

# Field ID of Dragonflies

## FSC BioLinks



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Date 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Location Sandwell Valley RSPB	Level Beginner	Course fee* £5
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\*This course is offered at a reduced rate due to support from the FSC BioLinks project

## Course Overview

With their large elongated bodies, dragonflies are one of the animals commonly associated with ponds. These predatory insects have an aquatic larval stage before emerging as the often colourful insects that we all know. However, despite the speed and agility with which adult dragonflies move, many can be identified and recorded in the field.

On this course you will be:

- introduced to dragonfly ecology
- shown how observe these fast-flying insects in the field
- practice identification techniques and know where to get ID support
- introduced to submitting dragonfly records and the British Dragonfly Society

There will be classroom sessions and practice at identifying dragonflies in the field. We will look for live dragonflies around the ponds on site and bring them back into the classroom for a closer look, before releasing them again.



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**Please note that this course is a course for beginners and absolutely no experience of dragonflies is needed – just a passion for nature and learning more about wildlife that is often overlooked.**

## 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).
- Use of tea and coffee making 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



Sue Rees Evans was the Shropshire County Recorder for Dragonflies and Damselflies for eight years. During this time Sue created the 'Shropshire Dragonflies' website ([shropshiredragonflies.co.uk](http://shropshiredragonflies.co.uk)) - an online atlas and the Shropshire Dragonfly Watch blog. Already an enthusiastic recorder of adult Dragonflies and Damselflies, an MSc in Biological Recording gave Sue the opportunity to dive into the world of larval and exuvial identification. With a real enthusiasm for hands-on teaching, Sue has taught numerous courses on both as an Associate Tutor for the FSC and for various Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust and projects further afield such as 'Cold-blooded and Spineless' in the North Pennines.

## 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

There will be a member of staff with first aid training and access to a first aid kit on site. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have special medical or access requirements.

## Getting there

RSPB Sandwell Valley, Tanhouse Ave, Birmingham B43 5AG, UK

**By Bus or Train:** Hamstead is the nearest railway station. Turn right onto the main road - the Hamstead Hill/Old Walsall Road. Turn left into Hamstead Road then take the fourth left into Tanhouse Avenue just after Hamstead Primary School following the brown sign. Bus from Birmingham Priory Queensway: Take the number 16 bus to Hamstead, alight at Tanhouse Avenue. From West Bromwich Bus Station: Take the number 5 or 46 bus and alight at Bowstoke Road. Walk along Bowstoke Road to Tanhouse Avenue (20 minutes walk). From Sutton Coldfield Lower Parade: Take the number 5 bus and alight at Bowstoke Road. Walk along Bowstoke Road to Tanhouse Avenue (20 minutes walk).

**By Bike:** National route 5.

**By Road:** The reserve is brown signposted off the A4041 (Newton Rd) North of Hampstead, take Hamstead Road (B4167), which is fifth on the left near the bottom of the hill by the church (look for the brown sign marked RSPB nature centre).

## 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 [biolinks@field-studies-council.org](mailto:biolinks@field-studies-council.org).

## About FSC BioLinks

FSC BioLinks is an exciting new biodiversity project for FSC, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, running from 2018 to 2022 inclusive. It is all about invertebrate identification! FSC BioLinks will bring together new volunteers with existing volunteers who have skills in invertebrate identification and recording. The aim is to build and strengthen the biological recording community by providing training, learning opportunities and digital tools for people involved in biological recording and those that wish to become involved. Training opportunities will be given at all levels from beginner to expert, allowing people to progress and consolidate their skills and experience.

This **Field ID of Dragonflies** course is part of a structured pathway of training courses on dragon and damselflies. The diagram below shows the FSC BioLinks training pathway illustrates where this course fits into it.

