Course Overview

This course is designed for anyone, including teachers, countryside managers, wardens and rangers, who are interested in surveying and recording the invertebrates of terrestrial habitats. Field excursions will introduce a range of collecting and survey techniques and workshop sessions will help improve your identification skills.

The content is appropriate for anyone wishing to contribute to their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

Course Description

On Friday evening we begin with an illustrated lecture exploring the enormous diversity of invertebrate species. On Saturday morning we will discuss the different types of invertebrate survey and the basic information to be collected in all surveys before venturing into the field centre’s ground to look at some methods of collecting invertebrates. After lunch we will look at some of the invertebrates you have collected and learn how to go about identifying them. In the evening there will be a lecture describing the different techniques that can be used to find and sample invertebrates. On Sunday a field visit to a local site will allow you to practice collecting techniques suited to each type of habitat and give you an appreciation of the microsites that invertebrates inhabit. This visit will be followed by a laboratory workshop enabling you to practice the preparation of voucher specimens and the identification of your samples. This will require the killing of
specimens. In the evening you will be given an overview of methods for interpreting the lists of species collected during invertebrate surveys. Monday provides an opportunity for further fieldwork or to spend more time in the laboratory identifying the invertebrates you have already captured. There will also be time to test your skills by attempting to identify some pre-prepared specimens.

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: 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.

About the Tutor

Paul Lee is an experienced adult education tutor and an independent ecological consultant specialising in invertebrate ecology and conservation. He has been involved in the biological recording of invertebrates since 1979, is currently the National Organiser for the Millipede Recording Scheme, coordinates conservation research on bees, wasps and ants in the UK for Hymettus Ltd. and is a member of the conservation sub-committee of the British Arachnological Society. He also represents the interests of the British Arachnological Society, British Myriapod and Isopod Group and of Hymettus on Invertebrate Link (formerly the Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Insects).

What to Bring

As the course involves field visits you will need a Thermos flask, lunchbox and stout shoes or boots. Despite the time of the year waterproof clothing may be advisable just in case. You will also need a sturdy box (at least 10 x 20 x 5cm deep) to store your specimens. (These will be available to buy from Paul at a cost of £6 each.)

Although the basics will be available at the Centre, please bring any personal collecting equipment you have. A good 10x or 20x handlens is essential for field identification and you will find a pencil and notebook useful.
**Recommended Reading** - There are many books dealing with specific invertebrate groups. The books listed below are broader in scope and hence most relevant to the beginner. The references given in the work by Steve Tilling are a good introduction to the specialist literature for specific groups.

Barnard, P  
Royal Entomological Society Book of British Insects; RES

Chinery, M  
*Collins Pocket Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe*, Harper Collins

Chinery, M  
*Collins Complete British Insects*, Harper Collins

Drake, M. *et al*  
*Surveying terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates for conservation evaluation*, Natural England NERR005 (available as a free download from http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NERR005)

Tilling, S M  
*A key to the major groups of British Terrestrial Invertebrates*, Field Studies Council

Wheater, C P & Read, H J  
*Animals under logs and stones: Naturalists’ Handbooks 22*, Richmond Publishing Co

Most books on the list are in the Centre Library. Steve Tilling’s key is also on sale in the Centre Shop.

**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

**Start and Finish times**

Afternoon tea on Friday is available from 1600, 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 Monday.