


## Identifying Fungi



Nestled in the Scottish Highlands, Kindrogan is within close reach of some of the most secluded parts of the UK, allowing for inspiring landscapes and rich wildlife to feature in their courses.

### Course Overview

This course aims to give participants the tools to be more confident in their identification of fungi. It will offer guidance on field and laboratory techniques, including the use of keys and a microscope.



Whether your interest in fungi is just for fun or for more serious recording, this course aims to give participants the tools to be more confident in their identifications.

Time will be spent in the field looking for the fungi that associate with a stunning range of habitats including Caledonian pine, broadleaf woodland and old grasslands; many of the fungi that grow here are rarely seen in other areas of the country. In the field with an expert, it is possible to clarify the distinguishing macro characters that can be so difficult to transfer from the guidebooks to the real world. Prior knowledge of the scientific names of fungi is not required for this course but it is hoped that in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, you will surprise yourself at how many names you actually learn during the week.

Part of the afternoons and evenings will be set aside for working indoors to allow close examination of the specimens collected. Tips on taking spore prints and other simple techniques will also be given. A number of texts will be available, ranging from beginner's keys to genus monographs and time will be spent working through keys with those who are not confident in their use. Techniques will be taught to beginners in microscopy, to enable access to the world of spores and other fascinating micro-characters.

Evening talks will include further information about fungal lifestyles and why they are so important in our woodlands, grasslands and other habitats

**Provisional programme**

Day	Morning 9.30 onwards	Afternoon	Evening 8pm onwards
Friday		Arrival day	Introductions
Saturday	How to collect fungi for identification. Field visit : <b>Kindrogan</b> area	Brief talk when you get back to the lab – Introduction to the books and working in the lab	A talk on 'macroscopic features of fungi'
Sunday	Field visit : <b>Faskally</b>	Talk 'Microscopic features of fungi. Demonstration 'Using the microscope' . Working in the lab	Working in the lab
Monday	Field visit : <b>Mar Lodge Estate and Morrone Birkwood</b>	Working in the lab	Working in the lab
Tuesday	Field visit : <b>Birks of Aberfeldy</b>	Working in the lab	Talk "Woodland fungi"
Wednesday	Field Visit : <b>Dunachton</b>	Working in the lab	Talk "Grassland fungi"
Thursday	Field visit : <b>Killiecrankie</b>	Working in the lab	Clearing up
Friday	Departure after breakfast		

## About the Tutor

Chris Knowles is a consultant ecologist with a wide experience of leading workshops on fungus identification at Kindrogan and elsewhere in Scotland. As well as teaching, Chris has recently worked as an RSPB reserves ecologist.

## Recommended Reading

There is no essential reading list, although a familiarity with the names of different parts of the fungal fruiting bodies would be useful. There is some good background information to be found on the 'Scottish Fungi' website <https://sites.google.com/site/scottishfungi/> particularly in the section on 'Identification'. Some of this information can also be found in the introductions of the many field guides that are available in bookshops and libraries.

A selection of these books is given below and on the next page:

**'Collins complete guide to British Mushrooms and Toadstools'** by Paul Sterry and Barry Hughes published in 2009 by Harper Collins Publishers Ltd. Nicely illustrated, a useful field guide.

**'Mushrooms'** by Roger Phillips published in 2006 by Macmillan. This is a revised and updated version of the excellent book that Pan published in 1981. It is a bit large for taking into the field but with good photographic illustrations.

**'The New Naturalist Library – Fungi'** by Brian Spooner and Peter Roberts published in 2005 by Collins. Not a field guide but an excellent and readable introduction to the kingdom of the fungi.'

**'Collins Fungi Guide'** by Stefan Buczacki published in 2012 by Collins. A good range of species discussed and illustrated although a bit heavy to take in to the field.'

**'How to Identify Edible Mushrooms'** by Patrick Harding, Tony Lyon and Gill Tomblin published in 1996 by Collins. This has been reprinted and focuses on the features of edible fungi and their look a likes.

**'Fascinated by Fungi'** by Pat O'Reilly published in 2011 by First Nature. Lots of useful information in a user friendly format.

## What to Bring

- Lunch Box and vacuum flask
- Plenty of spare warm clothing (and clothing for sunnier weather just in case!)
- Day sack
- Notebook, the latter preferably with a rubber on the end,
- Old penknife or similar to help with collecting fruit bodies
- Some collecting boxes will be available but do bring your own preferred collecting
- Waterproofs and appropriate footwear (wellies & waterproofs can be borrowed from us)

For your own and group safety, Centre staff reserve the right to refuse to take people out on excursions if they are not properly equipped. If you are unsure equipment required, please contact us for advice.

## Arrival and Departure Times –

Resident and Non-resident visitors are requested to arrive at the centre between 3pm and 5pm on the day of arrival. Evening meal will be served at a set time between 5:45 and 6:30pm and the course will commence after a brief welcome to Kindrogan. Departure is after breakfast on the final day.

### Extra nights

If you are interested in staying at the Centre for additional nights, before or after the course, please contact the Centre for availability and costs (we can confirm B&B availability 4 weeks prior to the course).

### Partner Rate

For those paying the sole occupancy price, we are offering our guests a special rate for those who would like a twin room for them and their partner not enrolled on an FSC course, at £35 per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

## What is included

- **Full professional tuition:** usually each full day of our courses has 10+ hours of tuition, including after dinner sessions. (When a course Sunday it usually ends at approximately 3pm).
- **Full board and accommodation:** including cooked breakfast, packed lunch, Tea/Coffee, homemade cakes and an evening meal.
- **Special dietary requirements:** Vegetarian and other dietary options are catered for; we just ask you to notify us at least three weeks in advance of the course if you have special requirements.
- **Centre Facilities:** including use of our lounges, library, wildlife hides and drying room.
- **Travel: when transport is required** to sites during your course this is provided within the fee.
- **Non-resident rate:** includes all of the above apart from Bed and Breakfast and a packed lunch each day.

## How to Book

To book a place on this course you can either:

- Complete a booking form from the brochure and send it together with a non refundable deposit of £50.00 (cheque payable to Field Studies Council Limited ) or advise debit/credit card number.
- Book online at [www.field-studies-council.org/individuals-and-families/booking-information/online\\_booking\\_process](http://www.field-studies-council.org/individuals-and-families/booking-information/online_booking_process)
- Telephone 01250 870150 to book directly with FSC Kindrogan. (card payments made over the phone)