

Identifying Flies

Friday 15 – Sunday 17 June 2012

Led by Martin Harvey

Level 0

FSC Flatford Mill
East Bergholt
Suffolk
CO7 6UL

Tel: 0845 330 7368

enquiries.fm@field-studies-council.org



Overview of the course

Hoverflies, horseflies, houseflies, fruit flies, soldierflies, bee-flies, craneflies, greenbottles, mosquitoes and more: flies are all around us, but are often overlooked or even actively discouraged. In fact the true flies, or Diptera, are one of the most diverse orders of insect in the UK, with over 7,000 species to choose from. They are found in all habitats, have fascinating life-histories and interact with many other kinds of wildlife.

This weekend course will provide an introduction to the Diptera: how they live in their environment and how to recognise the major families. Through field visits and laboratory sessions we will explore a range of habitats and try out various techniques for finding and studying flies. Identification will be taken to species level for some groups of flies using a mix of photography, microscopes and voucher collections. This course is suitable for beginners with an interest in insects, as well as countryside professionals.

By the end of the workshops participants will:

- Be able to recognise the major groupings of Diptera
- Have had experience of the main field methods for finding Diptera
- Have investigated habitats of importance for Diptera
- Know how to record flies to ensure the information feeds in to the national recording schemes
- Know where to get help with identifying flies

The workshops will provide hands-on opportunities to find out about the subject and ask questions. Handouts and other information will be provided.

Although this is not an accredited course, it is suitable for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and a Certificate of Attendance can be provided on request.

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



About the Tutor

The course will be led by Martin Harvey, entomologist and biological recorder. Martin works on the OPAL iSpot project at the Open University and also as an entomological surveyor. In the past he has worked for Environmental Records Centres and Wildlife Trusts and as a volunteer he is a county moth recorder. Martin is a qualified tutor and has led workshops on wildlife identification and recording for a wide range of organisations including FSC.

Start and finish times

Afternoon tea on Friday is available from 1600, but the first formal activity is dinner at **1900** (with the bar open from 1845!).

Residents: Please aim to arrive between **1530 and 1800** to allow us sufficient time to show you to your accommodation and around the communal areas.

Non-residents: You do not need to arrive quite so early but please can you be here by **1800** as we need to show you the communal areas as well.

The course ends at 1600 on Sunday.

Course fees

- Sole occupancy accommodation: £224
- Shared accommodation: £204
- Non-resident: £158

VAT is not applicable

What is included within the fee?

- Up to 9 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

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

What to bring

Field equipment will be available to borrow, but if you have an insect net, hand lens, collecting tubes/bug boxes and field notebook please bring them. (A hand lens can be purchased from the Centre shop at approx £4.50.) A digital camera with macro facility will be useful if you have it. Some people find close-focusing binoculars a useful tool for watching insects. If you already have identification keys or fly specimens do bring them as well.

The course includes field visits so please bring suitable clothing and footwear (if necessary, waterproofs and wellingtons can be borrowed the Centre).

Recommended Reading

- Unwin, D.M. 1981. *Key to the families of British Diptera*, Field Studies Council. Identifies flies to family level. Available as a free download from: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/fieldstudies/category/terrestrial.htm>
- Ball, S.G. 2008. *Introduction to the families of British Diptera*. A more recent key to families, containing more information than the above. Copies will be available to try out during the course, but if you are a member of Dipterists Forum you can download a copy from: <http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/t34-British-families-Diptera.html>. For information about Dipterists Forum see: <http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/index.php>
- Chandler, P. (ed.) 2010. *A Dipterist's Handbook*. Amateur Entomologists' Society. A wide-ranging introduction to the natural history of flies and how to study them (not an identification guide). For details see: http://shop.amentsoc.org/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=66&products_id=268

There are many books and papers relating to individual families of flies. The following are a good starting-point for some of the most popular families:

- Stubbs, A.E., and Falk, S.J. 2002. *British hoverflies: an illustrated identification guide*. British Entomological and Natural History Society. Comprehensive guide to all British hoverflies. For details see: <http://www.benhs.org.uk/portal/node/5>
- Gilbert, F.S. 1993. *Hoverflies* (Naturalists' Handbooks 5). Good introduction to hoverfly ecology, with identification notes and illustrations for some of the commoner British species. For details see: <http://www.pelagicpublishing.com/hoverflies-naturalists-handbook-5.html>
- [Unfortunately this one is currently out-of-print, but may be available second-hand or from libraries]: Stubbs, A.E., and Drake, M. 2001. *British soldierflies and their allies: an illustrated guide to their identification and ecology*. British Entomological and Natural History Society. For details see: <http://www.benhs.org.uk/portal/node/27>

About the Centre

Flatford Mill lies at the heart of the Dedham Vale, on the banks of the River Stour near the Suffolk-Essex border. The Centre buildings, particularly the Mill and Willy Lott's House, are instantly recognisable since they feature in many paintings by John Constable. The rich mosaic of lowland landscapes, wildlife habitats and places of historic interest are all reflected in our extensive programme of courses.

Booking procedure

Bookings can be made by telephoning the Centre; we are open 0930 – 1700 weekdays and most weekends. Alternatively, bookings can be made via our website: www.field-studies-council.org.

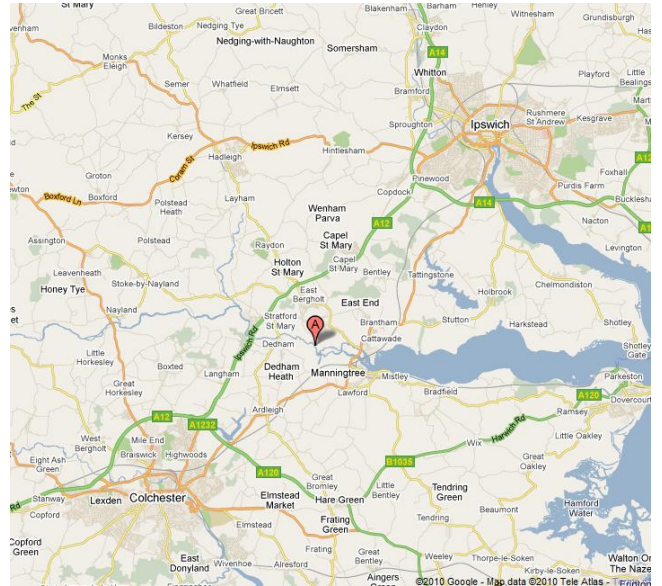
See page 4 for directions to the Centre.

Directions to the Centre

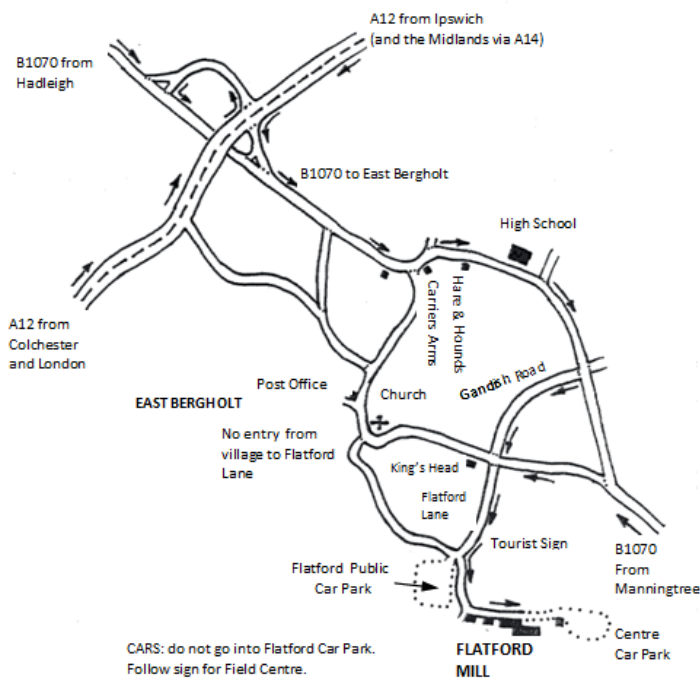
The Centre is located between Colchester and Ipswich and is about 10 miles from each, approximately 2 miles from the A12. Please see below for a map showing the last part of the journey.

Our nearest railway station is Manningtree, about four miles away from the Centre. It is on the main line from London Liverpool Street to Ipswich/Norwich and the journey time is approximately one hour. You can also travel to Manningtree station from the north via Peterborough and Ipswich.

Several taxis operate out of Manningtree station and can be pre-booked by us to meet you at the station and return you there at the end of your course.



Directions from the A12



- From the crossroads near the 'King's Head' come down Flatford Lane. It becomes one-way in your favour after 300m.
- 300m further on, note the direction arrow to the Field Centre on the first brown and white tourist sign.
- Turn left at the second tourist sign, down a narrow steep-sided lane. Do not go into or beyond the Flatford public car park.
- Bear left at the bottom of the hill. The Centre forecourt is then 200m further on, indicated by an FSC logo and sign on a low wall.
- On arrival please pull in, onto the forecourt or alongside the buildings in the lane, to keep access unobstructed.
- Please announce your arrival at Reception - the entrance by the sign on the far side of the forecourt.
- Please park in the Centre Car Park after announcing your arrival.