

# The Field Studies Council

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Sue Townsend

[suetownsend.pm@field-studies-council.org](mailto:suetownsend.pm@field-studies-council.org)

Field Studies Council at Preston Montford Field Centre,  
Shropshire.

[www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)

The logo for the Field Studies Council (FSC) features the letters 'FSC' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'F' is green, the 'S' is blue, and the 'C' is green. The letters are slightly overlapping.

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UNDERSTANDING TO ALL



# History of Preston Montford

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- 1700 Built as a private house by Samuel Adderton completed probably 1720
- Addertons and tenants lived here until 1791
- Wingfields bought the Estate in 1829
- 1925 – bought by a tenant – Arnold Boyce Smith
- 1947 – Bought by the Trustees of the Endowments of the Salop Police Court Mission
- 1957 – bought by this organisation

The logo for FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) features the letters 'FSC' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'F' is green, the 'S' is blue, and the 'C' is green. The letters are set against a white background.

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# Preston Montford Field Centre



# Preston Montford Field Centre

Opened as an FSC Centre in 1957.

- New buildings added in the 1970s and 1990s.
- Now have 120 beds, 6 classrooms.
- Teaching sites in the grounds
- Over 5000 visitors per year

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# Key Facts about the FSC

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Began in Dec 1943

Now operates 17 Centres in 3 countries

14 of these are residential with 3 day centres

90,000 people per year attend courses

We are raising our profile through lobbying, publications and projects

The logo for FSC (Federation of Societies in Care) features the letters 'FSC' in a stylized font. The 'F' is green, the 'S' is blue, and the 'C' is green. The letters are bold and modern.

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## Why on earth did it start?

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- A perceived need to get young people into the natural environment
- A chance to see ‘the real thing’
- A chance meeting between a forward thinking schools inspector and a representative of the National Trust

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## So What do we do?

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- Provide courses – mostly residential for school groups, universities, countryside professionals and leisure learners
- Lobby government in support of outdoor learning
- Produce identification publications

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# Facilities for residential courses

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Converted Queen  
Anne Main House

Purpose built  
accommodation and  
lab facilities

Close to our Head  
Office

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# School Groups at the Centre

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- AS/A2 Biology, Geography and Env Science
- GCSE Biology and Geography
- Key Stages 2 and 3
- Teachers

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# Secondary School Biology (Ecology)



Crosemere,  
N Shropshire

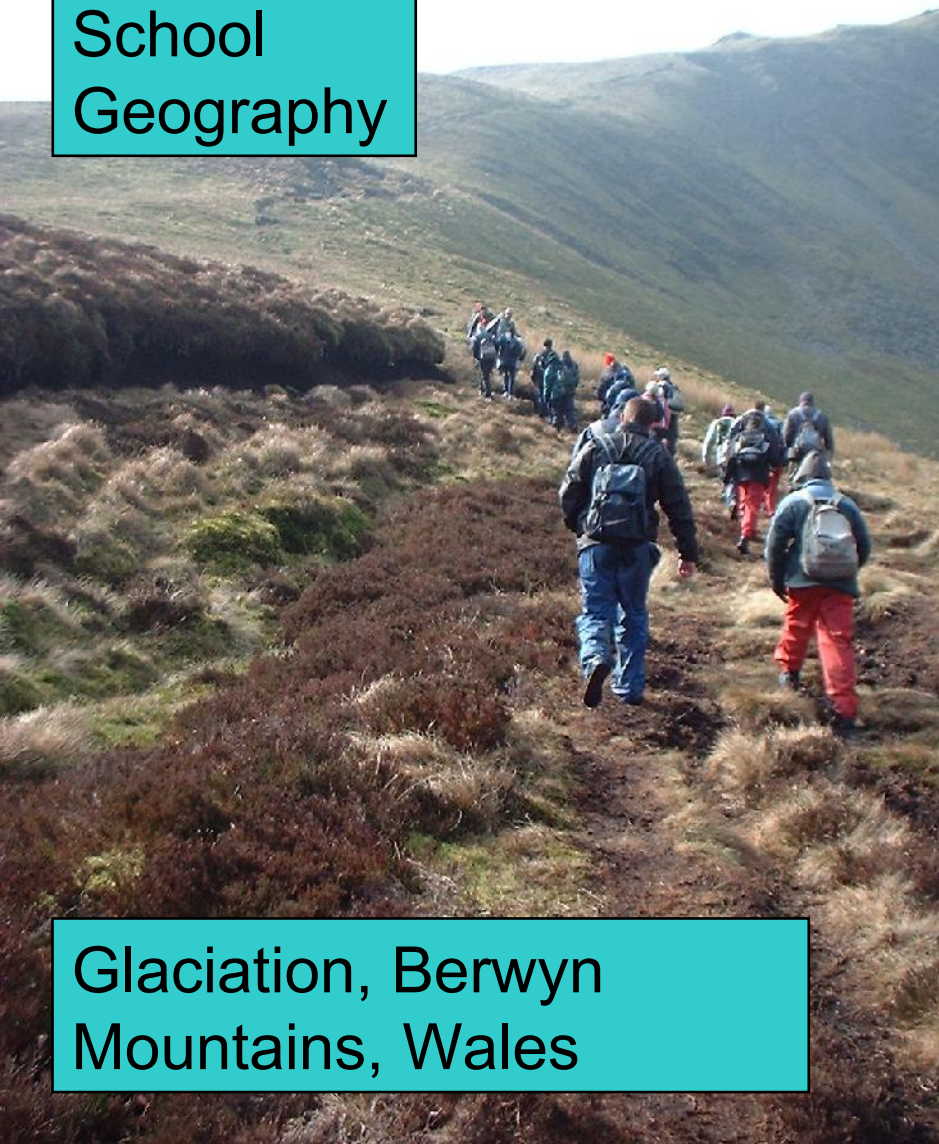
Vegetation  
succession



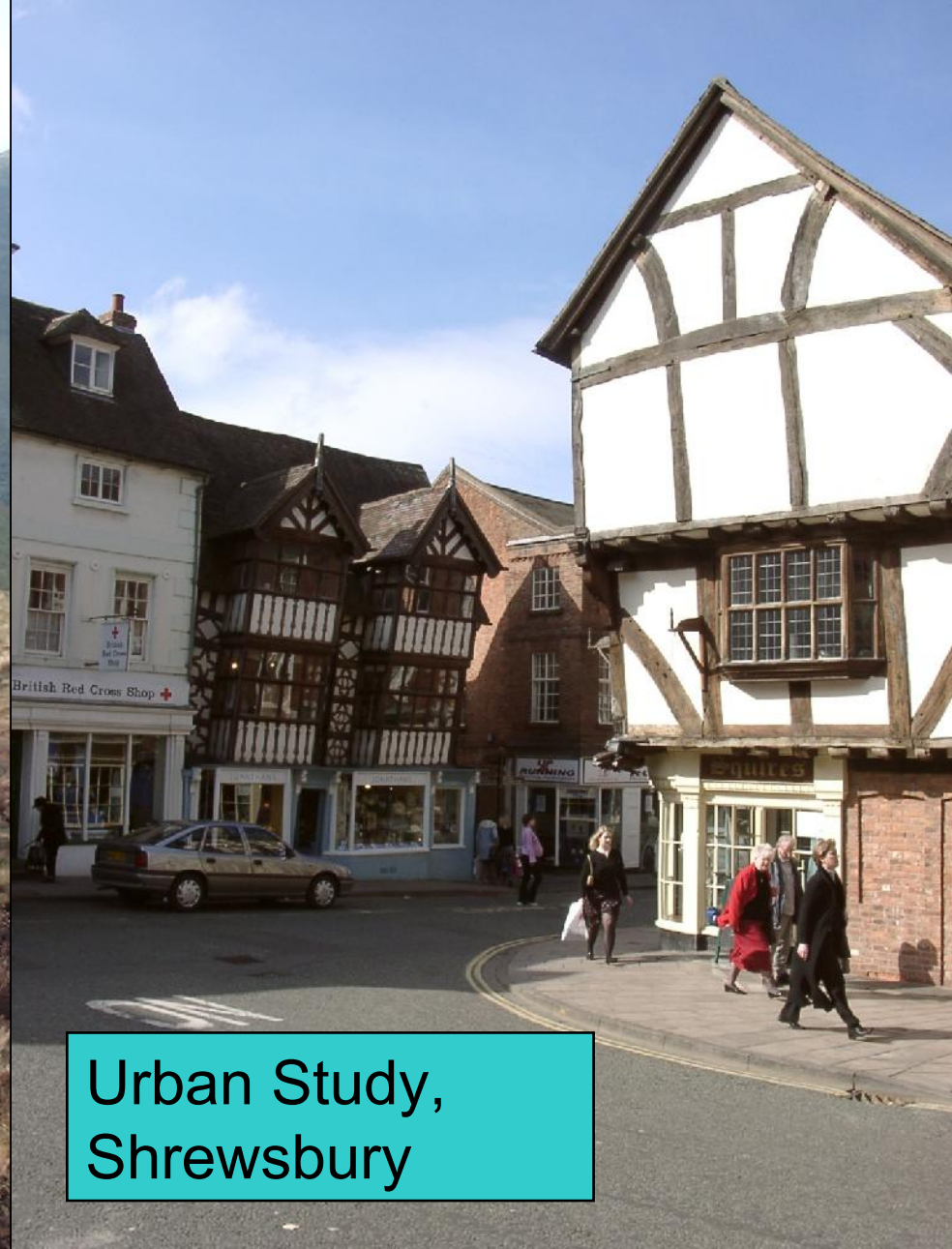
Pond study

Secondary  
School Ecology

Secondary  
School  
Geography



Glaciation, Berwyn  
Mountains, Wales



Urban Study,  
Shrewsbury

River study



Secondary School  
Geography





Stiperstones,  
S Shropshire

Heather moorland  
ecosystem management

Primary School  
Geography/Science



# Primary School Orienteering





Primary School  
Team Building



Primary School  
Energy Game



Secondary School  
Geography  
Flooding in Shrewsbury

# Other Customer Groups

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- Overseas Groups
- University and College Groups
- Professional courses
- Leisure Learning courses
- Government Agency courses

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30 17:15

Adult courses

Fungi ID

Willow weaving





# Fascination of Fungi

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# Soil Science



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# A Field Botany Group

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# Identifying Mosses and Liverworts



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# Geology Courses

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# The FSC – Identification

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- Access to a large number of skilled botany, entomology and zoological tutors
- Already well placed to run further training courses nationwide
- Longstanding reputation
- A network of successful field centres and contacts throughout the UK



# AIDGAP

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## Aids to Identification in Difficult Groups of Animals and Plants

- Aims
  - Production of user-friendly taxonomic guides
  - Understandable to a non-specialist audience
  - Extensive field testing



# A whole range of titles

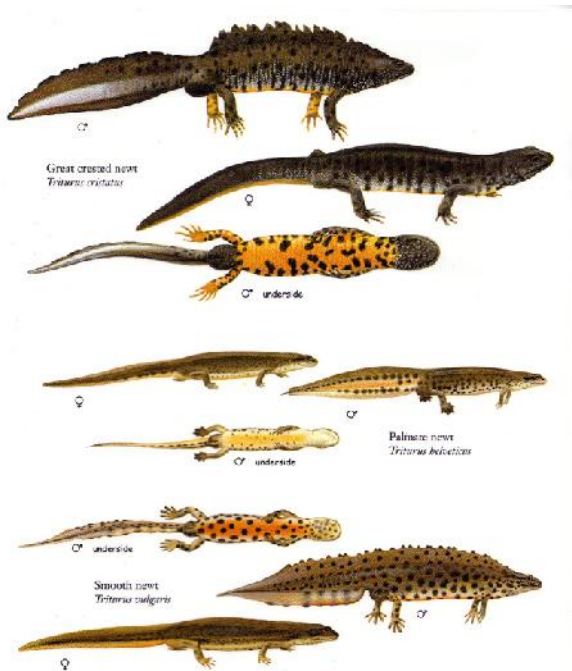
Synopses of the British Fauna (New Series)  
edited by Doris M. Kermack, R.S.K. Barnes and J.H. Crothers  
No. 49

## Woodlice

P.G. Oliver and C.J. Meehan



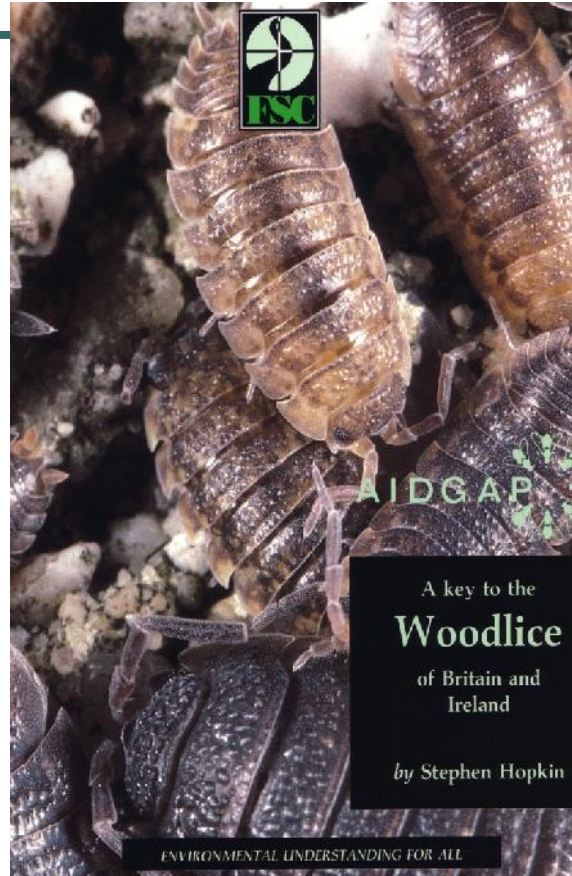
Published for  
The Linnean Society of London  
and  
The Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association  
by  
Field Studies Council



Guide to the  
reptiles and  
amphibians of  
Britain and Ireland



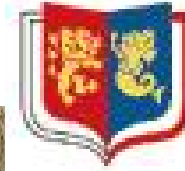
All approximately life size unless otherwise indicated



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# Biological Recording Training



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM



- There is now a successful partnership, offering a Certificate, Diploma and Masters level qualification.
- This is helping to improve identification skills

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# Developing Initiatives in Partnership

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- Groups at The Centre eg Bat Group, Botanical Society, Ornithological Society, relocation of the Bryological Society Library.....
- Botanical Society of the British Isles and the University of Birmingham have piloted a new field skills qualification
- Providing local support eg scouts, brownies and for years the crockery for Fitz harvest supper!

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# Biodiversity Training Project

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A 5 year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Field Studies Council.



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Heritage  
Lottery Fund

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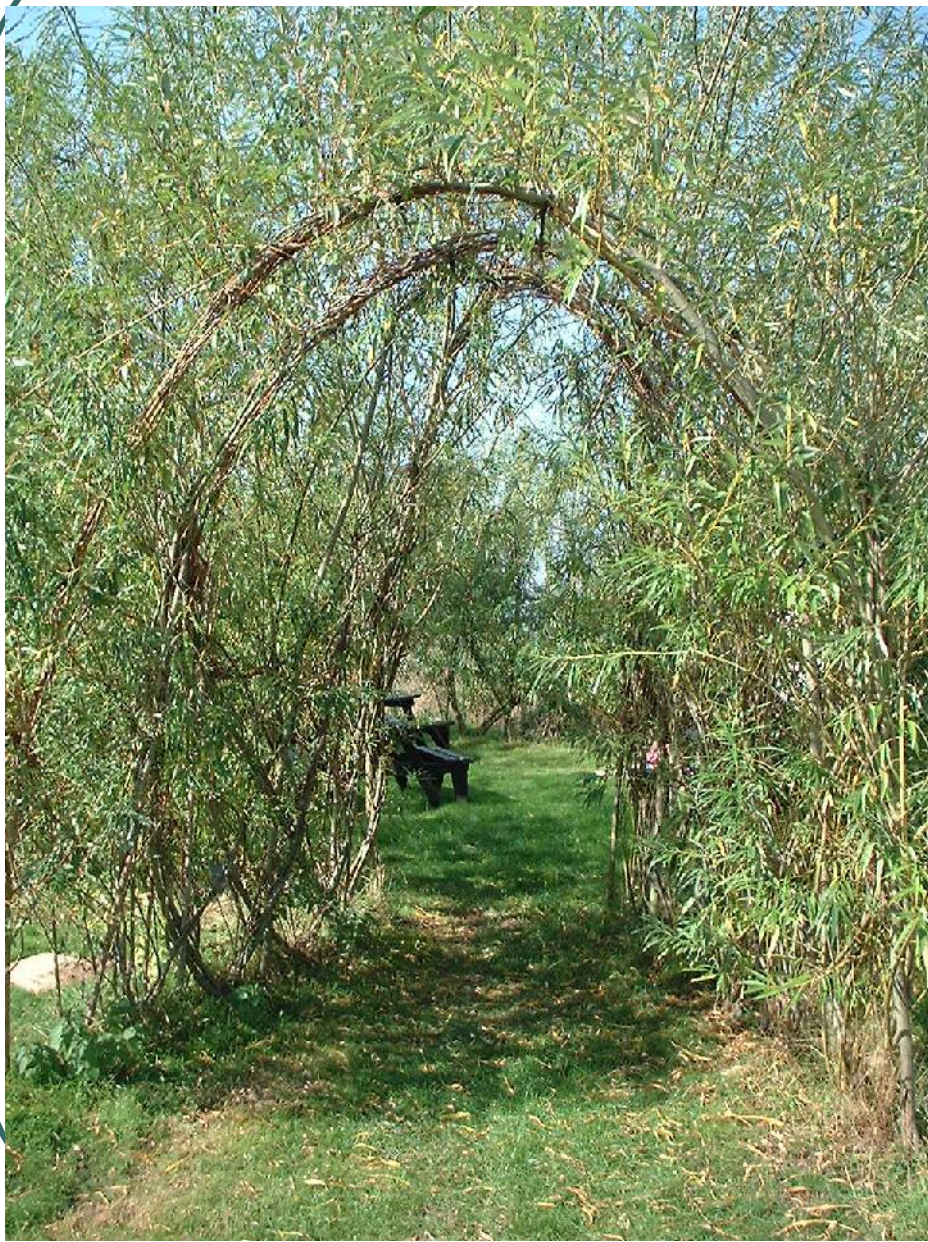
# Preston Montford Estate

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- 23 acres/9 hectares of land.
- River Severn flows next to the Estate.
- 5+ ponds.
- Woodland, grassland, meadow habitats.
- Other wildlife areas eg. log piles and bird boxes.
- Many interesting animals seen here eg. badgers, bats, kingfishers, newts.



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## **Sensory Garden, Exploratorium**

Built as a disability project with FSCEE.

With help from local schools for children with learning and physical disabilities.

Raised pond and flower beds, willow classroom, brightly coloured plants and objects, wind chimes, fruit trees, sitting/play area, whispering tube





Treats liquid part  
of PM sewage  
and waste water

Wetland Ecosystem  
Treatment (WET) System







Harvesting the willow

# View from the riverbank

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# January Flooding

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# Distant hills and the River Severn

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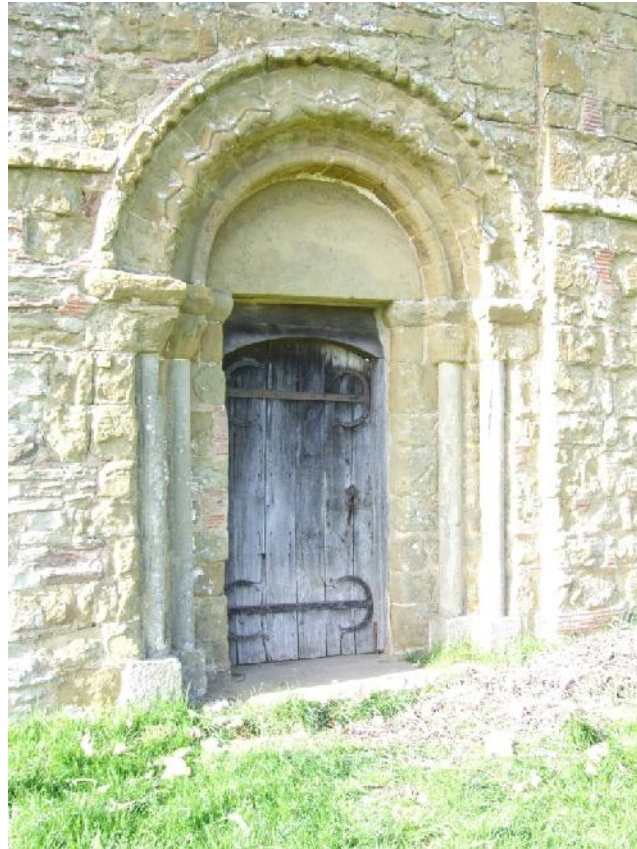


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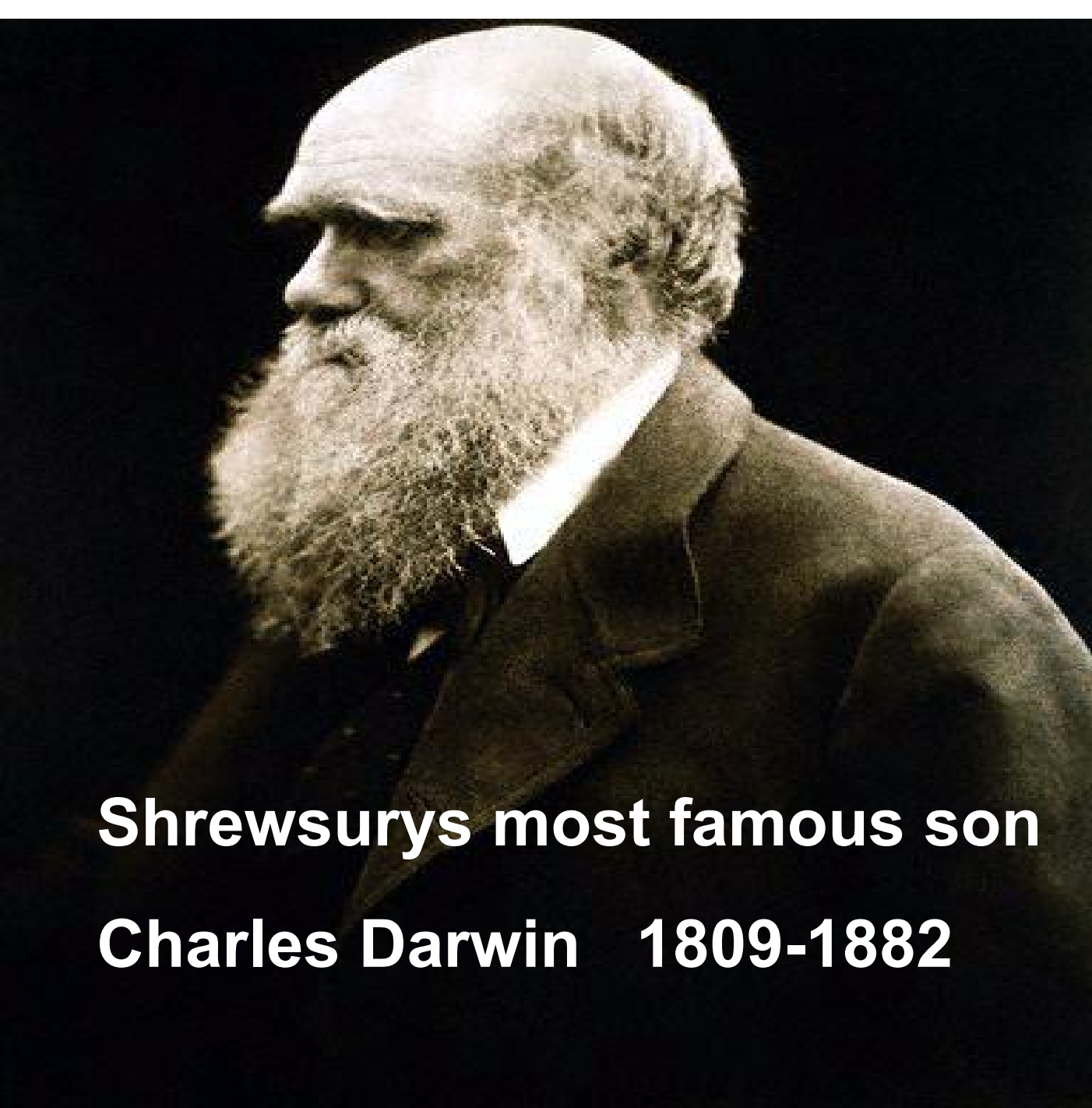
# Historic Shropshire Sites

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Published '*On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection*' in 1859

Bicentennial in 2009

Buried in Westminster Abbey

**Shrewsburys most famous son**

**Charles Darwin 1809-1882**

We are an **Eco-centre**



We try to be as environmentally friendly as we can be,

**AND PLEASE....,**

if you have any suggestions you have about how we can improve, let us know.

Thank You!

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