



Entomology Field Course – Student Guidance Notes

Welcome to your upcoming entomology course. These notes will help you prepare for the day so that you can relax, learn effectively, and enjoy exploring the fascinating world of insects.

1. What to Wear

Most courses include time outdoors, so please dress appropriately for fieldwork.

Recommended clothing:

- **Sturdy closed shoes.**
- **Long trousers** (to protect against nettles, brambles, and ticks)
- **Long sleeve** collared shirt (plenty of pockets helps to store pens/markers, loupe et cetera)
- **Waterproof jacket**
- **Hat and sunscreen** in warm weather
- **Warm layers** in cooler months
- No bright colours - natural earthy colours.

Field conditions can vary, so dressing in **layers** is usually the best approach.

2. Essentials to Bring

Please bring the following items if possible:

- **Reusable water bottle**
- **Packed lunch or snacks**
- **Notebook and pen**
- **Personal medications**

- **Small backpack or field bag**
- **Phone or camera (optional for recording observations)**

You may also wish to bring a **small hand towel** for use during specimen work.

3. Optional Entomology Equipment

If you already own any entomology equipment, feel free to bring it along.

Examples include:

- **Hand lens (10× or 20×)**
- **Insect sweep net**
- **Beating tray**
- **Collecting tubes or specimen pots**
- **Aspirator (pooter)**
- **Field notebook**

None of this equipment is required — **all essential equipment will be available to use during the course.**

4. Arrival Time

Please aim to arrive **from 9:30am.**

This allows time to:

- enjoy coffee or tea
- meet other participants
- settle in before the course begins

The course will **start promptly at 10:00am.**

5. What Is Provided During the Course

All specialist equipment required for the course is provided.

This typically includes:

- insect nets

- collecting pots and tubes
- hand lenses
- specimen trays
- stereo microscopes for identification
- field guides and identification materials

Where appropriate, we will also demonstrate professional equipment used in entomological surveys.

Tea, coffee, and light refreshments are also available during the day.

6. General Notes

A few additional points that will help the day run smoothly:

- Fieldwork may involve **uneven ground and natural habitats**.
- Please follow all **safety guidance given during the course**.
- Insects will be handled **carefully and respectfully**.
- Photography is welcome during the course.
- Please inform the tutor of **any allergies (particularly insect stings)**.

Most importantly, come with **curiosity and enthusiasm** — no prior experience is required.

Ethical Approach to Entomology

Responsible observation and study of insects is central to our teaching philosophy.

As a course provider, we follow clear ethical principles when collecting or handling specimens.

Our principles are:

Respect for living organisms

Insects are handled carefully and released whenever possible.

Collecting only when necessary

Specimens are collected only when required for accurate identification, scientific understanding, or educational demonstration.

Humane methods

When specimens must be retained for study, humane methods are used to minimise suffering.

These methods follow established entomological practice and may include controlled use of killing jars or rapid freezing techniques.

Educational purpose

Any specimens collected during the course serve a clear educational purpose and help students understand insect biology, anatomy, and identification.

Conservation awareness

Protected species and vulnerable populations are **never** collected unless dead specimens are found.. Fieldwork emphasises habitat appreciation and conservation.

Scientific integrity

Ethical specimen handling is an important part of learning entomology responsibly.

Understanding insects often requires close examination of morphology, but this is always balanced with **respect for living organisms and the ecosystems they inhabit.**

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing an engaging and enjoyable exploration of the insect world.

