



BioLinks Freshwater Invertebrate Training

Charlie Bell

9th October, Freshwater Recorders Workshop, CEH Lancaster

c.bell@field-studies-council.org



LOTTERY FUNDED

FSC BioLinks Project



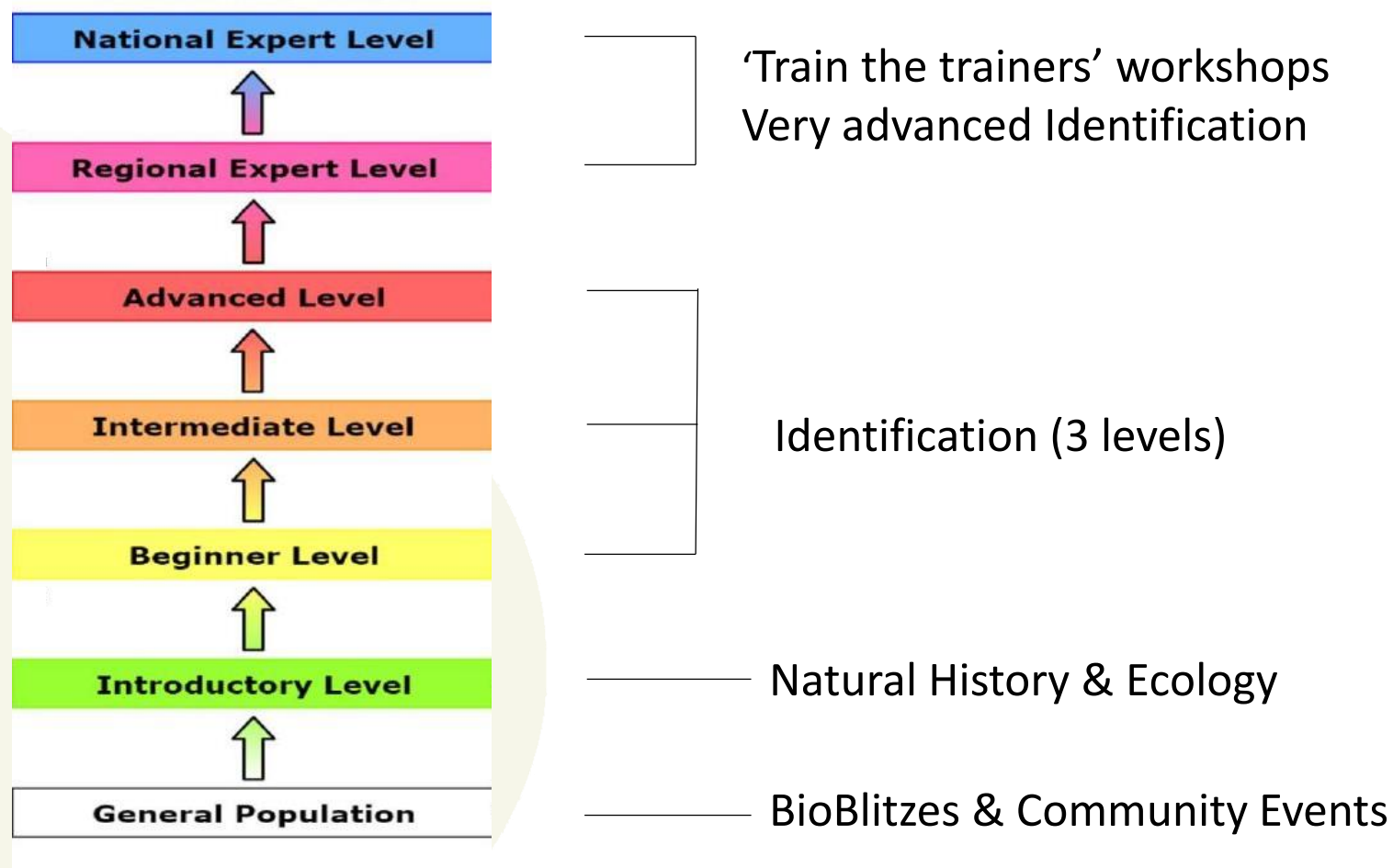
£1.23m

BioLinks is all about invertebrate identification skills and bringing together new and existing volunteers

Under recorded invertebrates



BioLinks Training Pathway



Under recorded invertebrates



Lessons from the BioLinks consultation

- Some standardisation of levels and content useful
- Better signposting to courses across the sector
- ‘Training pathways’ needed not just ‘ad hoc’ training provision
- Buy-in of RSS vital
- All training providers could benefit from this – collaboration not competition

Freshwater Invertebrate Identification Training Pathway



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Advanced
Level

Microscopes, specimens, keys, dissection, clearing etc, ID to species using specialist keys

Intermediate
Level

Microscopes, specimens, keys, ID to family, genus, species if possible

Beginner
Level

Field ID, live specimens, hand lens, ID probably 'picture matching' using field guides or very simple keys

Introductory
Level

Engagement, 'pre-beginner', not an ID course, common names, natural history
'Learn To Love' courses

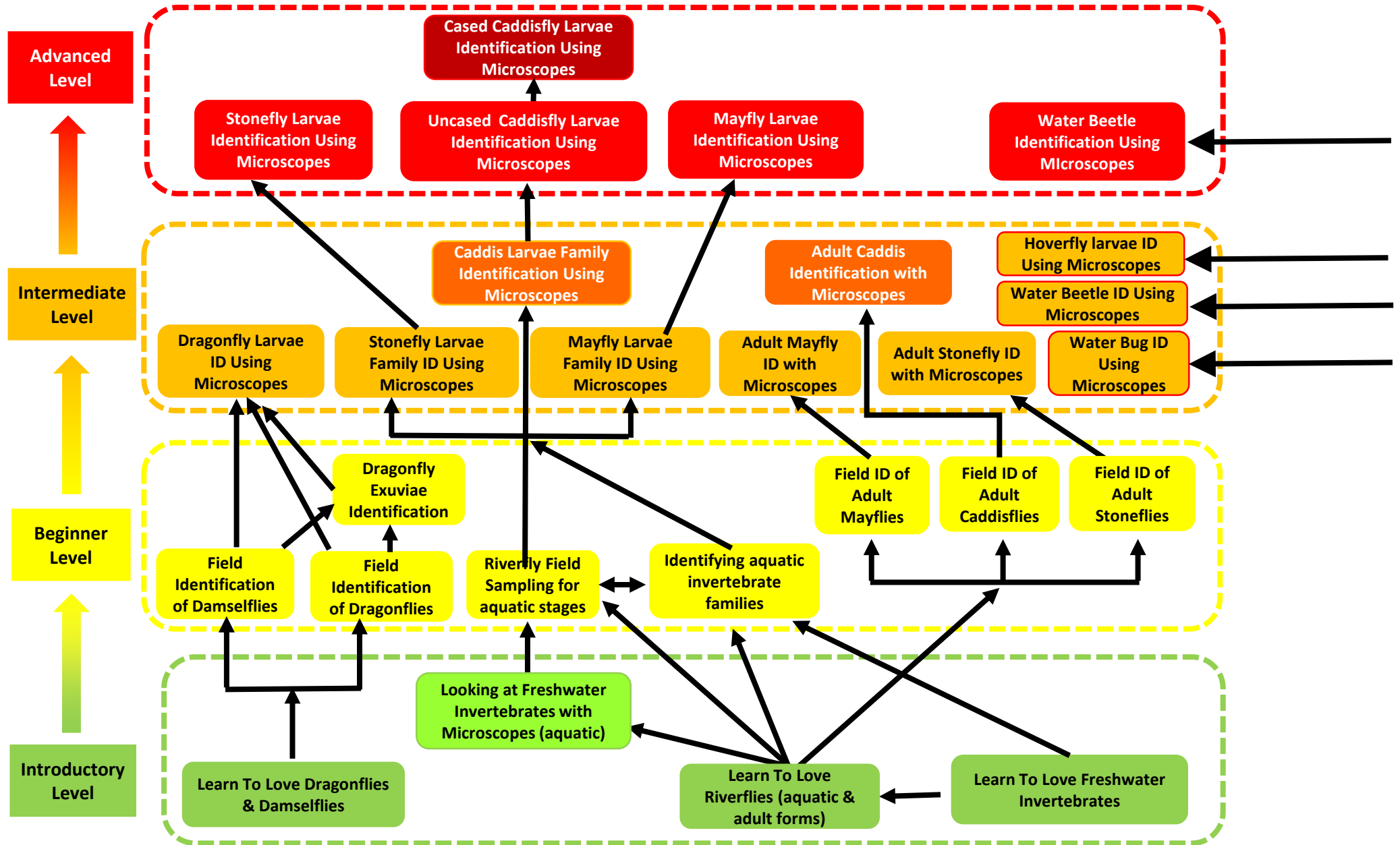
Freshwater Invertebrate Identification Training Pathway



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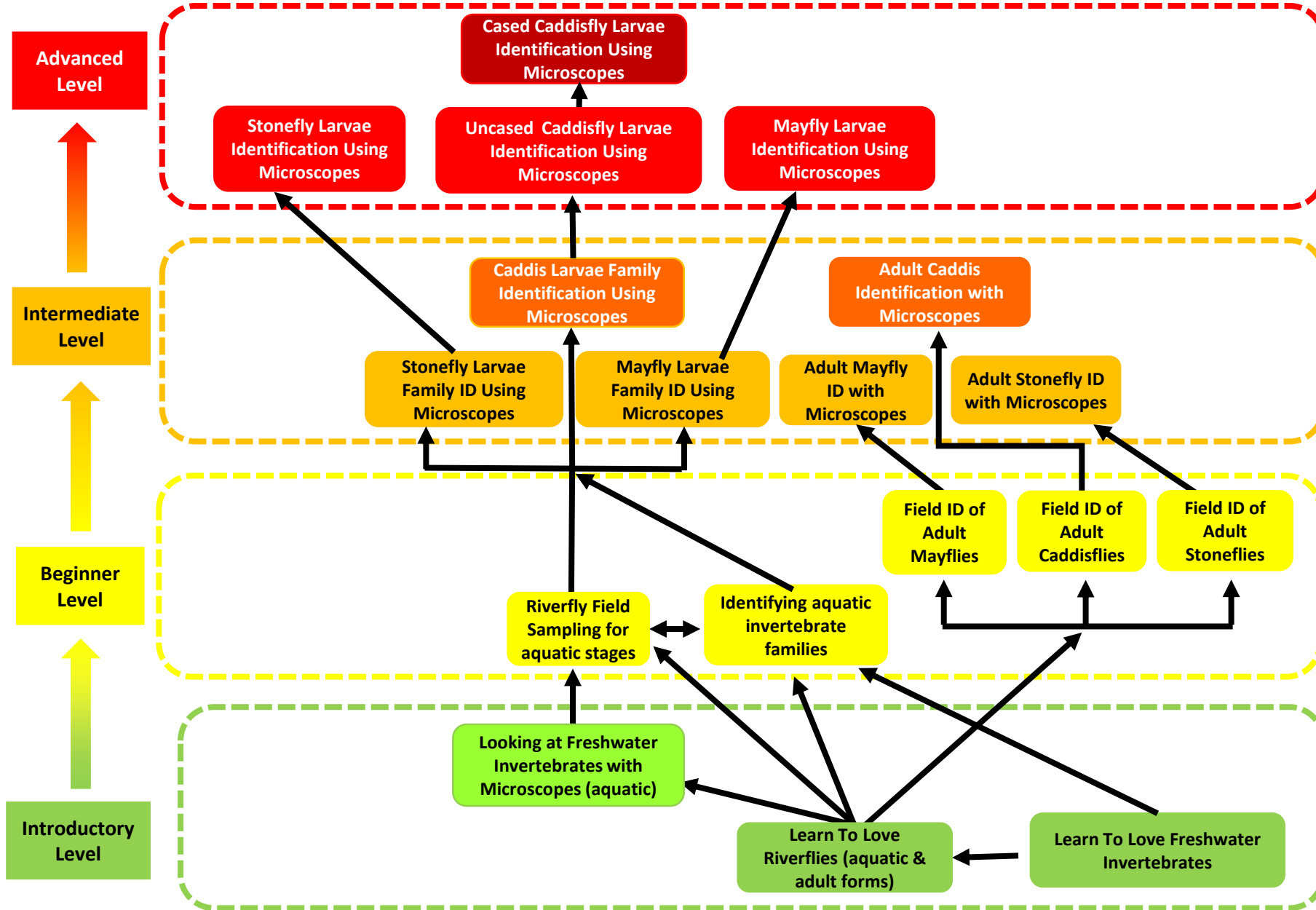
Riverfly Training Pathway



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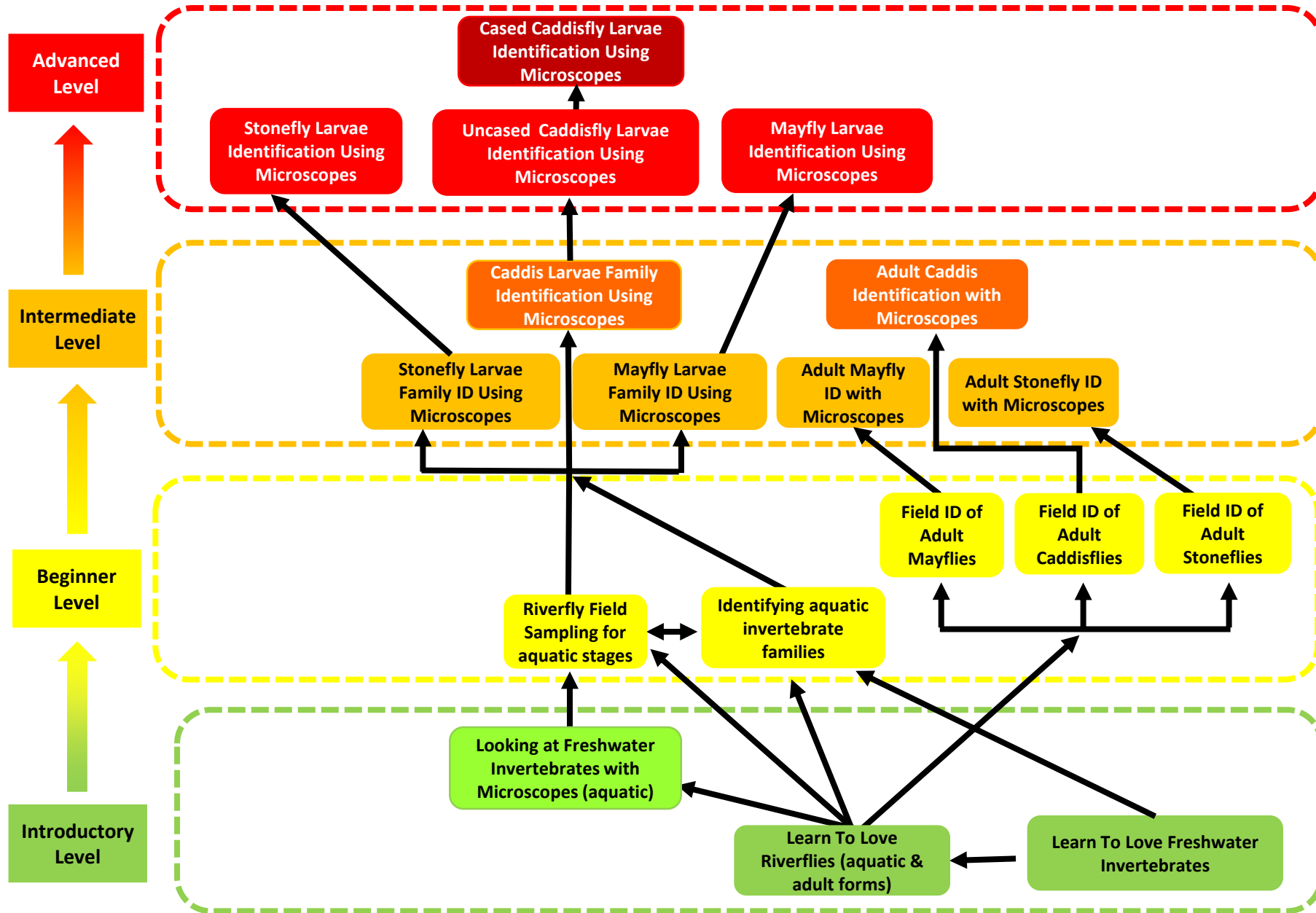
Freshwater Insect Identification Training Pathway



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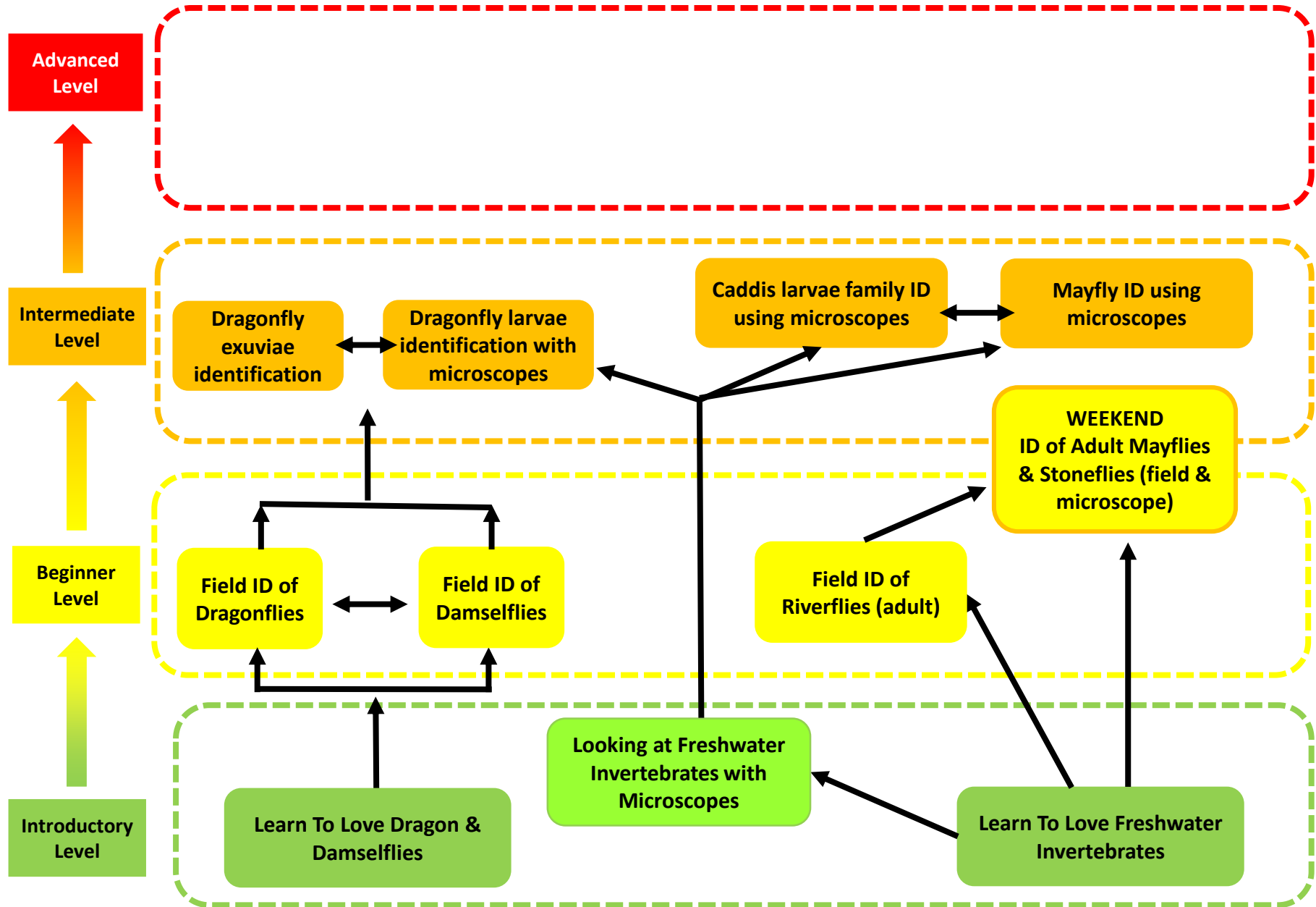
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- BioLinks Year 1

Feedback from Field ID course:

“It would have been nice to have more info on ecology...but I suppose that’s what the Learn To Love courses are for”.

Lessons

- Still finding our way with freshwater
- Would love buy-in of RSS
- Sector-wide training plan could benefit everyone
- Clearer signposting of course levels and availability?

Please get in touch!

c.bell@field-studies-council.org