

# Pond Assessment, Creation and Management

Course level: intermediate

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Arrive in time for evening meal 6.30pm on Tuesday  
Depart 4.00pm on Thursday

*Led by Pascale Nicolet  
and David Orchard*

Shropshire Pond by David Orchard



Cheshire Pond by David Orchard



Greater Manchester Pond by David Orchard



Suffolk Pond by John Baker

## Preston Montford Field Centre

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The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 Centres throughout the UK

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## Course Overview

### Tuesday evening

- An overview of ponds in the UK landscape.

### Wednesday

- Pond monitoring in the UK and the results of the Countryside Survey.
- Ecological assessment of ponds: standardised methods and their uses.
- An overview of pond plants and invertebrates and of the keys available to identify them.
- Introduction to the PSYM assessment method and practical exercise based on local ponds.

### Thursday

- An overview of best practice principles for creating clean water pond and ponds for BAP species with a focus on amphibians and reptiles.
- Pond management and the new risk assessment tool (incl workshop session and scenario).

## About the Tutors - This course will be jointly led by Pascale Nicolet and David Orchard

### Dr Pascale Nicolet is Senior Freshwater Ecologist with Pond Conservation and National Coordinator of the Million Ponds Project.

Pascale is a Senior Freshwater Ecologist with Pond Conservation, the national charity dedicated to protecting the wildlife of our freshwaters. Pascale has extensive experience of wetland plant and macroinvertebrate surveys, ecological assessments and monitoring. She is currently the National Coordinator of the Million Pond project in England and Wales and the Secretary of the European Pond Conservation Network.

### David Orchard is Ponds Officer with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and provides specialist advice on amphibian and reptile BAP species as part of the Million Ponds Project.

David is The Ponds Project Officer based at Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, the national charity dedicated to protecting amphibians and reptiles and the habitats on which they depend. David has broad experience of working with amphibians and their habitats and he now coordinates the amphibian and reptile part of the Million Ponds Project, developing and delivering a programme of pond creation and restoration throughout England and Wales.

## Course fees

Sole occupancy: £300      Shared occupancy: £280

## What is included within the fee?

### The residential course fee includes

- Full Board, **sole occupancy (shared occupancy at a reduced fee)** accommodation including a cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, home made cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available
- Up to 10 hours of tuition a day, plus relaxing breaks for meals and refreshments
- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day
- Use of centre resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds
- Centre organised transport during the course and most admission fees
- Transfer to and from Shrewsbury train station
- Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency / emergency travel arrangements

**The non-resident course fee includes all of the above except breakfast and accommodation.**

## ***What to Bring***

Wellies, waterproofs, paper and pen.

All the usual items

## ***Target audience***

The course has been designed for ecologists and land managers with an interest in the assessment, management and creation of ponds for biodiversity.

## About the Centre

Preston Montford Hall is a delightful Queen Anne country house built around 1700. Formerly a private residence, it was extended and adapted for use as a Field Centre in 1957. The centre stands in its own grounds close to the River Severn in North Shropshire.



The Shropshire landscape is one of great scenic beauty and variety, being the meeting point of wild mountains, hill country and lowland plains. The Northern farmland, small woods, lakes, peat bogs, canals and languid lowland rivers constitute a countryside in startling contrast to the adjacent South Shropshire Hills and the mountains of the Welsh Borderland, each with their heather moorland, forests, stony streams and breathtaking scenery.

## Safety

All activities are designed to be run safely and all field sites are regularly risk assessed. All staff are experienced in leading groups in the outdoors; they are fully trained in First Aid, and are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau. The Centre also has a 24 hour emergency duty system.

## Finding Us

Preston Montford is located 6 miles west of Shrewsbury.

- Less than 1 hour from Birmingham.
- Less than 2 hours from Manchester and Liverpool
- 3 hours from Central London.

**By Road:** From the A5, take the roundabout exit signposted to **Mid-Wales and Welshpool (A458)**. One mile along this road, turn right onto **B4473**, we are located on the left after approx ½ mile.



**By Train:** Shrewsbury Station is our nearest railway station; a pick up is available by prior arrangement.

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford/location.aspx>

## To book a course, simply:

Provisional bookings can be made by telephoning the Centre on 0845 330 7378 or by completing the online form on the FSC website: [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)