

Level		Date	Days	Shared occupancy cost		
SL	O			£315	£295	£190
Centre		9 - 12 Aug	Fri - Mon	Sole occupancy cost	Non-Residential cost	

## Beginners Moths of the Devon Coast



*Checking moths in the trap*

### Course Overview

This new course is aimed at anyone who is a total beginner to moths to those with more intermediate knowledge in looking at moths, who would like to improve their abilities in identification, but are happy to go back to basics of how to trap moths and identify them as a refresher. The course will take advantage of looking at moths found in the excellent habitats of the South Devon Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Possibly the most important part of the course will be the hands on identification of live moths by participants, with assistance from the tutor, other participants and books provided.

### Course Description

This course will be an introduction to the identification of moths for people who have never looked at them before, or who are quite new into learning about them. So, it will be ideal for total beginners at studying this fascinating wildlife group. The course will show you how to identify live moths caught during your stay at the Centre. In addition it will take you through how to choose the best moth trap to use, what field guide to buy and useful websites for help. In short everything you need to get started, whether you want to start looking in your back garden or in the local nature reserve. It will also be ideal for anyone who still thinks of themselves as a relative beginner at studying moths and will stretch your skills, whatever your knowledge of moths is.

There will be talks and hand-outs on how to identify moths, how to choose field guides and moth traps in the morning sessions. Afternoon sessions will be taken up with hands on identification of moths by yourself. A series of moth traps will be set up on both nights of the course in a variety of habitats near the Centre and moths trapped will be identified by participants during the day on Saturday and Sunday. The course will instruct moth identification through slide presentations and backed up with hand-outs. This will help you work through the defining features of moths and particularly identifying them to their families.

With all moths caught, where possible, time will be allowed for participants to photograph them at the end of each day of the course. This field centre is ideally situated for this course as there is such a wide variety of habitats close by; this will help you work through the defining features of moth identification. Slapton Ley field centre is surrounded by some stunning coastal habitats in the South Devon Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – ideal for starting the study of moths.

## About the Tutor



Dave Grundy is an experienced naturalist and wildlife consultant specialising in bird, butterfly and moth surveying. He has a particular interest in micro-moths and regularly leads training courses throughout the UK, with both beginners and more advanced participants, for these and for other natural history subjects.

He also carries out professional moth and butterfly surveys averaging over 100 nights per year in the field giving him the essential background field knowledge for moth identification. From 2003 to 2013 he organised and administered the Garden Moth Scheme, which now covers over 300 gardens across Britain and Ireland. The scheme monitors changes in the fortunes of common moth species and uses the data as indicators of environmental change.

## Provisional Programme

A daily itinerary for the course is difficult to predict in advance as we will be dependent on the weather conditions for trapping and the moths trapped each night as to which groups we study, therefore the course may vary from the one below.

**Friday evening** – brief introduction to course and setting up moth-traps at Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve, near the field centre.

**Saturday** - checking through moth traps out on the reserve first, after breakfast, to collect live moths to take back to the classroom. Next, on the first morning, the tutor will show a slide presentation about how to identify the larger moths to family. The rest of the day will be spent identifying live moths in the classroom using available field guides, and handout with the help of the tutor. Further informal moth identification tutorials may be arranged during this period if it fits in with the needs of participants and moths caught.

**Saturday evening** will include setting up moth traps out on the reserve or at Prawle Point as on Friday and a continuation of the Saturday afternoon session.

**Sunday** will be a repeat of Saturday's programme but with the slide show concentrating on which moth trap to choose and which field guide – everything you need to get started with moths! The course will end at supper on Sunday.

Exact trapping locations will vary each day to fit in with local weather conditions and to try to see the maximum variety of species and identify them.

With all moths caught, where possible, time will be allowed for participants to photograph them at the end of each day.

### **What to Bring**

- Casual Warm & waterproof outdoor clothing
- Stout shoes or boots
- Sunglasses, sun hat and sun lotion
- Small haversack or day bag
- Camera if you wish
- Lunchbox and drinks bottle / flask
- Any personal moth books if you have any. Waring, Townsend and Lewington – *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*, will be the main reference book used on this course
- Any other moth field guide you might have such as Manley – *British Moths – Second Edition*
- Laptop, tablet or mobile phone if this helps you to look up moth ID on the internet, wifi will be available in the classroom
- Hand lenses (if you have one) and a notebook
- Torch, as we may visit the moths traps in the evening
- Insect repellent is recommended for evening visits to the moth traps
- The tutor will also provide a variety of other moth identification books for reference during the course and will bring basic field guides in case you don't have a field guide yet.

### **Start and Finish Times**

Resident participants are requested to arrive for registration between 1:00pm and 4:00pm on arrival day, after this time self-directed arrival information will be posted on the front door. There will be an introductory talk with the Head of Centre typically at 5:30pm. Supper is usually at 6:30pm. Non resident bookings should arrive just before 5.30pm. A non resident booking also includes dinner during your course as teaching does progress into the evening. Breakfast, for resident participants, will be from 8:00am. The course will end at dinnertime on Sunday, with departure after breakfast on Monday for resident participants. On the final day please vacate your room by 9:00am, storage is provided for your luggage.

### **How to Book**

You can check availability and make a provisional booking by telephoning the Centre on 01548 580466.

To confirm your booking please complete the form found in the FSC brochure or online at [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org).



Jersey Tiger Moth, Slapton Ley