

# NRS training course info sheet 2024

New Forest near Lyndhurst

14 May - evening talk online 17–19 May - field sessions

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## What the course will be about

This exciting course will teach you how to find birds' nests and monitor them for the BTO's Nest Record Scheme. Participants will be tutored in the field by experienced nest finders and shown how to locate nests in a variety of habitats while following the NRS Code of Conduct.

## When

The course will begin with an online talk on Tuesday 14 May, from 6pm. Then there will be field sessions in the New Forest on Friday 17th, 5:30pm to 8pm, Saturday 18th, 7am to 5:30pm and Sunday 19th, 7am to 3pm.

## Where

On the Friday evening and early Saturday morning we will meet at the Janesmoor Pond car park, New Forest (SU24701343). Details of meeting places at other times will be supplied shortly before the course starts.

The New Forest is a 566km<sup>2</sup> national park in south-west Hampshire, on the Dorset and Wiltshire borders. Much of the area is unenclosed and is still grazed by commoners' animals, particularly ponies and cattle. The Forest is a mix of heathland, bog, and woodland and supports strong populations of declining species such as Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch and Marsh Tit, as well as other specialities such as Goshawk, Honey-buzzard, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar. Severely declining species such as Curlew and Wood Warbler still maintain a foothold in the Forest. All the course activities over the weekend will take place in the central/northern New Forest near Lyndhurst.

## How to book

To book a place on the course, please use the online form on the booking page.

## How to attend the talk

The talk will be held over Zoom and you will be emailed a link in advance. If you are unable to use Zoom or don't think you will be able to attend the talk for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Accommodation

As a major tourist destination there are a vast number of options although many are quite expensive.

For camping, Acres Down Farm is strongly recommended : [www.acresdownfarm.co.uk/](http://www.acresdownfarm.co.uk/) If you are camping it is recommended that you pitch your tent before meeting us for the Friday evening session.

There is a Travelodge at Rufous Stone services on the A31, close to the areas we will be visiting [www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/55/Stoney-Cross-Lyndhurst-hotel](http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/55/Stoney-Cross-Lyndhurst-hotel) as well as in nearby towns.

Holiday Inn have a number of hotels to the east of the New Forest [www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/](http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/)

Premier Inn also have a number of hotels within reasonable travelling distance [www.premierinn.com](http://www.premierinn.com)

## Amenities & catering

We will stop by public toilets at least twice a day but otherwise will be outdoors for the whole course, including for breakfast and lunch breaks. Therefore please bring your own packed food and drinks. You are very welcome to join a group of us for pub meals on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

## What to bring

Please bring the usual outdoor gear, including waterproofs, walking boots and wellingtons. Materials and equipment for nest recording are provided, but it is essential to bring binoculars. Gardening gloves and a stout stick for parting vegetation will be useful if you have them.

## Directions by road

To get to the Friday evening meeting location of Janesmoor Pond car park use the following directions.

From the east. Leave the M27 at Junction 1. At the roundabout take the 3rd exit, B3079. After 2km in the village of Brook, take the B3078 signposted to Fordingbridge. After a further 2km up a long hill, take the minor road on the left. Continue along this road for 2km until you reach Janesmoor Pond which is on your left. Note that there are car parks on either side of the pond, please use the second one. SU2470 1343.

From the west. Leave the A31 at Stoney Cross on the minor road signposted to Fritham, Bolderwood and Linwood. Note that this road is only accessible from the eastbound carriageway. If you miss the turning, continue to the M27 junction 1 and follow the directions from the east (above). Janesmoor Pond is on your right after approximately 2.5km. Note that there are car parks on either side of the pond, please use the first one, grid reference SU24701343.

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Please note that on both Saturday and Sunday the timetable might be adjusted on the day for convenience, for example by delaying lunch slightly if a field session is going well and everyone is happy to continue.

## Tuesday 14 May

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18:00 Online talk on nest recording.

## Friday 17 May

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From 17:30 Arrival

17:45 Tutorial on the Code of Conduct.

18:30 Introduction to nest finding techniques.

20:00 Finish for the day. Optional group trip to the local pub for dinner.

## Saturday 18 May

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07:00 Early morning nest-finding session.

09:00 Breakfast: Self-catered.

09:45 Late morning nest-finding session.

13:00 Lunch: self-catered.

13:45 Early afternoon nest-finding session.

17:30 Finish for the day.

19:30 Optional group trip to the local pub for dinner.

## Sunday 19 May

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07:00 Early morning nest-finding session.

09:00 Breakfast: Self-catered.

09:45 Late morning nest-finding session.

12:30 Lunch: self-catered.

13:15 Early afternoon nest-finding session.

15:00 Debrief

15:30 Home



For more information, please contact the NRS Team, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. Tel: 01842 750 050 E-mail: [nrs@bto.org](mailto:nrs@bto.org)