



Using Indicator Species for Habitat Assessment Old Sarum & The New Forest

A 1 or 2 day course giving participants;

- the skills and confidence to assess habitats, both in terms of type and quality.
- the ability to identify indicator species
- an overview of some key Phase I and NVC communities
- a chance to do quadrat sampling and share ideas with colleagues

Details

DAY 1

Using Indicator Species for Habitat Assessment (Phase I and NVC) - grasslands
Old Sarum and Figsbury Ring, Salisbury

DAY 2

Using Indicator Species for Habitat Assessment (Phase I and NVC) - heathlands and acid grassland
New Forest

The purpose of much botanical survey is to tell us what is going on in the landscape around us – is it being over-managed, or unmanaged? Has the land been subject to agricultural improvement? What type of soil is it? Is it a habitat which is likely to support a wide range of species?

These courses cover the basics of habitat assessment, from Phase I through to the very basics of the National Vegetation Classification system. In particular, we will become familiar with the key indicator species, which immediately tell you what sort of habitat you are in and point you in the right direction for final classification. We will look at a range of grassland and heathland types and look at how their management has shaped the plant assemblages in them. There will be discussion about Phase I methodology and use of target notes, and the application of the NVC to habitat assessment.

Whilst aimed at beginners, these courses are more likely to be enjoyed with a basic level of prior plant ID skills, and they form an ideal follow-on from the training courses earlier in the year.

Although some of the more common species will be seen on both days, the courses will be run separately and can either be attended on their own or as a two day course if you have a particular interest in the habitats.

Feedback from previous courses

‘A very interesting day and a great follow on from the grassland course. The handouts were particularly useful.’

‘Thank you ever so much for the great course! I’ve thoroughly enjoyed myself and I feel like I’ve learned a lot. Well Done!’

‘Fantastic course, pitched at right level for me’

‘Very interesting and well presented, thank you!’

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Schedule

Day 1

This day will focus on calcareous and neutral grasslands, covering species-rich chalk grassland, species-poor improved grassland and marshy grassland on the Avon Floodplain

10.00 Welcome and start.

10.10 First tutorial session – improved grassland

10.45 Mesotrophic and chalk grassland

12.30 Lunch (or shorter if weather bad)

1.15 Wet grassland on the Avon Valley

3.10 Return to Old Sarum for practical exercise

3.45/4.00 Departure (depending on how quickly we've got through stuff)

Day 2

This day will focus on acidic habitats, covering the key species which make up acid grassland, dry and wet heath, and mire and bog habitats.

10.00 Introduction to Heathland and Acid Grassland grasses at Rushy Flat

12.30 Leave Rushy Flat

1.00 Arrive at High Corner Inn, Lunch

1.40 Walk to Woodford Bottom for revision session and look at blanket bog

4pm Depart

There are loos at the second site in the pub, but not at the first. We will aim to have lunch at the pub (partly to use the facilities!) If you want to eat a sandwich in the carpark then join us at the table that is fine.

What to bring

- ▶ Notebook
- ▶ Water, lunch and snacks, firm boots (some steep banks). Please wear long trousers for the second day to minimise exposure to ticks (on this day there is a short amount of walking involved, and some ground will be boggy). There is the option to get a pub lunch on the second day.
- ▶ £2 for parking at Old Sarum

Any problems on the day please call Dominic Price on 07968 (786390)

Please inform us of any medical requirements/conditions we should be aware of prior to the course.

Directions

Day 1

Old Sarum is signed off the A345, 2 miles north of Salisbury. Meet in the main car park (where there are loos). Address: Castle Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire - SP1 3SD. There is a £1 charge for parking.

Google maps - click [here](#)

Day 2

The Turf Hill carpark is situated at SU211176 on the B3080 about 2 miles southeast of North Charford, the nearest postcode is SP5 2PU.

Google maps - click [here](#)

In the afternoon we will aim to convoy to the High Corner Inn which is near the second site - BH24 3QY.

Please try to be prompt so we can start on time! If you are unavoidably detained on both days we will spend the first hour within site of the carpark, so don't panic.

If you would like to come by train we can offer lifts to/from Salisbury station on both days.



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