

INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON FRESHWATER ALGAL IDENTIFICATION

Sunday 28 June – Friday 3 July 2009

Venue: Hild-Bede College and School of Education, University of Durham, Durham, UK

Organisers: Professor Brian A. Whitton (Durham) and Professor David M. John (London)

The aim of the course (run since 1992) is to train staff from the UK Environment Agency, SEPA, water plcs, other companies, consultancies, research students and overseas visitors in the identification of the commoner and environmentally-important microscopic and macroscopic freshwater algae. Topics introduced will include monitoring, harmful and nuisance algae, and implications of the European Water Framework Directive.

The course is a mixture of lectures and practicals, together with an afternoon field trip. Members should arrive by 1730 on the Sunday while the daily programme runs from 0900 to 2120 each evening. It ends formally after lunch on Friday, though there is an optional trip to sites along the River Wear in the afternoon.

Professors David John and Brian Whitton give the majority of the lectures. Dr Gordon Beakes (University of Newcastle), Dr Alan Donaldson (consultant) and Dr Martyn Kelly (Bowburn Consultancy) will also contribute.

Residence and meals are in Hild-Bede College that is situated on a hill above the River Wear and therefore commands a fine view over the river and city; it also has an excellent reputation for food and drink. Arrangements can be made for special diet requirements. Parking is available inside the college; it is helpful, but not essential, to know in advance if you plan to bring a car.

Members are encouraged to bring a laboratory coat and boots for a short field visit and (preferably) fresh algal samples from their local waters. Everything else is provided including access to *The Freshwater Algal Flora of the British Isles* and three identification CDs. Some may find it useful to bring their own portable computer, and the risk of loss is covered by insurance. A training manual (2009 revision) will be distributed in advance of the course. Overseas members need not bring a laboratory coat or clothes for the field visit – these will be loaned.

Travel Durham is on the main rail line between London King's Cross and Edinburgh. Trains are about once an hour and the journey from London (260 miles) takes three hours. A taxi from the station to Hild-Bede College (about 1.5 miles, but a long hill for walkers) costs about £3.50. The nearest airport is Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There is a rail route from Newcastle airport to Durham, though this involves changing at Newcastle main rail station and the overall journey can take anything from one to two hours, depending on the connection at Newcastle. A taxi from Newcastle airport to Durham (26 miles) takes 35-45 minutes and costs about £40. The organizers usually meet members at the airport if they arrive on a day prior to the course, but this may be difficult on the Sunday.

Cost The inclusive cost for all participants other than full-time research students is £870 (no VAT charge). The discounted price for full-time students or people from countries outside Europe is £750. Students who are members of the British Phycological Society may apply directly to the Society for some support. Full details are given on the BPS website. It is recommended that applications be submitted as soon as possible. Hild-Bede College can provide accommodation for anyone wanting to stay an extra night at the beginning or end of the course (about £32 per night). Payment can be included in the main invoice, provided organizers are informed well in advance; otherwise it should be paid directly to the college after arrival. Dinner on Friday (but not bed and breakfast) will be provided free to anyone wanting to stay the night.

Booking Provisional and firm reservations for one of the 10 places should be made by email to b.a.whitton@durham.ac.uk or fax +44(0)191-386-0619, to be followed by an official order to B.A. Whitton Algal Training, 74 Archery Rise, Durham DH1 4LA, UK. Payment or a proper order form is required by 1 June. A full refund will be made to anyone paying early, but cancels the reservation before 1 June, while a 50% refund will be made to anyone cancelling by 20 June.

For Further Information You are welcome contact Brian Whitton: b.a.whitton@durham.ac.uk, phone +44(0)191-386-7504 (home) or +44(0)91-334-1347 (university) or David John: d_m_john@ntlworld.com, phone +44(0)208-464-6367 (home) or +44(0)7920120825 (mobile).