

Now
coordinated
by BSBI!

FIELD IDENTIFICATION SKILLS CERTIFICATE (FISC)

The industry
standard for
assessing
botanical survey
skills

A FISC is an enjoyable one-day test that determines your botanical skill level

- ❖ Levels go from 1 (beginner) to 5 (professional), with level 6 being awarded in exceptional cases
- ❖ FISCs are designed to measure your skills in real-life situations, testing your long-term botanical ability, not your short term memory: they are not a training course
- ❖ Developed by Sarah Whild & Sue Townsend (now Dancey), FISCs will be coordinated and QA'ed by BSBI from 2023
- ❖ BSBI aims to grow FISC provision over the next 5 years, by training & supporting new assessors & providers

If you are interested in becoming a FISC provider or assessor, contact fiscertificates@bsbi.org



What happens at a FISC Assessment Day?

- ❖ The assessment starts with two lab tests of plant specimens (one with ID books, one without)
- ❖ Then there's a field survey with marks awarded for each correct ID
- ❖ Your results are compared against a 'gold standard botanist' surveying on the same day
- ❖ Overall scores are then linked to a baseline based on the skills pyramid (see below)

What can you do with a FISC?

- ❖ FISCs are increasingly being included in the recruitment criteria for jobs in ecology & field botany
- ❖ Understanding your current skill level will help you decide what training will advance your botanical skills
- ❖ Maybe you need more time in the field with fellow botanists? Or a focus on specific plant groups?
- ❖ BSBI can signpost you to the resources you need & support you as you ascend the pyramid

Information on FISC 2023 dates & locations will be released on the BSBI website as they become available

Understand your current position on
the skills pyramid

& find out how to
take the next
step up



Botanical
Society of
Britain &
Ireland

Find out more:
bsbi.org/field-skills