

## *Trees and Tree Identification in Summer*



The location of many of John Constable's paintings, Flatford Mill runs over 300 Natural History and Arts courses in a unique and tranquil learning environment.

### *Course Overview*

Summer is a great time for looking at broad-leaved and coniferous trees. Their leaves and needles are at their best and they are often already producing fruits and seeds. This weekend will explore the natural history of trees and show you how to correctly identify individual species. The main emphasis will be on the broad-leaved trees native to Britain, but we will pay some attention to introduced species (including some conifers) as well.

This course is suitable for beginners (no previous knowledge will be assumed).

### *Course Description*

Trees and woodlands are some of the most prominent and ecologically important features of our landscape. Recognising different species from either up close at a distance increases our enjoyment of these beautiful organisms immeasurably. This course aims to build up your confidence in identifying trees to individual species level, focussing on identification by becoming familiar with diagnostic features. The course will provide a background in tree ecology but this is primarily a course focussing on developing and/or improving identification skills in the field.

We will visit a number of sites, exploring local woods, hedgerows and parklands to find as many species of trees as possible to identify in the field. Part of each day will be spent at the Centre in the classroom to get to grips with the terminology of the different shapes of leaves and other features.

Some learning objectives for this course include:

1. Define what a tree is and how they fit into all the divisions within the plant kingdom, reviewing the key differences between angiosperms / gymnosperms and hardwoods / softwoods.
2. Become familiar with looking at trees closely by using a hand lens and identifying diagnostic features of tree species encountered.
3. Revise botanical terminology relating to trees by defining words that will be used during this course and consolidate learning by actively using the terminology in the field.
4. Practice identifying broadleaved and coniferous trees using keys provided.

This course is suitable for beginners; no previous knowledge will be assumed. 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

Alanna Cooper is a botanist based in Ipswich and is a technical director at a national environmental and engineering consultancy responsible for the ecology team. She has experience of botanical survey work and habitat management in both Canada and the UK for a diverse variety of habitats. She is actively involved in the Wildflower Society and BSBI and volunteers for the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service surveying local wildlife sites.

### What to Bring

- A x10 magnification hand lens is essential.
- A pair of binoculars is useful but not essential.
- Outdoor gear for the field visits, including stout shoes or boots, waterproofs and wellies (just in case, but these may be hired from the centre), a small rucksack or bag, insect repellent, a lunchbox, flask.
- There will be a lot of standing around outside keying out specimens. If you have a portable fold out chair/garden kneeling mat you would like to use (you will have to carry it yourself) please bring it along; fold out chairs can also be hired at the centre. Picnic blankets will be provided for student use.
- Any picture guide to trees that you are accustomed to using, such as 'Tree Guide' by Johnson and More (Collins) or 'Collins Complete British Trees' by Paul Sterry.
- If you have a copy of the 'The Vegetative Key' by John Poland it would be useful to bring this along, but there will be copies available to borrow.
- less essential but handy: a dissection kit with good fine-nosed tweezers.

## Start and Finish Times

Check – in is from **1600** on Monday, but the first formal activity is dinner at **1830** (with the bar open from **18:15!**).

Residents: Please aim to arrive on Monday between **1600 and 1800** 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 Wednesday.

## What the fee includes

Residential course fee includes:

- FSC ‘The Tree-name Trail: a key to common trees’ and other educational handouts
- 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.

## 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.

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](http://www.field-studies-council.org).

*How to book*