

An Introduction to Microfossils and Shell Sands

4th March – 7th March

Led by Adrian Rundle

Level 0

Jurassic Coast Centre

Victoria House

Uplyme Road

Lyme Regis

Dorset

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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



Overview of the course

The workshop is designed to give an introduction to the subject, including field techniques and lab work. This is a chance to be amazed by the beauty and diversity of a rarely-seen world of tiny organisms. The workshop starts with an introductory talk supported by demonstration slides and information booklets. We will visit a nearby beach to learn about some field techniques and to collect some samples. Selection of good microfossil samples requires careful examination of the sediments to assess their content, preservation and processability. The lab work will include how to process and concentrate samples and a chance to prepare at least one microscope slide for you to take away. The workshop is a very practical one and it is hoped that it will inspire participants to develop their interest afterwards.

About the centre



Victoria House is a substantial, detached red-brick property boasting lovely views over the town to the coast from many of the rooms. The spacious accommodation includes a large games room with pool table, table tennis plus a small gym and sauna suite. The house has a large terraced patio area with seating and is only 10 minutes walk to the beach and town amenities.

Originally the Victorian train station hotel, this luxurious accommodation would be an ideal base for anyone wishing to bring their partner to have a short break too. The additional price per night would be £40 to include dinner, bed & breakfast. This seaside town boasts a cinema, theatre, museum, coastal and country walks in addition to the local shops.

Accommodation: Victoria House offers 8 luxury rooms with en-suite (some double and some twin) there are a further two bedrooms with shared bathroom.

About Lyme Regis



The picturesque coastal town of Lyme Regis is set in the centre of Dorset and Devon's Jurassic Coast, England's only natural World Heritage Site, including the Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs National Nature Reserve, one of the most important wilderness areas in Britain. The Town and neighbouring Charmouth are famous for their geology, coastal erosion and direct access to fossils on the beach including ammonites, marine reptiles and dinosaurs that inhabited the early Jurassic Seas. In the nineteenth century Lyme Regis was home to the renowned fossil hunter and expert Mary Anning and played a pivotal role in the birth of the earth sciences.

Lyme Regis is a great place from which to study the natural sciences offering easy access to the South West and the giant outdoor classroom that is the 95 miles Jurassic Coast. Lyme Regis also has a rich cultural heritage and today offers an eclectic mix of arts and other activities that run throughout the year.

About the tutor

Adrian Rundle is a general naturalist studying many groups of organisms, especially those with an emphasis to the fossil record. Adrian works at the Natural History Museum in London as a science educator and curator.



Course fees

- Sole occupancy Room: £350
- Shared accommodation: £320
- Non-resident: £240

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
- Use of dedicated wi-fi internet area, games room, sauna and lounge
- Centre organised transport during the course and admission fees

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

What to bring

Warm clothing and sensible footwear for walking. It is recommended that participants with suitable binocular stereo microscope (about x20 to x40) bring it along so they can practice on familiar equipment.

Start and finish times

Resident visitors are requested to arrive on Thursday 4th March at reception for registration between 1600hrs and 1700 hrs. An introductory talk will follow. Supper will be between 6.30 pm and 7.30pm. Breakfast will be at 8.30am. The course will end on Sunday 7th March at 1400hrs

Non resident guests will be contacted on the day of arrival to confirm the time of the introductory talk

Directions to the centre

Public transport: Axminster mainline train station is just 4 miles away. This is the London Waterloo to Exeter line. We can arrange for you to be met at the station by minibus but there is also the 31 bus which stops right outside our Course Centre upon request.

Lyme Regis is also on the Jurassic Coast bus service no X53 which runs from Poole to Exeter. The nearest X53 bus stop is 1/4 mile from the Course Centre.

By car: From the West A35 take Rt turning at Raymonds Hill sign posted to Lyme Regis (B3165) and follow for approximately 2 miles – Victoria House is on the left at a small roundabout. If approaching from the East A35 take the B4473 off the Charmouth roundabout sign posted to Lyme Regis. Follow road into Lyme Regis, up through the main street and take the Rt fork opposite the Cinema. Follow up to small roundabout, Victoria House will be on your Rt. There is parking for up to 10 cars. Please indicate if you will be arriving by car.

Booking procedure

Provisional bookings can be made by telephoning 0845 345 4071 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.