Overview of the course

Learn how to identify wildflowers. You may already be able to recognise a buttercup, but do you know which buttercup and why? Once you start to look more closely at wildflowers, your country walks will never be the same again.

Malham Tarn is a fascinating area with a wide variety of different habitats - woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, limestone pavements - giving a wonderful diversity of wildflowers within walking distance of the Centre, including some limestone specialities of the area such as bird’s-eye primrose and globeflower.

This short course will be an opportunity to look at this diversity with an experienced botanist and ecologist, noting what grows where and what grows with it. By looking more closely at familiar and unfamiliar flowers, we will not only see more of their beauty, we will also see how they can be named and grouped into families.

This course includes a gentle, but thorough, introduction to using keys and to flower families which will help participants enjoy identifying flowers later in the year.

Suggested Programme:

Friday evening
• Evening: Introductory talk/short walk (weather permitting)

Saturday
• Talk and practical work: What’s in a flower? The anatomy of wild flowers & using introduction to using keys
• Walk to Ha Mire and Gordale Scar: Wild flowers of limestone and uplands.
• Talk and practical work: Wildflower families

Sunday
• Excursion to Ingleborough Area
• Talk and practical work: Practicing using keys

Monday
• Malham Tarn NNR Fen & Peat Bog

Course Level: Open to everyone

About the Tutor

Judith Allinson, an experienced botanist, worked for English Nature carrying out survey work after leaving Malham Tarn where she was a member of staff. She currently teaches and carries out botanical survey work besides running courses on flowers and grasses for a variety of groups.
Course fees

- Resident – sole occupancy £365.00
- Resident – shared accommodation £335.00
- Non-Resident £255.00

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 and most admission fees

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

Booking procedure

Provisional bookings can be made by telephoning the centre on 01729-830331 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 brochure or available to print off from the FSC website. Return this to the Centre with your deposit to confirm your place (or pay deposit on-line).

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

Start and finish times

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

Non-resident guests – please arrive by 5.45pm.

The course will end at 3pm on Monday afternoon; rooms should be vacated by 9.30am.

Other Courses This Week

- Birdwatching in the Dales (Fri – Mon)
- Fly Fishing Weekend (Fri – Mon)

Your partner, family or friend could join you for your stay to do their own thing or to fish the Tarn during the fishing season. Please ask for details.

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 is co-ordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. www.ydmt.org

Excursions

Excursions will be by 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.

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.

What to Bring

- Hand lens of at least 8x magnification would be useful.* Best worn on a string round your neck.

Judith also recommends the Swiss army penknife – Explorer version - which has a good lens.

- A few polythene bags for specimens.
- Camera and binoculars if you wish.
- Bring any wildflower guides that you currently use.
- Warm clothes and a torch for evening studies.
- 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.

Recommended Reading:

There is a great variety of very good floras for Britain. If only buying one new book, buy the Collins Flower Guide by Streeter et al. (2009) - it is heavy to carry though!

Useful books for beginners:


The Wildflowers of Britain and Northern Europe. R Fitter, A Fitter and M Blamey. Collins

The Wild Flower Key.  F Rose and C O’Reilly. Warne.

Very useful book if you plan to go further:

New Flora of the British Isles  C Stace, Camb.
About the centre

Malham Tarn Field Centre is one of 17 Centres in the UK run by the Field Studies Council, an independent educational charity that helps people discover, explore, understand and be inspired by the natural environment. It is located high up (altitude 381m) in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in a peaceful woodland setting beneath dramatic cliffs, 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 during the eighteenth century and extended by Walter Morrison, who inherited the property in 1857. Many eminent guests stayed at the house during his time, including John Ruskin, Charles Kingsley and Judge Hughes. The estate was given to The National Trust in 1946, who leased the House to the FSC for educational purposes in 1947. The Field Centre opened early the following year with Paul Foster Holmes as the Warden.

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.

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 sells maps, books, FSC fold-out charts and keys. Note that the nearest shops and cash machines are 7 miles away in Settle.

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 ½ 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 7½’. 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 5¾’ (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 ¾ mile past various cottages, through a rock cutting to the large buildings at the far end.