

Dragonfly Larvae & Exuviae ID with Microscopes

FSC BioLinks



© Andy Holt
Shropshire Dragonflies

Date	Location	Level	Course fee*
Thurs 11 th April 2019	Bishops Wood, Worcs	Intermediate	£5

*This course is offered at a reduced rate due to support from the FSC BioLinks project

Course Overview

Dragonfly exuviae are fascinating – empty exoskeletons often found clinging to vegetation around ponds. Did you know they can often be identified to species? Dragonfly larvae (the aquatic stage in a dragonfly's life cycle) are trickier to identify and need to use of microscopes and keys.

This course will start with an introduction to dragonfly larvae and the part they play in the dragonfly lifecycle. Indoor practical sessions will then focus on the identification of exuviae. After lunch the afternoon will be spent out and about at the field centre dipping in ponds for larvae and practising some hands-on identification.

This course is most suitable for those people who currently record adult dragonflies in the field and wish to start identifying dragonflies at different stages of their life cycle, or for those people who currently study other groups of freshwater invertebrates and would like to expand their identification skills to include dragonfly larvae and exuviae.

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 has been the Shropshire County Recorder for Dragonflies and Damselflies for the last 8 years. During this time Sue created the 'Shropshire Dragonflies' website (shropshiredragonflies.co.uk) which serves as an online atlas and hosts 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 Dragonfly and Damselfly identification 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. Though passing on

the County Recorder role in 2018, Sue is looking forward to spending more time teaching and encouraging everyone to enjoy these fabulous insects.

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
- Laptop, if you have one

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

Bishops Wood Field Centre, Crossway Green, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 9SE

From Kidderminster (M5, A38, AA49 southbound): On the M5 heading southbound coming off at junction 5, taking the third exit on the round about to get onto the A38. at the first roundabout take the third exit onto Kidderminster Road going straight over the next roundabout sticking too Kidderminster Road. At the second left turn to follow Doverdale Lane. Once you have come to a sign turning right onto the AA49 take it until you get to the Mitre Oak pub on your left. Take the first exit on the roundabout onto Bishops Wood Lane, finally taking the first left on you will arrive at Bishops Wood Field Centre.

From Worcester (M5, AA49 northbound): On the M5 heading northbound, take Junction 6 to Worcester/ Kidderminster taking the second exit heading for the AA49 northbound, continuing for 9 miles. At the roundabout with the Mitre Oak pub take the first exit onto Stourport Road. Take the first left onto Bishops Wood Lane, finally taking the first left on you will arrive at Bishops Wood Field Centre.

How to Book

Please book online via www.fscbiodiversity.uk/courses or contact FSC by phone on 01743 852100 or email on enquiries@field-studies-council.org.

About FSC BioLinks

This course is part of a structured pathway of training courses on Odonata (dragon and damselflies). The diagram below shows the FSC BioLinks training pathway for Odonata and illustrates where this course fits into it.

