

Native Woodland Discussion Group (NWDG) Lichen workshop 29th Sept-1st Oct. 2017

Atlantic woods in south Argyll, Scotland. For complete beginners & repeat offenders/improvers.

Tutor Andy Acton



Tree Lungwort Lobaria pulmonaria by A.Crawford,



Tree Flute Menegazzia terebrata by Andy Acton

The proposed site is Ferry Wood (NR 749 587), part of Ardpatrik and Dunmore woods SSSI – 11 miles from Tarbert (there are several Tarberts in Scotland – this is the one at NR86 68!). The wood is about 40 acres in extent. It has oak woodland with 2 areas of hazel understory with plenty of glades (lots of bracken), standing and fallen deadwood, birch woodland, scrub, boggy areas of birch/willow, wet ravine, dry ravine, huge rocks, boulders, stranded sea stacks, fossilised sea cliffs, rocks facing south in full sun etc. So there is plenty of variety!

There may also be opportunity to visit another site in the area depending on time/access permissions – e.g. another area of Ardpatrik/Dunmore SSSI or perhaps Glen Ralloch to Barvalla SSSI (the latter notified for the lichen assemblage).

Friday eve.

7.30-9pm meet in the Village Hall Youth Centre Annexe in Tarbert for evening slideshow. The centre is next to the village hall 100m. past the church along Campbeltown Road heading out of the village (assuming you are coming down from Lochgilphead).

Saturday

9.30-2pm Field trip Ferry Wood. Meet at wood 9.30. Please allow at least half an hour from Tarbert - full directions provided when you book. Bring a packed lunch.

3-7pm Lab work return to Village Hall by 3pm-to examine samples, identification skills, opportunity for microscope work.

7pm onwards – eat out in Tarbert.....pub. We can block book a table for the group.

Sunday

9.30-4pm Field trip - either revisit Ferry Wood or visit nearby woods (as described above). Workshop ends c. 4pm. Bring a packed lunch.

Accommodation

People sort their own accommodation- stay Tarbert or nearer site if they choose. There are plenty of places for a variety of budgets in Tarbert, and lots of places to eat.

What to bring

There will be rough, rocky ground so sturdy boots, it's Scotland so warm gear and full waterproofs. Also x10 hand lens, notebook, pencils, penknife (with locking blade), spare paper for collecting packets. Personal first aid kit/medication (extra bandages if you insist on a non-locking knife). We hope to miss the midges but we may catch the tail end so be prepared (repellent and nets). Be prepared for ticks - tick remover might be useful. Bring a packed lunch for both field days.

ID guides

All participants will receive a copy of the two Plantlife Lichen Guides for Atlantic Woodlands (Acton & Griffith, 2012).

Beginners/improver/intermediates

Although the course is largely aimed at those new to lichens there will be time for improvers/intermediates too (if you have them please bring your usual lichen gear - chemicals, 'Dobson', slides, coverslips etc, etc.) I'm also happy to discuss management issues, site assessment etc.

Bring a microscope if you have one – I will have one for group use but binocular microscope will be very handy. If you want to try your hand at microscopy work there will be a compound scope for group use. Please let the tutor know if you want to try microscopy/need some help with a particular aspect of microscopy.

Booking

Please use the Doodle poll in the email or on the Events page of the website www.nwdg.org.uk to book. If you have any questions feel free to contact Alan Crawford (NWDG workshop co-ordinator, alancrawford07@hotmail.co.uk) or Andy (andy.acton.esm@gmail.com). Course fee £70 for members (£90 for non-members – includes membership fee).

References

Acton A. & Griffith A. 2008. *Lichens of Atlantic Woodlands Guides 1 and 2*. Plantlife Scotland. You can see low res versions of the guides at:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/lichens-atlantic-woodlands-guide-1-lichens-ash-hazel-willow-rowan-and-old-oak>

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/lichens-atlantic-woodlands-guide-2-lichens-birch-alder-and-oak>