

Identifying Mosses and Liverworts

Led by *Nick Law*

FSC Preston Montford

Friday 18th – Monday 21st October 2019

Arrive for evening meal 6.30pm

Depart 4.00pm



Polytrichastrum formosum (N Law)

Course Overview

This course will provide an introduction to the skills that are needed to identify bryophytes. Field and laboratory sessions will involve the use of a field key and keys using microscopic characters to identify common species from a variety of habitats.

At the end of the course you will be able to differentiate between mosses and liverworts and sub-categories of these major divisions (e.g. thallose and leafy liverworts, acrocarpous and pleurocarpous mosses) and, for many commoner bryophytes, be able to tackle identification to species level using field and microscopic characters.

This course is suitable for beginners and those with a limited knowledge of bryophyte identification.

Outline Timetable

On Friday evening there will be an initial introductory talk and short practical session. The rest of the weekend will be a mixture of fieldwork (with guidance on how to collect, observe and record in the field) and laboratory sessions and short talks.

On Monday afternoon there will be a classroom-based test (optional for those not studying for accreditation).

Course Tutor



Nick Law is an experienced field botanist currently employed as a Principal Ecologist with FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. Nick's interests include vascular plants and bryophytes. He holds a Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Level 6 Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) and is the British Bryological Society Regional Recorder for Warwickshire.

What to Bring

- Warm clothing, waterproofs and stout footwear for fieldwork;
- Simple collecting equipment such as a field bag and a penknife;
- A x20 hand lens;
- A4 scrap paper to fold into packets;
- A vacuum flask and a bag or a box for carrying a packed lunch; and
- A microscope if you have one and would prefer to use your own during the weekend.

Useful Books

Any books you have on mosses and liverworts, particularly:

- Atherton, I., Bosanquet, S. and Lawley, M. (eds.). (2010). *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland – a field guide*. British Bryological Society
- Frey, W., Frahm, J. – P., Fischer, E. and Lobin, W. (2006). *The Liverworts, Mosses and Ferns of Europe – English edition revised and edited by T.L. Blockeel*. Harley Books: Colchester
- Paton, J.A. (1999). *The Liverwort Flora of the British Isles*. Harley Books: Colchester
- Smith, A.J.E. (1991). *The Liverworts of Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge
- Smith, A.J.E. (2004). *The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland – Second Edition*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

(Note. Original printing of this second edition has many typographical errors so would recommend second printing of the second edition)

- Watson, E.V. (1981). *British Mosses and Liverworts – 3rd Edition*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

Course fees

Sole occupancy: £395

Shared occupancy: £345

Non-resident: £275

The residential course fee includes

- Full Board accommodation with sole occupancy (**shared occupancy is available at a reduced fee**) including cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, afternoon cake and evening meal.
 - Vegetarian and other dietary options are available
 - Tea and coffee making facilities are available throughout the day
- Transfer to and from Shrewsbury train station
- Up to 10 hours of tuition a day, with breaks for meals and refreshments
- In course transport and necessary admission fees
- Use of centre facilities including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds
- Rigorous and proven health and safety procedures including 24 hour emergency cover
- Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency / emergency travel arrangements

The non-resident course fee includes all of the above except breakfast and accommodation.

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

Accreditation

This is one of a series of courses run jointly with Manchester Metropolitan University contributing to the University Certificate in Biological Recording and Species Identification. This qualification is being discontinued so is no longer open for new registration. Existing certificate students will be able to gain credits in the 2019/20 academic year. The course remains a module choice for the Masters programme. To gain university credits you must be registered for the Masters programme in advance of this course.

For further details please contact:

The Division of Biology and Conservation Ecology Manchester Metropolitan University. Email: biorec@mmu.ac.uk

There is assessment of the course through, for example, identification tests, producing survey reports or field journals, working through keys and other various pieces of work.

The course is also suitable for non-credit students and for those enrolling on the new certificate course with FSC. For further details on this course please contact FSC Head Office at: reception@field-studies-council.org

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.