

Introduction to Fern Identification

Led by Mark Duffell

FSC Preston Montford

Tuesday 10th September 2019

Arrive in time for 10.00am start
the course will finish at 4.00pm

OFF SITE



Spleenworts (*Asplenium sp.*) growing on a wall. M. Duffell

Course Overview

A day course aimed at the keen beginner and improver alike, providing an introduction to the commoner ferns and their allies. Our day will be spent in *Benthall Edge woods* near the Ironbridge Gorge; a particularly interesting botanical site with a variety of woodland fern species.

The day will start with an introduction to Fern structures and terminology, followed by how to identify the commoner fern species. Later on we will look at techniques for determining the more unusual species. Use will be made of the excellent 'Fern Guide' and by the end of the day participants should feel confident in the use of this key. The only requirements for this course are an enthusiasm for plants and moderate walking ability.

Course Tutor



Mark Duffell has had a lifetime interest in plants gaining the RHS Diploma in Horticulture and completing an MSc in Biological Recording. He now runs **Arvensis Ecology** splitting his time between conducting botanical surveys and teaching botanical identification and survey techniques to undergraduate and postgraduate students of universities, consultants and environmental organisations.

Course location:

On site at Benthall Edge woods, Ironbridge. Park at the car park on the south side of the Ironbridge (SJ672033 – approximate postcode TF8 7JP) – car parking fees apply. Public toilets are available in nearby Ironbridge but not in Benthall Edge woods.

Timetable

- Meet in car park for 10am start. Walking and stopping along route for rest of day.
- Lunch break and breaks as required.
- Return to car park for around 4pm.

What to Bring

- x10 and/or x20 hand lens*.
- A packed lunch and drink.
- Walking boots and waterproofs.
- Bring along any specimens you would like help with identifying.

Useful Books

- *The Fern Guide: A field guide to the ferns, clubmosses, quillworts and horsetails of the British Isles.* Merryweather, J. 3rd edition. 2007. (£7.50)*

*Copies of this book and handlens are available to purchase on the day, provided you pre-order by contacting Preston Montford Field Centre before-hand.

Course fees

Non-resident: £45.00

What is included within the fee?

- 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
- Online at: www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford



Tel: 0845 330 7378

Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1DX

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

General Information 2019

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, 18th 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.