The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 Centres.

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**Overview of the course**

This course is designed for general naturalists, teachers, countryside managers, wardens and rangers interested in learning more about these little known invertebrate groups which can provide an important resource for those involved in education. In addition to enabling participants to develop identification skills the course will also provide a brief introduction to the biology and ecology of centipedes, millipedes and woodlice. Although diverse in nature, centipedes are generally considered voracious predators whilst millipedes and woodlice are important detritivores; they inhabit similar micro-habitats and so are readily studied together.

Fieldwork sessions in local habitats will introduce a range of techniques for finding and collecting the animals. Whenever possible the skills of field identification of live animals will be encouraged but collection of voucher specimens will be essential, especially when working with centipedes. Laboratory workshops will provide opportunities to further practice identification skills, especially of the more difficult species, and to gain experience of preparing voucher specimens.

**Accreditation**

This is one of a series of courses run jointly with Manchester Metropolitan University. 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. Credits from these assessments contribute towards the University Certificate in Biological Recording and Species Identification. To gain University Credits you must register in advance. To do this, please contact Emma Hopkisson at the Division of Biology and Conservation Ecology Manchester Metropolitan University (Shrewsbury Office), The Gateway, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1NB.

Telephone: 01743 355137

E-mail: E.Hopkisson@mmu.ac.uk

The course is also suitable for non-credit students. Bookings are to be made via Manchester Metropolitan University at the above address.

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Identifying Centipedes, Millipedes and Woodlice

Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 February 2013

Led by Paul Lee

Level I

FSC Flatford Mill
East Bergholt
Suffolk
CO7 6UL

Tel: 0845 330 7368
enquiries.fm@field-studies-council.org
About the Tutor

Paul Lee is an experienced adult education tutor and an independent ecological consultant specialising in invertebrate ecology and conservation. He is the National Organiser for the Millipede Recording Scheme and chairman of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group. His Atlas of the Millipedes (Diplopoda) of Britain and Ireland was recently published. He is currently working on a new identification key to British millipedes and a revision of Blower’s Linnean Society Synopsis Millipedes.

Start and finish times

Afternoon tea on Thursday is available from 1600, but the first formal activity is dinner at 1830 (with the bar open from 1815).

Residents: Please aim to arrive between 1530 and 1800 on Thursday 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.

Course fees

- Sole occupancy accommodation: £348
- Shared accommodation: £318
- Non-resident: £248

VAT is not applicable

What is included within the fee?

- Up to 8 hours of teaching time a day, with breaks for meals and refreshments
- Full board accommodation including a cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available
- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day
- Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds
- Centre-organised transport during the course

Non-resident course fees include all of the above except breakfast and accommodation.

What to bring

As the course involves field visits you will need a Thermos, lunchbox, waterproof clothing and stout shoes or boots.

Although the basics will be available at the Centre please bring any personal collecting equipment you have including tubes for carrying specimens. A pencil and notebook and a good 10x or 20x handlens are essential for field identification.

Recommended Reading

Barber, A.D. Key to the identification of British centipedes, Field Studies Council
Barber, A.D. Centipedes. Synopses of the British Fauna (New Series) No. 58. Linnean Society / Field Studies Council
Gregory, S.J. Woodlice and Waterlice (Isopoda: Oniscidea & Asellota) in Britain and Ireland, BRC / Field Studies Council
Hopkin, S.P. A key to the woodlice of Britain and Ireland. Field Studies Council
Hopkin, S.P. & Read, H.J. Biology of Millipedes, Oxford University Press
Lee, P. Atlas of the Millipedes (Diplopoda) of Britain and Ireland, Pensoft
Richards, J.P. Millipedes, Centipedes and Woodlice of the Sheffield Area, Sorby Natural History Society
Sutton, S.L. Woodlice, Pergammon Press
Wheater, C P & Read, H J Animals under logs and stones: Naturalists’ Handbooks 22, Richmond Publishing Co

About the Centre
Flatford Mill lies at the heart of the Dedham Vale, on the banks of the River Stour near the Suffolk-Essex border. The Centre buildings, particularly the Mill and Willy Lott’s House, are instantly recognisable since they feature in many paintings by John Constable. The rich mosaic of lowland landscapes, wildlife habitats and places of historic interest are all reflected in our extensive programme of courses.

Booking procedure
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.

Please see page 4 for directions to the Centre.
**Directions to the Centre**

The Centre is located between Colchester and Ipswich and is about 10 miles from each, approximately 2 miles from the A12. Please see below for a map showing the last part of the journey.

Our nearest railway station is Manningtree, about four miles away from the Centre. It is on the main line from London Liverpool Street to Ipswich/Norwich and the journey time is approximately one hour. You can also travel to Manningtree station from the north via Peterborough and Ipswich.

Several taxis operate out of Manningtree station and can be pre-booked by us to meet you at the station and return you there at the end of your course.

**Directions from the A12**

- From the crossroads near the ‘King’s Head’ come down Flatford Lane. It becomes one-way in your favour after 300m.
- 300m further on, note the direction arrow to the Field Centre on the first brown and white tourist sign.
- Turn left at the second tourist sign, down a narrow steep-sided lane. Do not go into or beyond the Flatford public car park.
- Bear left at the bottom of the hill. The Centre forecourt is then 200m further on, indicated by an FSC logo and sign on a low wall.
- On arrival please pull in, onto the forecourt or alongside the buildings in the lane, to keep access unobstructed.
- Please announce your arrival at Reception - the entrance by the sign on the far side of the forecourt.
- Please park in the Centre Car Park after announcing your arrival.