



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

2018



Wildlife Training Workshops

Discover more about natural history and the varied wildlife and habitats of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Booking Form

Before you book

- Contact Juliette Butler, Wildlife Training Workshops Officer either by phone or e-mail to check if places are available (Tues, Wed and Fri 9am – 2.30pm).
- Telephone: **01604 774031** or e-mail: trainingworkshops@wildlifebcn.org
- To book onto a Dragonfly workshop please contact Henry Curry at the British Dragonfly Society telephone 01733 204286
- Note that most workshops include an indoor session and a field trip to a nature reserve. If you have any concerns about the amount of walking involved, please discuss with the Wildlife Training Workshops Officer.

To confirm a booking

Please send a completed booking form and either a cheque (payable to The Wildlife Trust) or telephone the Wildlife Training Workshops Officer with debit/credit card details. Address as follows:
Wildlife Training Workshops, The Wildlife Trust, Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton NN3 8BE.

After a booking

- You will receive confirmation of booking either by e-mail or post.
- Programmes and location details are sent out two weeks before the workshop.
- Refunds are only available if cancellations are received **at least one month** before the workshop.

Fees

£40	Standard workshops	Free	Ecology Group Members
£115	Professionals	Free	Reserve Wardens
		Free	Watch Leaders
		Free	Key Volunteers

Some workshops are charged at a different rate, please check event description

Please fill in the county code, number of places required, name, date and price of each workshop you would like to book, continue on a blank sheet if necessary.

County code	Workshop name	No of places	Date	Price
			Add donation	
			Total amount enclosed	
Title	First Name	Surname		
Address				
		Postcode		
Tel: (day)		Tel: (eve)		
e-mail:				

Do you have any medical conditions/disabilities which may affect your participation in this (these) workshop(s)? Yes No

If Yes, please discuss with the Wildlife Training Workshops Officer before booking

Are you a member of the BCN Wildlife Trust? Yes No

Are you a volunteer of the BCN Wildlife Trust? Yes No

If a volunteer, in what capacity?

Tick here if your employer is paying for your attendance in this workshop

Would you like your information posted or e-mailed?

Lift sharing – are you happy for your details to be passed on to another participant? Yes No

Is this your first Wildlife Training Workshop? Yes No

How did you find out about this/these workshop(s)?

Your personal details will only be used by the Wildlife Trust and our workshop trainers, and not passed onto any third party.

I am happy to be contacted by the Wildlife Trust BCN about project updates, events and fundraising news by:

Post Email Telephone SMS Text
(please tick or leave blank)

View our privacy policy at www.wildlifebcn.org/privacy-policy-0

County Code:

B = Bedfordshire

C = Cambridgeshire

N = Northamptonshire

Lower Plants Invertebrates

N Introduction to Liverworts

Introductory sessions on bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) often concentrate on mosses, which tend to be more approachable for beginners. This workshop aims to redress the balance by focussing on liverworts. We will look at the delicate and varied structures of leafy liverworts as well as the more obvious thallose species. If possible the rather limited range which grow in the south east Midlands will be supplemented by material from elsewhere. This workshop is suitable for keen beginners and those with a little experience.

Date(s): Saturday 17 March 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Pitsford Water nature reserve
Trainer(s): Rachel Carter

B Introduction to Ferns and Horsetails

Ferns are a conspicuous and important part of our woodlands, and can be an attractive feature of old walls and buildings. Horsetails can be abundant in wetlands, and interesting species occur in other habitats. Many would-be botanists assume both groups 'all look the same' and consider them difficult. In fact, the relatively small number of species occurring locally can be identified in the field with the naked eye or a hand lens, and we should see most local species on the day. Being sensitive to patterns of rainfall and temperature, ferns are also good indicators of climate change.

Date(s): Saturday 22 September 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Flitwick Moor
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

C Introduction to Fungus Identification

Come prepared for an all-weather field trip to Woodwalton Fen (or around the Countryside classroom if too boggy) for collection of specimens in the morning. The afternoon session will include a brief discussion of fungal biology and demonstrations of identification techniques using literature, chemical tests and microscopy, followed by recording methods.

Date(s): Sunday 4 November 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Ramsey Heights/Woodwalton Fen
Trainer(s): Richard Shotbolt

N Soldier Flies and their Allies

2 days for £60

Soldierflies and allies are an attractive group of flies, with a readily accessible identification key. They are often one of the groups of flies that beginners start with, but do offer some interesting identification challenges. Many are excellent habitat indicator species. In this workshop we shall introduce participants to the families and provide specimens to enable identification to species level. The workshop will cover eleven families including beeﬂies, soldierﬂies, robberﬂies and horseﬂies.

The tutors are Stuart Ball, who was an entomologist with the JNCC before retiring and now runs the national Hoverfly and the Scathophagid Recording Schemes and John Showers, is an amateur dipterist and county Diptera Recorder for Northants.

Date(s): Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 February 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Ring Haw Field Station, Old Sulehay
Trainer(s): Stuart Ball and John Showers

C Introduction to Slugs and Snails

Everyone recognises slugs and snails as a group. They are amongst the most important decomposer organisms. As most species are very poor dispersers, they are also excellent indicators of ancient woodland, grassland and wetland habitats. Almost all species can be reliably identified in the field with a hand lens, and most with the naked eye.

Date(s): Saturday 3 March 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Gamlingay Wood
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

N Identification of Water Bugs

With around 67 species, water bugs are an ideal introduction into identifying aquatic invertebrates, whether you are formally recording, pond dipping with children or just interested in understanding more about what's in your garden pond.

This workshop will provide an introduction to identifying adult water bugs to species level using a mix of recognition features and identification keys looking at prepared samples. There will also be a local field trip to collect and identify live specimens. By the end of the course you should be able to identify some of the local easily recognisable species, understand the family groups and use keys to identify to species level.

Date(s): Saturday 17 March 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows nature reserve
Trainer(s): Kevin Rowley and Graham Warnes

N Identification of Mayfly and Stonefly Larvae

The mayflies (Ephemeroptera) and stoneflies (Plecoptera) are two of the three orders of aquatic invertebrate known collectively as 'riverflies'. They are of enormous interest to fly fishermen, partly because of the necessity to understand their ecology and form in order to exploit it when fishing, but also because they are regarded as primary indicators of river health.

With around 50 and 30 species in Britain and Ireland respectively, identification to species level is not especially onerous. This course will aim to train participants in identification of the larvae to species level and offer advice on where and how to look for them.

Date(s): Sunday 29 April 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): Richard Chadd

N Introducing the Dung Beetles



Bees are not the only economically important group of insects. Dung beetles provide a number of valuable ecosystem services, as well as being an important source of food for some vertebrates. The day will provide background on dung beetle ecology and conservation and give people an opportunity to sample and identify some of the UK's fauna.

Date(s): Saturday 19 May 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Ring Haw Field Station, Old Sulehay
Trainer(s): Darren Mann

N Introduction to Sawflies

This workshop is an introduction to the identification of adult sawflies (Hymenoptera Symphyta), dealing with identification to family level and to the most conspicuous and easily identifiable species. Copies of the AIDGAP key to families will be used on the day, and please bring along any specimens which you would like to work on.

Date(s): Sunday 20 May 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): David Sheppard

Invertebrates

N Longhorn Beetles

The aim of this workshop is to familiarise participants with longhorn beetles, their ecology and how to identify and record what might be Britain's most spectacular family of beetles. After the presentation there will be a walk around the reserve to run through the various techniques of finding this group of beetles.

Date(s): Saturday 26 May 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): Wil Heeney

B An Introduction to Weevils

This workshop will provide an introduction to the beetles known as weevils. Participants will learn how to recognise different common weevil types and the anatomical features used in identification keys will be described. Identification will be practiced using specimens provided and collected in the field on the day. This will involve the use of microscopes and dichotomous keys.

Date(s): Saturday 2 June 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cooper's Hill nature reserve
Trainer(s): Wilf Powell

N Introduction to Pollination and Pollinators

Pollination of flowers by insects is a vital ecological process that ensures the reproduction of most British wild plants and many of our agricultural crops. This one day training workshop will provide an introduction to the natural history of pollinators and how they interact with the flowers that they pollinate.

The main groups of pollinators will be introduced, with guidance on how to identify them, and their ecology and behaviour will be explored. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of why conserving these species is so important, and what individuals can do to help ensure their diversity and abundance.

Date(s): Saturday 16 June 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Lings local nature reserve
Trainer(s): Jeff Ollerton

C Dragonfly Larvae Identification for Beginners

The aim of this course is for participants to identify dragonfly larvae to genus and understand the basic steps of keying out to species. This will consist of the Microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance, self-study periods and, dependent on the weather, a hunt for larvae/exuviae - **PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY.**

Date(s): Sunday 17 June 2018
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Henry Curry

N Introduction to Solitary Bees

This workshop will give participants an introduction to the ecology and identification of solitary bees. Presentations will cover the identification and ecology of some of the more commonly encountered genera. Time will be spent on site catching and identifying live insects and studying their habitat requirements. There will also be the opportunity to examine prepared specimens and explore some of the literature and resources available to help to take your learning further.

Date(s): Sunday 24 June 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): Rebecca Cartwright

C Adult Dragonflies and their Habitat for Beginners

The aim of this course is for participants to identify common species of adult dragonflies and water plants. There will be sessions using colour photo presentations and water plant collections, microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance and a field tour of adult dragonfly and water plant habitats - **PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY.**

Date(s): Sunday 8 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Stuart Irons

N Leafhoppers and Froghoppers

Froghoppers and leafhoppers have historically been poorly recorded, largely because of limited literature. They are interesting, easily captured, numerous, found in a wide range of habitats, and useful for site assessment.

Improved literature and good on-line resources are making them increasingly popular. With only a few hundred species, they are a convenient and comfortable group for study.

This workshop will introduce the group and the sampling methods most useful for recording it, with the emphasis placed on field techniques. By the end of the day, participants should know how and where to look for froghoppers and leafhoppers, which characteristics to look for, and be able to tackle identification keys.

Date(s): Saturday 28 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): Peter Kirby

C Introducing the Dragonfly

Specifically designed for the beginner, this very popular course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site - **PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY.**

Date(s): Sunday 29 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Henry Curry

N Introduction to Solitary Wasps

This workshop will give participants an introduction to the ecology and identification of solitary wasps. Presentations will cover the identification and ecology of some of the more commonly encountered genera. Time will be spent on site catching and identifying live insects and studying their habitat requirements.

There will also be the opportunity to examine prepared specimens and explore some of the literature and resources available to help to take your learning further.

Date(s): Saturday 11 August 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): Rebecca Cartwright

C Introducing the Dragonfly

Specifically designed for the beginner, this very popular course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site - **PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY.**

Date(s): Saturday 11 August 2018
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Henry Curry

N Spiders - intermediate

This workshop is a follow on from the 'Introduction to Spiders' workshop previously run at Ring Haw field station. Following fieldwork on the reserve, there will be an introduction to the use of microscopic examination to identify spiders down to species level. This intermediate workshop will establish the ground rules for microscopic examination of spiders and will provide an introduction to the identification of the large family of money spiders - the Linyphiidae.

Date(s): Sunday 2 September 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer(s): Lawrence Bee

Botany

C Introduction to Tree Identification

A workshop to identify common native broadleaved deciduous and (if found) exotic trees in winter whilst on a nature reserve. We will use key characters such as bud colour and shape, bark types and overall growth form to separate oak from field maple, sycamore from ash, hazel from willow and apple from elm.

The shape and size of trees and their growth rates are varied as a result of their particular family history and the environmental conditions they have adapted to. The types of trees, their characteristics and their associations are all key components of many of our local habitats, so knowing which trees are which will help you to better understand your local nature reserve.

Date(s): Saturday 20 January 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cambourne
Trainer: Matt Hamilton

C Wildflowers of Woodland

The flowers of woodlands may be thought of as representing the “natural” vegetation of lowland England, but the importance of forest products (timber, fruit, fungi and game) means that human management over centuries has strongly affected the places woodland flowers grow and in what combinations.

Much of the day will be spent in a fine example of the boulder-clay woodland that characterises the old boundary between Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. We will explore the variety of woodland flora, and see how past history and conservation action are reflected on the woodland floor. The day will also include class sessions supplying the background with which to understand what we observe in the field.

Date(s): Saturday 21 April 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Buff Wood
Trainer(s): Owen Mountford

B Wildflowers of Chalk Grassland

The downlands of southern England support the richest flora we have in the UK, where some swards may have over 40 species in a square metre. This richness depends upon soils and a microclimate with links to that of habitats in mainland Europe, and many plant species have their most northerly locations in Britain on these chalk slopes.

The flora of the chalk, and other limestone types in England such as the Oolite (Cotswolds and the Lincolnshire Limestones) and the Magnesian, is notable for the beauty of many of its species and their value as food plants for a range of insects, including several uncommon butterflies. We will focus on getting to know this flora in the field, visiting one of the remarkable national nature reserves of the Bedfordshire extension of the Chilterns. We will also have indoor sessions that outline the ecological context of chalk grassland and describe the variety of plants that grow on chalk downs in England.

Date(s): Sunday 17 June 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Knocking Hoe NNR
Trainer(s): Owen Mountford

C Grasses I – a beginner’s introduction

Grasses are among the most important flowering plants, ubiquitous in almost all habitats. Their structure, co-evolved with grazing animals, adapts them well to mowing as well as grazing, so they dominate pastureland and meadows. They can be daunting to start with, as they look so different from other wild flowers.

The day will explain the structure of grasses, including their beautiful if subtle flowers, and help you identify common grasses in the field using a hand lens. A short guide to recognising the most distinctive species, and keys to flowering and vegetative features will be used.

Date(s): Sunday 1 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cambourne
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

C Grasses II – practising grass identification

For people who have already had a go at identifying grasses, perhaps having attended Grasses I, this day will use the same identification guides and give participants more time to practise using keys, and learning to recognise grasses outside. A little more attention will be given to vegetative, non-flowering features, so participants can begin to identify grasses at any time of year.

Date(s): Saturday 7 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cambourne
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

N Introduction to Wildflower Identification

Do you know the difference between a daisy and a dandelion or a thistle and a knapweed? Do you know the parts that make up a flowerhead? Learn how to use identification keys and other resources such as floras.

Date(s): Saturday 21 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer: Brian Eversham

N Introduction to Wildflower Identification II

This workshop is intended for people who have attended an introductory workshop or who have a little experience with these groups, but would like to practice more in using identification keys, and getting to know the essentials of flower anatomy. By the end of the workshop, participants should be more confident in using identification keys and other resources such as floras, and in working out what we can recognise, and which species need a more detailed approach.

Date(s): Sunday 12 August 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve
Trainer: Brian Eversham



Hay meadows (credit Lee Schofield)

Vertebrates

N Introduction to Wetland Birds

This workshop will concentrate on birds which use wetland environments. The indoor session will detail the way in which birds have adapted to wetland habitats and how this has determined their shapes and behaviour. Most of the day will be spent in the field at Summer Leys looking at the birds and how they use this beautiful nature reserve.

Date(s): Sunday 18 February 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Summer Leys nature reserve
Trainer(s): Richard Chandler

C Mammal Tracks and Signs

This workshop will highlight the sorts of mammal tracks and signs that you might come across when out in the countryside. 'Tracks' could include those of the larger mammals like badgers, foxes, otters and deer, but will hopefully include the smaller mammals like hedgehogs and water voles - all may depend on the weather. 'Signs' can be a very wide variety of things, including droppings, hair, fur, feeding signs (like holes in nuts and gnawed fir cones and tree bark) and 'homes' including badger setts and water vole burrows.

Date(s): Saturday 14 April 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Hayley Wood
Trainer(s): Peter Pilbeam

N Introduction to Bird Identification and Bird Song

This two day workshop is aimed to give a good background to people who wish to learn about identifying birds by their song and appearance. We will make a number of visits to habitats in and around Lings nature reserve to practice listening and identifying birds in addition to indoor sessions. Suitable for complete beginners and people wishing to refresh or develop their skills.

Date(s) and timings:
Saturday 28 April 2018 – 10am – 4pm
Saturday 5 May 2018 – 8am – 2pm
Venue: Lings local nature reserve
Trainer(s): Paul Gosling

2 days
for £50

C Water Voles and Other Riverside Mammals

Find out more about riverside mammals including water vole, otter and Daubenton's bat. The day will start with an indoor session looking at ecology, field signs and current local status, and will include a field trip to look for signs.

Date(s): Sunday 29 April 2018
Timings: 10am - 4pm
Venue: Trumpington Meadows
Trainer: Ruth Hawksley and Iain Webb

C Bat Sonogram Analysis

Listening to bats on detectors is a skill that needs lots of experience to be able to positively identify an individual to a species level, especially as they only stay in range for a few moments. Using a recording device with the bat detector means that the calls can be reviewed after the event and a greater level of accuracy obtained when identifying what bat species made the call. Variations in call types between species are easily seen and help to explain what you hear when using a bat detector.

This training workshop will look at the range of species found in our area and show examples of the different software to view sonograms produced by recordings from a library file. Technological advances in the last 5 years have also brought visual analysis to the field and this is extremely useful when dealing with multiple species and call types. Ecological consultants are a key user of this technology for emergence surveys and long term monitoring, but it also has its place with amateur conservationists who want to further their experience of bat identification.

Date(s): Friday 11 May 2018
Timings: 7pm - 10.30pm
Venue: Grafham Water
Trainer(s): Aidan Matthews

only £25

B An Introduction to Reptiles

This workshop will introduce participants to the identification of reptiles in the field, demonstrate where to look for them and how to encourage them to occupy favourable habitats. It is hoped that participants will come to appreciate and understand them rather than fear them. Thanks to funding from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and the **Greensand Country Landscape Partnership**, places for this workshop will initially be prioritised for people working and volunteering in the Greensand Country in Bedfordshire. Any remaining places not taken, will then be opened to all comers (check website for details).

Date(s): Saturday 12 May 2018
Timings: 10am - 4pm
Venue: Stockgrove Country Park/Rammamere Heath
Trainer: Helen Muir-Howie

C Warbler Identification

This workshop aims at helping participants to identify our warblers by voice and plumage. It will start with an indoor session where we will listen to warbler songs and look at key features of warblers, to be followed by a walk testing our skills in the field. This workshop is open for beginners and those who want to improve existing identification skills alike.

Date(s): Sunday 13 May 2018
Timings: 7am – 12pm
Venue: Ramsey Heights/Woodwalton Fen
Trainer(s): Tony Fulford

only £30

C Introduction to Dormice

This workshop is aimed to give a good background introduction to people who wish to learn about dormouse monitoring. We will also cover the natural history of dormice and examples of monitoring projects including the first re-introduction project in the country at Brampton Wood. In the afternoon there will be a visit to Brampton Wood to check dormouse boxes (this does not guarantee a sighting of a dormouse).

Date(s): Saturday 21 July 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Brampton Wood
Trainer(s): Paul Manchester and Henry Stanier

C Small Mammals – identification and surveying

Capture and identification of small mammals will be demonstrated in this workshop along with a range of related aspects of work on small mammals. The evening session will be used to set a variety of small mammal traps and the early start is to see what's been caught overnight – the welfare of any trapped animal is of paramount importance. There will be a session on British mammals in general, methods of study (including owl pellet analysis) and on small mammal surveying.

Date(s) and timings:
Saturday 29 September 2018 – 5pm – 7.30pm
Sunday 30 September 2018 – 8am – 1pm
Venue: Paxton Pits
Trainer(s): Peter Pilbeam

C Mammal Bone Identification

Discover the fascinating world of osteology and learn how to identify a wide range of skulls and bones from British animals. Concentrating on mammals but also introducing birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, this indoor course draws extensively on actual specimens to highlight the most common bones you are likely to find in owl pellets or in predator droppings.

Date(s): Saturday 10 November 2018
Timings: 10am - 4pm
Venue: Cambourne
Trainer: Richard Lawrence



People bat surveying (credit: Henry Stanier)

Practical Skills

C Hedgelaying Weekend 2 days for £60

Hedgelaying maintains the density and structure of hedgerows thereby benefiting both the hedge and the plants and creatures that depend on it. This practical workshop is suitable both for beginners and for those wishing to improve or revive existing skills.

Date(s) and timings:

Saturday 27 January 2018 (10am – 4pm)

Sunday 28 January 2018 (10am – 4pm)

Venue: Grafham Water

Trainer(s): Greg Belcher and Ben Atkinson

C Spoon Carving

Learn to carve spoons from green (unseasoned) wood using traditional axe and knife techniques. No previous experience is necessary, and the course is suitable for complete beginners. All tools and materials will be provided. By the end of the day you will have learnt the skills and knowledge to safely carve your own spoons. **There are two separate dates for this workshop.**

Date(s): Saturday 10 February 2018 OR
Sunday 11 February 2018

Timings: 10am – 5pm

Venue: Cambourne

Trainer(s): Mark Ricketts

N Training the Trainer: **WILD**side finding short-cuts to species identification

This workshop should help anyone who is considering running wildlife training events and workshops. It will provide ideas on how to plan and structure a day, the sorts of hand-outs which participants find most helpful, and how to get the best out of a field trip. Naming species underpins conservation and ecology, and being able to do so adds hugely to the fun of a walk in the countryside. It may at first seem like a daunting task.

This workshop offers 'short-cuts' to identification of plants and animals: which groups to look for in which habitat; what books to use; why knowing 10% of the species can be a breakthrough – if it's the right 10%; recognition versus identification; and more. Examples will be taken from a wide range of plants and animals, and the skills should be applicable to almost any group of organisms.

Date(s): Saturday 15 September 2018

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Lings local nature reserve

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

Habitat Management

N Meadow Ecology and Conservation

The workshop will focus on the ecology and conservation of floodplain meadows and will include site visits to two meadows in the Northampton area. The indoor session will look at the ecology, management and conservation of floodplain meadows as well as botanical and hydrological monitoring techniques. The afternoon site visits will look at a SSSI meadow and recently created meadow. The site visits will cover survey techniques, botanical ID skills and comparisons of differing management and restoration techniques.

Date(s): Saturday 30 June 2018

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Bugbrooke reserve/Dovecote meadows

Trainer(s): Matt Johnson

C Landscape and Geology of the Fens

Having experienced some of Britain's most dynamic landscape changes in the recent past, the Fens are now recovering much of their ecological value, particularly in the Great Fen. Learn about the formation of the fenland landscapes, the changes over time and their associated fauna and flora, both past and present. Linking with the Cambridgeshire Geological Society's Fen Edge Trail.

Date(s): Saturday 4 August 2018

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Ramsey Heights

Trainer(s): Christine Donnelly



Fens (credit Henry Stanier)

Basic Ecology Skills

C BES 1 - Species and Habitats (including habitat classification)

This workshop combines an introduction to the basic ecology of species and their populations, with a description and classification of the main habitats in our three counties. It will look at the factors which control individual species distributions, and how species may be used as 'indicators', to evaluate and monitor habitats.

The second part of the day is a brief introduction to the main habitat types in the three counties, and how they can be classified. We will also look at how size, location and surrounding landscape affects the value and the management of a habitat for wildlife.

Date(s): Sunday 22 April 2018

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Cambourne

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

B Introduction to Ecological Surveying

This course is a beginner's guide to ecological surveying. Not only will we introduce and practice a range of different survey methods, but we will also discuss how to design and set up an ecological study, where and how many sample points to set out, and how to make sense of the information collected. The course will include classroom talks and discussions, as well as practical monitoring in the field. We hope that this session will enable participants to start their own ecological research studies.

Thanks to funding from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and the **Greensand Country Landscape Partnership**, places for this workshop will initially be prioritised for people working and volunteering in the Greensand Country in Bedfordshire. Any remaining places not taken, will then be opened to all comers (check website for details).

Date(s): Saturday 9 June 2018

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Cooper's Hill

Trainer(s): Edgar Turner

Basic Ecology Art Workshops Skills

C BES 2 – Habitat Management and Monitoring

The Trust puts much effort into grazing, mowing, coppicing and other activities – why? How do we decide what to do? What are the underlying principles?

The day will concentrate on the underlying ecological processes in managing habitat, and the basic features of the major habitat types – heathland, grassland, wetland and woodland.

The last part of the day will explain the role of monitoring in conservation, and which plants and animals to record in which habitats. For the practicalities of monitoring, see the Introduction to Ecological Surveying workshop.

Date(s): Saturday 23 June 2018
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cambourne
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

Kombisketchtour is an artists collaboration to celebrate the natural world through the tradition of observational drawing. Meeting weekly the duo venture into the countryside and places of natural interest recording the changing seasons through sketches.

The team are regularly artists in residence in schools, nature reserves, parks and road side verges.

Track the changes in season with this exploration of flora and fauna through drawing. Artists Maxine Greer and Jane Hindmarch take you on a visual journey through Old Sulehay Nature Reserve.

Capturing the essence of the season in a series of drawing exercises you will explore, line, colour, tone and mark-make with a range of exciting materials. Come away with a visual feast of sketches recording the wildflowers of the moment, as well as creating a book of sketches.

'Nature Sketch' is suitable for all abilities from the aspiring artist to those with more experience.

Dates:

Nature Sketch - Spring - Saturday 28 April 2018

Nature Sketch – Summer – Saturday 23 June 2018

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay nature reserve

£60 each

Trainer(s): Maxine Greer and Jane Hindmarch



WILDside

Linking in with the Training Workshops programme in Northants, NBRC's WILDside project will continue to offer lots of opportunities for additional tuition, mentoring sessions and the chance to put your developing skills to the test.

Whether you're just starting out with recording wildlife, want to monitor a particular reserve, local wildlife area or your own back garden, if you live in or near to Northamptonshire, WILDside will have plenty to offer you during 2018–19.

WILDside has the following opportunities for you:

- Countywide surveys to help broaden your knowledge and fill 'gaps in the map'
- Classroom and field teaching sessions – helping to reinforce your knowledge
- Local wildlife site 'expeditions' – adding to our knowledge of key sites
- The chance to use your own experience to mentor and enthuse others
- Lots more besides!

Contact us to find out more:

www.northantsbrc.org.uk/Wildside

Tel: 01604 400448

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GREENSAND COUNTRY
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

Images on front page:
Main image of Wetland (credit RNRP)
Top circle - Common lizard (credit Chris Lawrence)
Bottom circle - Longhorn beetle (credit Brian Eversham)