

# Plant Identification Using the Vegetative Key

At Three Hagges Wood-Meadow

Led by Mark Duffell

Friday 30th September 2016

10.00am till 4.00pm

Who is this course for? :

Focusing on practical skills, with group and individual keying out in the classroom and field; this course is ideal for amateur or professional botanists/ecologists both in the voluntary or ecological sector. No prior knowledge of botany is required, although the more knowledge you come with the more you will get out of the course.

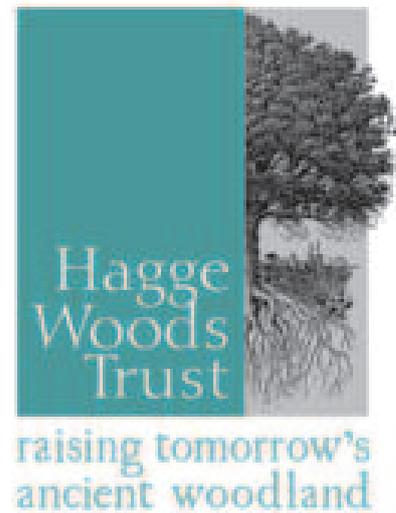
Course Overview:

In many books and courses the focus of plant identification is on flowers, with foliage taking a back seat. This has changed with the new Vegetative Key to the British Flora by John Poland, which relies solely on using vegetative characters for identification.

In the short time that 'Poland' has been available it has been taken to heart by botanists and ecologists as it enables them to make accurate identifications and effectively extends the botanical field season.

Concentrating on the characters used in 'Poland' you will discover the weird and wonderful world of botany and find out how easy it can be to make an accurate identification. Using a hand lens or microscope you will come to marvel at the structures and details to be found in even the commonest species.

Working through the 'Flora' together participants will discover a range of characters that regularly crop up in the key and, these will be further illustrated with specimens and presentations.





## Course Tutor:

Mark Duffell has had a lifetime interest in plants gaining the RHS Diploma in Horticulture, becoming 'Young Horticulturist of the Year' in 2001 and completing an MSc in Biological Recording and Species Identification. He now runs Arvensis Ecology splitting his time between conducting botanical surveys and teaching botanical identification and survey techniques to undergraduate and postgraduate students of universities, consultants and environmental organisations.

## Timetable:

**Morning:** Presentation and workshop on naming of vegetative plant parts and how to go about identifying plants using 'Poland'.

**Afternoon:** Looking at specimens in the wood-meadow and keying them out (indoors/outdoors).

Lunch break and breaks as required.

## What to Bring

- ◆ - x10 and/or x20 hand lens..
- ◆ - A packed lunch and drink.
- ◆ - Walking boots and waterproofs.
- ◆ - Bring along any specimens you would like help with identifying.

## Useful Books

The Vegetative Key to the British Flora. 2010. Poland, J. & Clement, E.J. BSBI.\* .



## Course location:

Three Haggles Wood-Meadow, York Road, Escrick, York, North Yorkshire,  
YO19 6EF. Co-ords 53.8484552, -1.048986

Three Haggles Wood-Meadow is the perfect location for learning or honing your plant identification and field skills.

Three Haggles Wood-Meadow is an ecosystem creation project that aims to create healthy and biodiverse new woodlands. It is modelled on ancient wood-meadows in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Wood-meadows comprise mixed-species copses, with a cut and/or grazed herb layer; they include the most diverse plant communities in the northern temperate world - as many as 76 plant species per m<sup>2</sup> have been recorded.

This 10ha site has been designed as a combination of permanent lowland meadow and woodland. Since 2012, we have planted 10,000 trees and shrubs, of 28 native species, into two types of lowland meadow (wet and dry), with a floral count that numbers some 180 species of native grasses and meadow flora.

Research at Three Haggles Wood-Meadow monitors and records changes in diversity that result from our work, by means of annual botanical, entomological, and small mammal and bat surveys. (see <http://threehaggleswoodmeadow.org.uk/resources>).

Course Fee: £35 per person

## Course Booking:

If you have any queries, contact Emma on [emma@haggewoodstrust.org.uk](mailto:emma@haggewoodstrust.org.uk)

Online booking now available at <http://www.haggewoodstrust.org.uk/events/>

