

# Looking at Freshwater Invertebrates with Microscopes

## FSC BioLinks



FSC BioLinks is an exciting project for FSC which brings together existing volunteers with skills in biological recording and identification, and new volunteers. As part of the project remit a range of subsidised training courses are available.

Date	Location	Level	Course fee*
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	FSC Preston Montford, Shrops	Introductory	£5

\*This course is offered at a reduced rate due to support from the FSC BioLinks project

## Course Overview

Freshwater invertebrates are incredibly important for freshwater food webs and ecosystems and are an important stage in the life cycle of many invertebrates with land-based adult forms, such as dragonflies, mayflies and many true flies. They are also used extensively in monitoring water quality. However, many freshwater invertebrate groups are hugely under-recorded and many people know little about these fascinating groups, let alone how to differentiate between them. The sheer number of different invertebrate groups can be intimidating to the beginner, so it's unsurprising that people are put off learning about the individual species.

This course is an introductory course aimed at those interested in learning more about 'what makes a mayfly a mayfly?' and will give a very basic overview of some of the features needed to identify which group a freshwater invertebrate belongs to. We will look at how to use microscopes and an identification key to classify freshwater invertebrates into their respective groups with preserved specimens. By the end of the day you will know how to determine if something is a mayfly or a stonefly and will have learned that looking at invertebrate features is not as difficult as you may imagine.

This course is an introductory course and absolutely no experience of identifying invertebrates, using microscopes or following an identification key is needed to enjoy this course – just a passion for nature and learning more about wildlife that is often overlooked.

***Please note that this course will involve the use of specimens that have been killed and preserved.***

## Timetable

Please arrive in time for the course to start promptly at 10am. Refreshments will be available from 9.45am. The course will end at 4pm.

## What's included?

- 6 hours of tuition.
- Certificate of attendance.
- Light refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits/cakes).
- Use of tea and coffee making facilities.
- Free wifi and use of other centre facilities.
- Any excursions during the course will be on foot.

**Please note lunch is not included and you will need to bring your own packed lunch.**

## About the Tutor



Charlie Bell joined the FSC in Feb 2015 to work on the Tomorrow's Biodiversity project. She now works as the FSC BioLinks Project Officer in the West Midlands.

Charlie's background is in conservation and ecology, and her varied entomological interests include freshwater invertebrates, moths, springtails, earthworms and spiders!

## What to Bring

- Notebook and pencil
- Field guides/keys (if you have one)
- Hand lens (if you have one)
- Lunch
- Small rucksack or bag
- Waterproofs (just in case!)
- Stout shoes, boots or wellies
- Water bottle and/or thermos flask
- Hat and sunscreen
- Casual clothing
- Laptop, if you have one

There will be a member of staff with first aid training and access to a first aid kit on site. If you have special medical or access requirements, please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan the course.

## Getting there

**FSC Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1DX**

**By Road:** From the A5, take the roundabout exit signposted to Mid-Wales and Welshpool (A458). One mile along this road, turn right onto B4473, we are located on the left after approx ½ mile.

**By Bus or Train:** Shrewsbury stations; a pick up is available by prior arrangement.

## How to Book

Please book online via [www.fscbiodiversity.uk/courses](http://www.fscbiodiversity.uk/courses) or contact FSC by phone on 01743 852100 or email on [enquiries@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries@field-studies-council.org).

## About FSC BioLinks

This course is part of a structured pathway of training courses on freshwater invertebrates. The diagram below shows the FSC BioLinks training pathway for freshwater invertebrates and illustrates where this course fits into it.

