

# Centipedes & Millipedes Identification Workshop

Led by *Paul Richards*

FSC Preston Montford

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Arrive for 10.00 am start  
Ends at 4.00 pm



## Overview of the course

This workshop will include:

- an introduction to the ecology and identification of UK Millipedes and Centipedes ;
- details of identification resources, in particular, the OPAL supported eBook, “An introduction to Centipedes, Millipedes & Woodlice” (authored by Paul Richards – our tutor);
- discussion of the finer points of field identification illustrated by some of Paul’s unrivalled collection of photographs (plus some live specimens);
- a field session to collect and identify Myriapods;
- an open identification and knowledge-sharing session in the classroom where participants can pick Paul’s brains and share their own knowledge; and
- opportunity to look more closely at specimens under the microscope;

The open nature of this workshop is designed to be suitable both for relative beginners to Myriapod ID and those wishing to take their ID and recording skills to the next level.

## Course Tutor



**Paul Richards** is author and photographer of the highly regarded FSC fold-out Guide to Harvestmen of the British Isles. He is an active recorder for several invertebrate groups and has published on Millipedes, Centipedes, Woodlice, Dragonflies and other insect groups. He was Senior Curator of Natural History at Museums Sheffield for over 25 years and has more recently undertaken ecosystem services research with the University of Sheffield, collecting, sorting and identifying over half a million invertebrate specimens. He has taught identification skills to children, undergraduates and several local and national wildlife groups. He is currently engaging new audiences in biological recording for the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

## Course objectives

This course is aimed at people who are keen to start or further an interest in Myriapods. We will focus on centipede and millipede identification, but will also consider the ecology of these fascinating animals. Although suitable for beginners, the open format is designed to enable those with more experience to extend their knowledge with the help of one of the county's leading exponents of invertebrate recording.

## What to Bring

- A packed lunch and drink.
- Outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for the prevailing weather conditions.
- If you are prone to insect bites please bring some repellent.
- A 10x hand lens (if you don't have one, we can lend you one for the duration of the course).

## Timetable

Starts at Preston Montford at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. You should report to reception at Preston Montford before 10:00 am so that the staff can direct you to the allocated classroom.

The day will begin with an introduction to harvestman showing you some of the fascinating features of their biology and ecology, but we will quickly move on to the business of identification. There will be a field collection and identification session in the grounds of Preston Montford.

Lunch and breaks will be taken as required (**don't forget your own packed lunch**).

## Course fees

Non-resident: £30.00

## What is included within the fee?

- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day
- Use of centre resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds
- Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency / emergency travel arrangements
- In course transport and necessary admission fees
- Rigorous and proven health and safety procedures including 24 hour emergency cover

**\* PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH FOR YOUR DAY COURSE**

## To make a booking contact: FSC Preston Montford directly by

- Telephone: 0845 330 7378
- E-mail to: [enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org)
- Online at: [www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford](http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford)

## General Information 2017

**FSC Preston Montford** was opened as an outdoor education centre in 1957 by the Field Studies Council. Since then it has been delivering high quality, inspirational curriculum related outdoor education. Our teaching staff are expert in their field and we work with the widest possible range of learners; from pre-school to Masters level. We can provide courses for schools, universities or individuals; for infants, school students, undergraduates or enquiring adults; anyone with an interest in the natural world. We offer day and residential courses and the Centre is available as a venue for others to use; there are bed and catering facilities for 130 visitors along with 6 fully equipped teaching and meeting spaces, a library, common rooms and a bar.



### About The Centre

**Location and site:** FSC Preston Montford is very accessible by road or rail. The site is 10 km west of Shrewsbury just 3 minutes drive from the A5 and 15 minutes drive from Shrewsbury Station.

**Buildings:** The campus has a complex of three main buildings built between 1700 and 1990 located around a central pond. Each building has bedrooms, classrooms and office space with additional classroom or meeting spaces set in a wooded garden area. The Main House has undergone a major re-furbishment in the first half of 2014 to provide modern bed and bathroom facilities as well as enhanced reception, meeting and library space. The Wenlock building has also undergone re-furbishment in the middle of 2016 to provide modern bed and bathroom facilities.

**Facilities and services:** A dining room and kitchen are part of the Main House; all catering is done in house with a fully trained and experienced Catering Team who cater for a full range of dietary requirements. The main teaching, recreation and dining areas are on ground floor level and some accommodation is available for wheelchair users. The different ages of our Centre buildings means that bedrooms range in style from dormitories to twin rooms with full en-suite.

The centre has a wide range of specialist equipment for teaching geography, ecology and other subjects outdoors as well as microscopes and laboratory equipment for examining and analysing samples indoors. Classrooms are fully equipped with interactive whiteboards and Wi-Fi access.

There are common rooms, drying areas, a library, a shop and a bar. We operate a 24 hour duty system and all staff are first aid trained and DBS checked.

**Site and grounds:** The Centre has 11 hectares of ground with a range of habitats. To the north lies the River Severn Montford SSSI which has a bank of semi-ancient woodland growing on a steep bank of glacial drift. Most of the area is grazed fields with hedges, 18<sup>th</sup> century specimen trees and some more recently planted copses. The eastern side of the estate is an area of more specialised habitats; ponds, wildflower meadow, ancient orchard, the remains of a walled garden and a Bee hotel.

Around the campus there is a sensory garden with a willow classroom area, weather monitoring plot, compost heap with wormery and installations for simulating rainfall-runoff relationships. The lawns, ponds, grassland and woodland are used for introductory teaching activities as well as student recreation.