

		Level		Days	Shared occupancy cost	
FM	B	31 May - 2 June		Fri- Sun	£270	£220
	Centre	Date			Sole occupancy cost	Non-Residential cost
						£170

Introducing Grass Identification and Ecology



The location of many of John Constable's paintings, Flatford Mill runs over 120 Natural History and Arts courses in a unique and tranquil learning environment.

Course Overview

A weekend for anyone relatively new to studying this important group of plants. We will concentrate on the principles of grass identification in the field - to species level - using vegetative and floral characters, and explore the contributions species make to different habitats and what their presence may indicate. We will visit a variety of habitats and, by looking carefully at the detailed structure of the plants, will develop your skills and confidence in correct identification.

Course Description

This identification course is for anyone interested in British grasslands and associated habitats, who wants to gain confidence in identifying and understanding more about the characteristic grasses of these habitats. It will develop your understanding and appreciation of the different grass species and the role they play in vegetation ecology. The course will refer, where appropriate, to the National Vegetation Classification.

The course will give you an opportunity to practise your field identification skills and help you find out more about grasslands and related habitats from first hand observation, discussion and access to relevant literature. You will be encouraged to study at your own pace and will receive individual support where appropriate. You will have the chance to explore several different habitats supporting grasses and build up a collection of specimens and associated notes, both checked and interpreted by the Tutor.

Workshop sessions at the Centre will complement the field sessions and stereo microscopes will be available to check out the more obscure features. To support your learning there will also be an opportunity to participate in identification and site interpretation exercises.

Although this is not an accredited course, it is suitable for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and a Certificate of Attendance can be provided on request.

About the Tutor

Jonny Stone is an ecological consultant based in East Anglia, specialising in the assessment and management of vegetation. He has considerable experience of surveying grasslands and related habitats in East Anglia and Lowland Britain. Jonny has often led this course at Flatford Mill and finds grasses a necessary and fascinating part of life.

What to Bring

Please bring the following if you can:

- Hand lens: minimum x10 magnification and preferably x20 magnification as some features examined in the field may require this power
- two pairs of fine-pointed tweezers for handling specimens
- an A4 scrapbook, or a folder of plastic sleeves, to store your specimens in
- 40 white sticky labels to name specimens for future reference (c 5x4 cm)
- an identification text providing written descriptions and graphics, preferably with keys, covering British native grasses. Recommended texts include:
 - *Grasses* by Hubbard (Penguin)
 - *Grasses of the British Isles* by Cope and Gray (BSBI Handbook)
 - or *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns of the British Isles and North-Western Europe* by Rose (Viking)

You may also wish to have access to the *Vegetative Key to the British Flora* by Poland and Clement.

If you have none, or only some, of these items, they may be available from the Centre on request.

What the Fee Includes

Residential course fee includes:

- Full board accommodation including cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary option available.
- Up to 8 hours teaching time a day, plus relaxing breaks for meals and refreshments.
- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day.
- Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds.
- Transport during the courses.
- Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency.

If you choose to be a non-resident on a residential course, the fee will include all the above except accommodation and breakfast.

Start and finish times

Check in is from **1600 on Friday**, but the first formal activity is dinner at **1900** (with the bar open from **1845**).

Residents: Please aim to arrive between **1530 and 1800** on Friday 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 ends at **1600** on Sunday.

Special Offer

Bring a friend!

If you are attending a course at Flatford Mill at the sole occupancy price, we are offering a special rate for a friend or partner not enrolled on the course to also stay at £50 per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

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.

