This course is mainly aimed at those who have picked up some knowledge of plants from friends and family or looking at pictures, but are put off from taking things further by the technical language of more serious plant books. It will also suit the complete beginner.

The aim is that by the end of the course, you will:

i) understand the way in which by observing a few basic plant structures - flower, shoot, leaf and root - is essential for identifying them,

ii) be more comfortable with the off-putting specialist language used by botanists to describe and identify plants,

iii) know (by heart!) the identification characteristics of some of the main plant families and

iv) be more confident about taking things further through use of identification keys.

Part of the course we will go out into the field to look at plants but there will be some fun class exercises and time in the lab looking at the plants.
About the Tutor

John Hopkins has been an active field botanist since childhood. After graduating in Plant Sciences when traditional skills were still taught, and completing a PhD on the vegetation and flora of The Lizard, Cornwall, he worked for more than 30 years as a professional conservationist. He is Trustee of the Field Studies Council and in retirement spends part of his time helping others to learn about wild plants and their conservation.

What to Bring

Waterproofs

Walking boots / shoes

Any books you regularly use to identify plants (optional; we will be using Francis Rose's *Wildflower Key* as our main reference book and this will be available to use at the Centre).

Hand lens (if you have one)

Start and finish times

Check in is from 16.00 on Tuesday, but the first formal activity is dinner at 19.00 (with the bar open from 18.45!) followed by an evening classroom session. Residents: Please aim to arrive between 1600 and 1800 on Tuesday 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 will end at 1600 on Friday.

How to book

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.