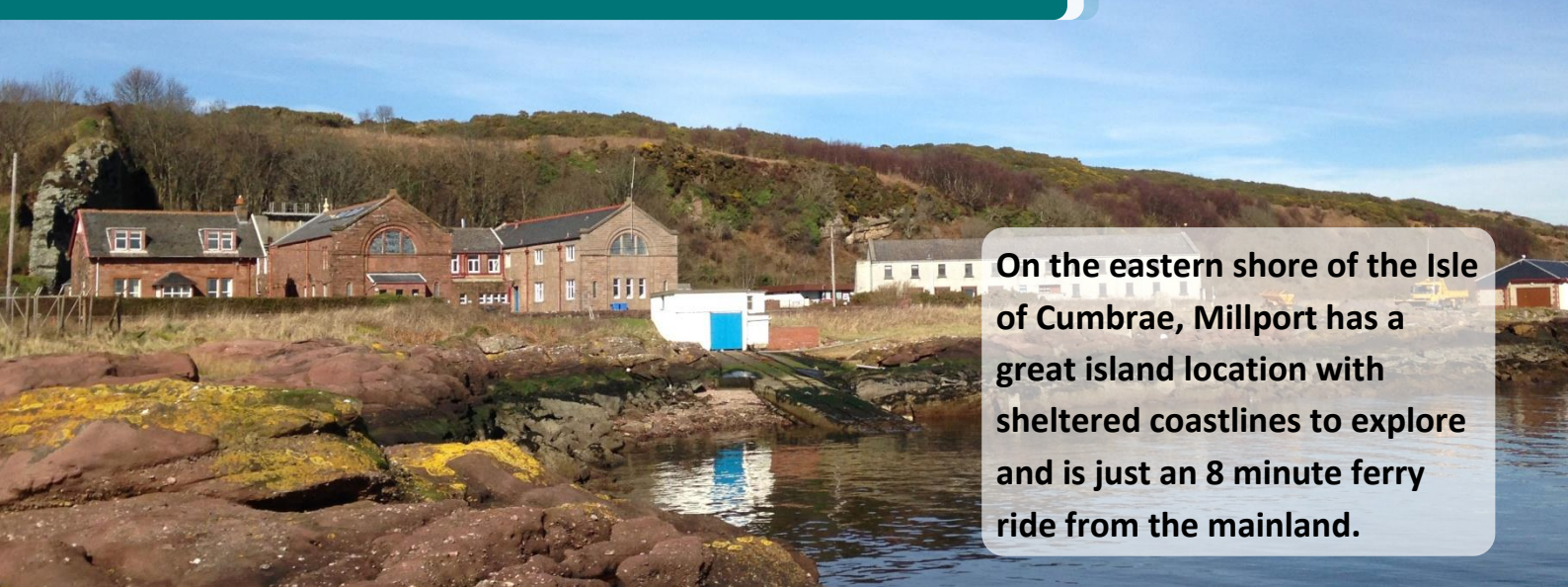


Spiders: An introduction to their identification



On the eastern shore of the Isle of Cumbrae, Millport has a great island location with sheltered coastlines to explore and is just an 8 minute ferry ride from the mainland.

Course Overview

Spiders are found almost everywhere, from our houses to the tops of our highest mountains. They remain undiscovered by most naturalists, with a reputation for being a difficult group to identify. This short course will introduce spiders, how to collect them and how to identify them. It is aimed at people with some background in identification of any plant or animal group classification.



The course will cover simple field techniques, the recording and storage of spiders. The standard texts used in identifying British spiders will be introduced and a major part of the course will be spent identifying some of the spiders at Kindrogan Field Centre and its rich surroundings. Identifying spiders usually means microscopic examination of dead specimens, but it's not as bad as that makes it sound! The course will try to show how diverse and interesting spiders are and set participants on their way to becoming arachnologists.

Provisional Programme

	Arrival Day		Evening: Introduction to spiders and the course, setting up in the lab
Saturday	Morning: Collecting spiders in and around the field centre	Afternoon: Identifying spiders in the lab with further excursions to collect if necessary	Evening: Lab work and discussion
Sunday	Morning: Collecting spiders – in a range of open and woodland habitats within walking distance of the Field centre.	Afternoon: Identifying spiders in the lab – with further excursions to collect if necessary	

What to bring

Microscopes with reasonable magnification are available – but if you have your own please bring it, with a lamp. Not all microscopes are suitable for working with spiders.

Some dissection equipment will be provided but bring fine forceps and small staining glass or solid watchglass if you have them or can buy them.

Some field sampling equipment will be provided but if you have a pooter, sampling tubes, a sweepnet, beating tray, plastic groundsheet, white plastic tray you may want to bring them. Instruction on how to make a simple pooter can be found in spider books like Roberts. There are links to supplies on the British Arachnological Society website at www.britishspiders.org.uk Pooters can be bought from D.J. & D. Henshaw, 34, Rounton Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex. EN9 3AR, tel: 01992 717663, e-mail: djhagro@aol.com

The following items will also be of use:

- Box and vacuum flask
- Plenty of spare warm clothing (and clothing for sunnier weather just in case!)
- Day sack
- Small notebook and pencil
- Waterproofs and appropriate footwear (wellies & waterproofs can be borrowed from us)

For your own and group safety, Centre staff reserve the right to refuse to take people out on excursions if they are not properly equipped. If you are unsure equipment required, please contact us for advice.

About the tutor

Alastair Lavery has been interested in spiders for over 30 years, studying spiders in both Scotland and the Falkland Islands. He knows the Kindrogan area well, having worked there in the past.

Recommended Reading

Any of the following will be useful if you have access to them :

Collins Field Guide to Spiders of Britain & Northern Europe

by M.J. Roberts – recommended

Key to the Families of British Spiders by L.M. Jones-Walters, Field Studies Council (hopefully copies will be available for sale). Recommended

The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland by M.J. Roberts, Harley Books. Recommended but expensive. Will be essential if you continue with the study of spiders

Arrival and Departure Times –

Resident and Non-resident visitors are requested to arrive at the centre before 5pm on the first day of the course. An evening meal will be served between 5:45 and 6:30pm and the course will commence after a brief welcome to the Centre. **Departure is after breakfast on the final day.**

Extra nights

If you are interested in staying at the Centre for additional nights, before or after the course, please contact the Centre for availability and costs which start from £25 for B&B, or £40 full board (we can confirm B&B availability 4 weeks prior to the course). Sunday rate £35.

Partner Rate

For those paying the sole occupancy price, we are offering our guests a special rate for those who would like a twin room for them and their partner not enrolled on an FSC course, at £35 per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

What is included

- **Full professional tuition:** usually each full day of our courses has 10+ hours of tuition, including after dinner sessions. (When a course Sunday it usually ends at approximately 3pm).
- **Full board and accommodation:** including cooked breakfast, packed lunch, Tea/Coffee, homemade cakes and an evening meal.
- **Special dietary requirements:** Vegetarian and other dietary options are catered for; we just ask you to notify us at least three weeks in advance of the course if you have special requirements.
- **Centre Facilities:** including use of our lounges, library, wildlife hides and drying room.
- **Travel: when transport is required** to sites during your course this is provided within the fee.
- **Non-resident rate:** includes all of the above apart from Bed and Breakfast and a packed lunch each day.

How to Book

To book a place on this course you can either:

- Complete a booking form from the brochure and send it together with a £50.00 non-refundable deposit (cheque payable to Field Studies Council Limited) or provide us with you debit/credit card number details.
- Book online at www.field-studies-council.org
- Telephone to book directly with FSC Scotland (card payments made over the phone)