

Course Report.

Introduction to Ferns & Fern Allies; 20th August 2016, Treborth, Bangor

David Hill from the British Pteridological Society led this fascinating one day identification course. Fourteen people attended, including three visitors from China.

Starting the day with an introductory talk, David used specimens he had collected earlier to show key differences amongst the various species. The complex fern reproductive cycle was presented by way of a video, helping to refresh memories from school days!

Torrential morning rain gave way to more tolerable weather, so with a break in the weather we headed out into the gardens.

Treborth's buildings themselves yielded several fern species including Polypody, Lady Fern, Maidenhair Spleenwort and Wall Rue. We also had the opportunity to see North Wales rarities like Holly Fern, Oblong Woodsia and Royal Fern in the garden's collections.

Heading down to the garden's woodland we encountered more Lady Ferns, Bracken and some immature *Polystichum*.

We returned to the lab for a much-needed warm drink and biscuits. David finished off this highly successful day by telling us about useful identification resources and local field events which would allow people to progress their interest in ferns.

