



## Using Indicator Species for Habitat Assessment - neutral and acid grassland Richmond Park

A 1 day course giving participants;

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

## Details

### **Using Indicator Species for Habitat Assessment (Phase I and NVC) - acid and neutral grasslands Richmond Park**

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 diverse and rare species?

This course covers the basics of habitat assessment, from Phase I through to the rudiments of the National Vegetation Classification system. In particular we will become familiar with the key indicator species, which immediately tell you what sort of grassland you are in and point you in the right direction for final classification.

Acid grassland is one of the rarest habitats in the UK, but as well as occurring in heathland and upland moors it can be encountered in the most unpredictable places, in amongst calcareous habitat and on post-industrial sites. It is inherently a species poor habitat and many field surveyors fail to notice it and realise its significance when it is found. This course will cover all the key indicator which inform the presence of acid grassland, as well as looking at neighbouring neutral and semi-improved grasslands for comparison. It will primarily deal with grass identification as the most constant components of this habitat type.

While aimed at beginners these courses are more likely to be enjoyed with a basic level of prior plant ID skills, but there will be ample chance to get to know the species in the field.

### **Feedback from previous courses**

'Well done Dom - such a good follow on & compliment to your other ½ day courses earlier on in the year. Very informative and useful to both amateurs and professionals. Looking forward to attending more of your course in the future!'

'Dom was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Also gave good advice for my future career steps. Highly enjoyable would recommend to anyone wanting to expand knowledge on indicator meadow species '

'Entertaining and enthusiastic tutor, and, as always with these courses, it was great to meet other ecologists and people with similar interests.'

## Schedule

Timings (approximate)

9.55 Arrival at Holly Lodge and look at handout

10.00 Coffee and presentation

10.25 Acid grassland field session

12.30 Lunch

1.20 Neutral grassland

2.45 Quadrats in small groups

3.40 Overview and summing up

4.00 Departure

## What to bring

- ▶ Notebook/clipboard
- ▶ Hand lens if you have one, or we can sell you one for £5.
- ▶ Water, lunch and snacks (we will provide hot drinks)
- ▶ Please wear long trousers
- ▶ to minimise exposure to ticks

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.

**[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)**

# Directions

## Holly Lodge, Richmond Park

Coming on public transport

Richmond is in Zone 4. The nearest park gate to the Holly Lodge Centre is Richmond gate, which is a good 20 minute walk.

By London Underground or Southwest Trains/Silverlink

The nearest station for these services is Richmond. The District Line comes to Richmond (Bus 371 from the station stops at the Lass of Richmond pub, near the Richmond Gate entrance to the Park).

By bus

Bus number 371 from Richmond Station or Kingston stops 130 metres from Richmond Gate by the Lass of Richmond Hill pub.

Bus number 65, which runs between Ealing Broadway and Kingston via Richmond Station, stops at the Bottom of Richmond Hill in Petersham near the Dysart Arms pub. There is a 20 minute walk up a steep hill to Richmond Gate.

By car

Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 5HS

Google maps [here](#)

Drive in to the car park and follow signs to the training room.

The Species Recovery Trust

37 Albany Road

Salisbury

SP1 3YQ

01722 322539

[enquiries@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk)

[www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk](http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk)

Registered in England and Wales Charity 1146387