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## Introduction to Aquatic Plants



**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
August 2009**

**Led by Clare O'Reilly MIEEM PGCE (FE&HE)**





## COURSE AIM & OBJECTIVES

### Course Title: Introduction to Aquatic Plants

#### Title:

**Dates:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009  
**Venue:** Housesteads Fort Education Room & Hadrian's Wall Loughs, nr Hexham Northumberland

**Times:** 10am – 4pm  
**Tutor:** Clare O'Reilly MIEEM PGCE (FE&HE) MifL  
[clare@ptyxis.com](mailto:clare@ptyxis.com)

#### Aim:

The aim of this workshop is to introduce aquatic plant identification, including identification of a group of bioindicator species of green algae, the charophytes (stoneworts).

#### Ideal for:

Complete beginners, beginners and those with more experience but new to charophyte identification. As a trained teacher, the tutor can differentiate tuition to suit different abilities.

#### General information:

This course is largely field-based, although there is a basic classroom available in case of poor weather. Reaching several of the field sites involves a walk in, of which some is moderately strenuous. Refer to the Booking Conditions for further guidance on health and safety matters. Directions, meeting place details and accommodation listings will be sent on booking.

#### Learn to:

- Observe the key characters used to identify the main groups of aquatic plants, including charophytes.
- Compare and contrast several species of pondweed (*Potamogeton*).
- Identify a range of emergent swamp species, including sedge (*Carex*) species.
- Approach identification of several species of charophyte using field characters.
- Use a key to identify aquatic plants.
- Evaluate the resources available for aquatic plant identification.
- Describe the ecology of the main aquatic plant groups and their use as bioindicators of water quality.

#### What to bring:

Please bring a x10 hand lens, a packed lunch and appropriate field clothing and equipment, including walking boots (trainers are NOT suitable), waterproofs, and plenty of layers, even in summer, as the Northumberland climate is changeable. Wellington boots or waders are ideal for this course, as long as these are comfortable to walk in. Your enjoyment of the course will be enhanced if you can bring a grapnel to collect plant material. A leaflet explaining how to construct a grapnel from an egg whisk will be sent to you on booking. The key course text is *British Water Plants* by S. Haslam, C. Sinker & P. Wolseley, published by the Field Studies Council, but we will also use the relevant keys in the *Wild Flower Key* and introduce the *BSBI Pondweeds Handbook* (you are not expected to have used the latter book before).

#### About your tutor:

Clare O'Reilly is an experienced ecologist, a nationally-recognised botanist and a trained teacher. She delivers EIA modules for the University of Sunderland; and various ecology, biological surveying and identification courses for Keele, Newcastle, Birmingham, and Cumbria universities.

