



Help with identification – recommended reading

The publications listed below are a personal selection based on my own experience and that of our experienced trainers, and are a combination of field identification guides and guides to ecology and distribution. This is obviously a selective list of publications and of subjects. Invertebrate and fungi subject groups, in particular, reflect the planned activity of the WildWatch project in training and recording.

Andy Lees – Conservation Officer, North Pennines AONB Partnership

Fauna

Reptiles & amphibians

- **Britain's reptiles & amphibians** by Howards Inns. WILDGuides. www.wildguides.co.uk.
- **Guide to the reptiles & amphibians of Britain and Ireland** (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk.

Mammals

- **British Mammals – a concise guide**. People's Trust for Endangered Species.
- **A guide to British bats** by Kate Jones & Allyson Walsh (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk.
- **Cumbrian mammals – a distribution atlas** by Stephen Hewitt. Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery.
- **A guide to British mammal tracks and signs** by Bullion (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk.

Birds

- **Bird Guide** by Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterstrom & Grant. Collins.
- **RSPB Handbook of British Birds** by Peter Holden & Tim Cleeves.
- **Bird Songs & Calls of Britain & Northern Europe** by Geoff Sample. Collins.

Invertebrates

- **The Royal Entomological Society Book of British Insects** by Peter Barnard. www.wiley.com/wiley-blackwell. An excellent overview of the insect families in Britain with some good photographs to help familiarise yourself with some different orders, families and genera.

- **A key to the major groups of British Terrestrial Invertebrates** by S.M. Tilling. AIDGAP / Field Studies Council.

Dragonflies

- **Britain's Dragonflies** by Dave Smallshire & Andy Swash. WILDGuides. www.wildguides.co.uk. A very useful guide with excellent photographs, distribution maps and descriptions for all species and a useful colour key.
- **Cumbrian dragonflies – a distribution atlas** by David Clarke. Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery. A helpful guide to what you might find locally.

Butterflies & Moths

- **The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain & Ireland** by Asher, Warren, Fox, Harding, Jeffcoate & Jeffcoate. Oxford University Press. Although now over a decade old, this is an excellent overview of the British butterflies, their ecology and conservation status. There are excellent photos for all species too, but this is not primarily an identification guide.
- **Guide to the Butterflies of Britain** by Richard Lewington & John Bebbington. (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk. Good and comprehensive pictures guide with additional information on flight times etc.
- **Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain & Northern Ireland** by Paul Waring, Martin Townsend & Richard Lewington. British Wildlife Publishing. The latest and best guide to macro-moths, with very good colour illustrations for all species.
- **Concise Guide to the Moths of Great Britain & Ireland** by Paul Waring, Martin Townsend & Richard Lewington. British Wildlife Publishing. A smaller version of the Field guide above, but without the species descriptions.
- **The colour identification guide to caterpillars of the British Isles** by Jim Porter. Viking. The only comprehensive photo guide to the caterpillars of moths and butterflies. However this is not a key and identification can be a bit hit and miss.
- **A checklist of the Butterflies & larger moths of Cumbria** (2000) by Bill Kydd & Stephen Hewitt. Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery. A useful list of the butterflies found in at least part of our region.

Ladybirds

- **Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) of Britain & Ireland** by Helen Roy, Peter Brown, Robert Frost. Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.
- **Ladybirds (Naturalists Handbook)** by Helen Roy et al. Pelagic Publishing.
- **Guide to the ladybirds of the British Isles** (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk.
- **Cumbrian ladybirds – a distribution atlas** (2005) by Stephen Hewitt. Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery. A helpful guide to what you might find locally, with a key to these species.

Shieldbugs

- **Guide to the shieldbugs of the British Isles** (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk.
- **Cumbrian Shieldbugs – a distribution atlas** (2006) by Stephen Hewitt. Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery. A helpful guide to what you might find locally, with a key to these species.

Snails

- **Land Snails in the British Isles.** Robert Cameron & Gordon Riley. AIDGAP / Field Studies Council. Pictorial and descriptive keys to all British species.

Beetles

- **A key to the families of British Beetles** by D.M.Unwin. AIDGAP / Field Studies Council. The starting point in identifying your beetle. You will then need further help from a family key.
- **The Carabidae** by Martin Luff. Royal Entomological Society /Field Studies Council. The family key for carabids is an excellent and recent publication with good line drawings to illustrate points in the key. Colour plates also help with identification for some genera and species.
- **Provisional atlas of the ground beetles (Coleoptera, Carabidae) of Britain** by Martin Luff. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

Hoverflies

- **British Hoverflies - an illustrated identification guide** by Alan Stubbs and Steven Falk. British Entomological and Natural History Society.

Bees

- **Field Guide to the Bumblebees of Great Britain & Ireland** by M. Edwards & M. Jenner Ocelli Ltd. This is an excellent guide that is easy to use and to carry in the field. It contains a quick colour pattern key to UK species, plus colour photos of all the UK species.

Fungi

- **Mushrooms** by Roger Phillips. Still one of the best general and most comprehensive photoguides to British fungi.
- **The genus *Hygrocybe*** (Fungi of Northern Europe – Vol. 1, 2nd edition) by David Boertmann. For the grassland fungi which we will focus on in our training this is a useful, if technical guide.

Flora

- ***New Flora of the British Isles*** (3rd edition 2010) by Clive Stace – the up to date standard vascular plant flora for Britain. It is the most comprehensive flora for the British Isles with over 5000 taxa but is very technical.
- ***Field flora of the British Isles*** (1999) by Clive Stace – is a shortened version of the 'New Flora'.

- ***The Wild Flower Key*** (2nd edition 2006) by Francis Rose & Clare O'Reilly – a user-friendly field guide with keys and pictures. It does not cover grasses, sedges & rushes.
- ***Collins Flower Guide*** (2010 paperback field edition) by Streeter, Hart-Davies, Hardcastle, Cole & Harper – another user-friendly field guide with keys and pictures and includes grasses, sedges & rushes. However, the illustrations are often rather too small because these were designed to be reproduced at A4. The enlargements showing close-ups for parts of grasses, sedges and rushes are too tiny to be of any use.
- ***The Vegetative Key to the British Flora*** (2009) by John Poland & Eric Clement – very useful for attempting to identify plants from vegetative parts only but not a beginners' book as it includes lots of technical terminology.
- **Sedges of the British Isles** (BSBI Handbook no.1) by A.C. Jermy, A.O. Chater & R.W. David.
- **Grasses of the British Isles** (BSBI Handbook no.13) by Tom Cope & Alan Gray.
- **Grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns of the British Isles and north-western Europe** by Francis Rose.
- **The Fern Guide – a field guide to the ferns, clubmosses, quillworts and horsetails of the British Isles** by James Merryweather & Michael Hill. www.field-studies-council.org.uk
- **British Water Plants** by Sylvia Haslam, Charles Sinker & Pat Wolseley. www.field-studies-council.org.uk
- ***Describing flowers : a guide to the structure of flowers and to their identification features*** (FSC laminated fold out chart) www.field-studies-council.org.uk. A very useful illustrated mini glossary to the technical terms used for plant parts.

Contact us: Andy Lees or Fiona Knox; North Pennines AONB Partnership Tel: 01388 528801

wildwatch@northpenninesaonb.org.uk www.northpennines.org.uk/WildWatch

www.twitter.com/NorthPennWild www.facebook.com/WildWatchNorthPennines

This project is co-ordinated by the AONB Partnership and is funded by:

