

Course Report.

Introduction to Bee Genera; 6th August 2016, Felin Puleston, Erddig

With a growing interest in our native pollinating insects, an identification course covering bee genera was held at a new Cofnod venue: Felin Puleston, Erddig.

This popular course attracted 13 attendees and was led by Carl Clee from Liverpool's World Museum.

Carl began the course by giving us an illustrated talk on all the British bee genera. We learnt about their differing ecology, behaviour and identification characteristics.

We then explored the surrounding grasslands, but bees were few and far between – not helped by the fact that many flowering plants had already gone to seed. Several Bumble bees were encountered, along with honey bees and the odd *Andrena* species.

Returning to the lab we got to grips with the keys used to identify bee genera. Carl had brought trays of pinned specimens from the museum for us to examine. These specimens were an excellent resource, giving us the opportunity to see a wide range of genera on the day (many of the species have different flight periods and it wouldn't have been possible to find them all on a single day).

Holding the course in the east of the Cofnod area gave a different group of people the chance to attend this event.

Hopefully this introductory course will have given people the confidence and skills to progress to species identification next year.

