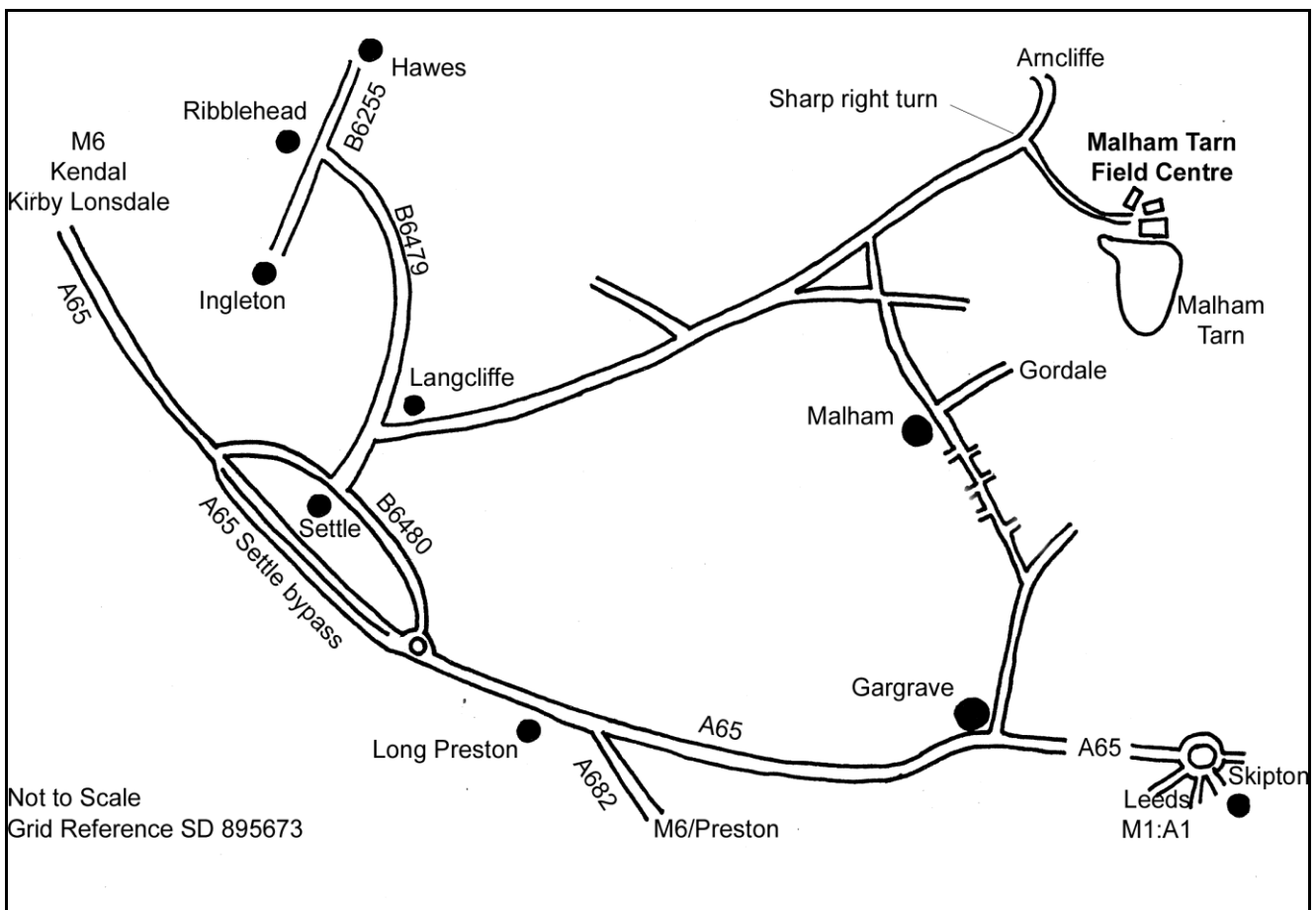
How to find us

1 From Malham: Bear **left** at the Buck Inn. Drive up a winding hill, and along the flat (2 cattle grids) for 3 miles to a crossroads. Go **straight ahead** here, past High Trenhouse (Centre for Management Creativity) and down to a junction. Turn **right** and drive with the wood to your right for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Ignore the gated track and watch out for a **sharp right** hand turn down a slope at the far end of the woodland.

NB Do not take the road from Malham that goes past the Listers Arms Hotel as this becomes a gated track.

2 From Settle/Hawes/Horton-in-Ribblesdale Take the B6479 to Langcliffe (don't follow signs to Malham from Settle town Centre) and turn into Langcliffe at the sign 'Malham $7\frac{1}{2}$ '. Follow this road through the village, over a cattle grid, up a steep winding hill, over 2 cattle grids, down to an isolated farm and up another long hill. Bear **right** at the top of this hill. After just over a mile, the road forks at a small copse. Bear **left** here at the sign 'Arncliffe $5\frac{3}{4}$ ' (do not take the road to Malham). Continue for another mile, past a sharp right turn and a gated track. At the far end of the woodland watch for a **sharp right** turn.

The final turn is marked with a small sign to the Field Centre. Follow the track for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile past various cottages, through a rock cutting to the large buildings at the far end.



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