

## **RSB Training Programme: Plant Evolution**

Plants are often a mystery, even to many biologists, because we do not routinely educate students in botany to the same extent as we do in zoology. Popular natural history resources such as television programs are often focused on the animal world rather than the plant.

### **Who is the course aimed at?**

For anyone who is curious to learn about the plant kingdom, how it is structured and how it evolved.

### **What does the course cover?**

- What is a plant and what is not?
- The origin and evolution of land plants
- Where do flowers come from?
- The evolution and diversification of flowers and fruit.
- What are the main groups of plants?
- How can plants be identified?
- How were plants domesticated?

This half day course will involve both interactive exercises and talks in which course attendees will be encouraged to participate.

### **Further information**

Course tutor and Royal Society of Biology Fellow **Dr Robin Allaby FRSB FLS** graduated from King's College London in 1992 after reading environmental science, where he developed an interest in palaeoecology. He developed this interest in a PhD in ancient DNA in Manchester awarded in 1996 in which he studied the evolution of domestication of wheat. For the past 20 years Robin has researched the evolution of plants, and particularly how they have adapted to the human environment, using archaeogenomic and computational modelling techniques.

Course tutor **Dr Alan Clapham** studied at Nottingham University and graduated with a 2.1 in botany in 1982. He has a Masters degree in bioarchaeology from the Institute of Archaeology, UCL and his Doctorate was on British Submerged Forests, which was awarded by John Moores University. Dr Clapham has been involved with archaeobotany since 1983 and has worked in Britain, Europe, The Middle East, Africa and Japan studying both past and recent vegetation.

### **Contact**

For more information and to register your interest, please [contact](#) our training officer.