

NVC: Lowland Grasses & Woodlands

Monday 2 – Friday 6 August 2010

Led by Fiona Woolmer



Slapton Ley Field Centre
Sands Road
Slapton

Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2QP

Phone: 01548 580466

Fax: 01548 580123

enquiries.sl@field-studies-council.org

Office hours: 08:30 – 17:00

Monday – Friday with an answer phone facility at other times.

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



Overview of the course

The National Vegetation Classification has been derived from extensive quantitative sampling and analysis from a range of British plant communities. The resulting plant community descriptions provide an invaluable tool for the assessment of vegetation communities, enabling informed decisions to be made about habitat and species conservation and management planning options.

Participants will be introduced to the background and theory to the NVC and will undertake vegetation sampling in a variety of habitats around the beautiful South Devon coast and countryside. Different types of computer and long-hand analysis will be compared and management issues explored

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Recognise the relevance and value of NVC survey as part of the overall information gathering for a site
- Plan and apply NVC sampling techniques appropriate to the nature of a site and structure of its vegetation
- Analyse NVC survey results in order to place the sampled vegetation meaningfully within the wider context of British Plant Communities, as described by Rodwell.
- Use this information to interpret the likely effects of management practices; past, present and future
- Understand the role that NVC survey can play in management planning for a site.

This is **NOT** an identification course. A working knowledge of the more common trees, herbs and grasses will be assumed.

About the centre

Located on the southern tip of the Devon coast, the Centre is surrounded by the 200 hectare [Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve](#). Owned by the Whitley Wildlife Trust and managed by the Centre, the Ley is the largest freshwater lake in the south west and is extensively used in the courses at Slapton. The surrounding coastline and nearby Dartmoor National Park provides unrivalled opportunities for field courses.



About the tutor

Fiona Woolmer is a professional ecologist, experienced in survey, research and training projects. She ran the Devon Wildlife Trust consultancy for several years and currently lives locally, working freelance.

Course fees

- Sole occupancy Room: £330
- Shared accommodation: £290
- Non-resident: £215

What is included within the fee?

- Up to 10 hours of tuition a day
- Full board accommodation including a cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, home made cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available
- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day
- Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds
- Centre organised transport during the course (other than boat trips) and most admission fees

Non-resident course fees include all of the above except breakfast and accommodation.

What to bring

Hand lens (x10)

Compass

Kneeler pad or similar for quadrat work

Notebook, pens, pencils and a clipboard for A4 sheets. For recording in the rain, a large clear plastic bag that fits over the clipboard would be useful.

Rucksack, sandwich box and vacuum flask.

Appropriate clothing for all weather eventualities, especially a sunhat and sun cream. Waterproofs and Wellington boots are available from the Centre.

Stout footwear. There won't be a great deal of walking involved but some of the terrain is stony and uneven.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Rodwell, J. S. (ed.) (1991). *British Plant Communities, vol.1: Woodlands and scrub*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Rodwell, J. S. (ed.) (1992). *British Plant Communities, vol.3: Grasslands and montane communities*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Identification books

Start and finish times

Resident visitors are requested to arrive on Monday 2nd August at the office reception for registration before 5.30pm. After this time self-directed arrival information will be posted on the front door. There will be an introductory talk with the Head of Centre at 6.00 pm. Supper will be between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Breakfast will be from 7.30am. The course will end after supper on Thursday 5th August with departure after breakfast on 6th August.

Transport will be available to pick up from Totnes station at 2.15pm and 4.00pm. A return journey will be available at 9am or 4pm on day of departure. The total cost of this is £15 per participant.

Directions to the centre

The Field Centre is located between Kingsbridge, Dartmouth and Totnes and is about 20 minutes from each.

- Totnes Station is on the South West Main Line.
- Under 3 hours direct to London Paddington.
- Under 3 hours direct to Birmingham New Street.
- A pick up from the train station can be arranged, please contact the Centre for more details.



Booking procedure

Provisional bookings can be made by telephoning the centre or by completing the online form on the FSC website: www.field-studies-council.org

You will then be asked to complete a booking form, located within the relevant brochure or available to print off from the FSC website.