

NRS training course info sheet 2024

The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.

7 May - evening talk online 10–12 May - field sessions



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 7 May, from 6pm. Then there will be field sessions at the Nunnery on Friday 10th, 5:30pm to 8pm, Saturday 11th, 7am to 5:30pm and Sunday 12th, 7am to 5:30pm.

Where

On the Friday evening and both mornings we will meet at British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.

The Nunnery is home to the BTO HQ and is located in Thetford, a small market town in the heart of the Brecks. The Nunnery grounds comprise the 12th Century covenant church and later buildings, surrounded by 160 acres of riparian habitat in the valleys of the rivers Thet and Little Ouse. The nest finding sessions will take place within the Nunnery grounds and Thetford Forest, where there is a variety of habitat types including mixed woodland, gorse scrub, reedbed and suburban.

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

Accommodation will not be provided on the course. If you require local accommodation, the following are all within Thetford:

The Bell Hotel
www.greenekinginns.co.uk/hotels/norfolk/bell-hotel

Travelodge
www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/615/Thetford-hotel

Premier Inn
www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/norfolk/thetford/thetford.html

Thomas Paine Hotel
thethomaspainehotel.co.uk

Wereham House Hotel
www.werehamhouse.co.uk

Catering

We will visit BTO HQ at least twice a day for toilet breaks and refreshments but otherwise will be outdoors for the whole course, including breaks for breakfast and lunch, therefore please bring your own packed food and drinks including water. 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 train and bus

Trains run every hour to Thetford train station from both Cambridge and Norwich. There are no direct buses from Thetford train station to the Nunnery but there are usually taxis available in the station car park. Alternatively, the Nunnery is a 15 minute walk from the station and 5 minutes by bicycle.

Directions by road

Coming north-east along the A11 from Newmarket/Cambridge, at the first roundabout on the outskirts of Thetford, take the second exit (right). Carry on along London Road for 1.3 miles until you reach a large junction with traffic lights. Turn right along the A134 in the direction of Bury St. Edmunds. Take the third left (after the road bears left in an arc) into Mill Lane; you will see a Veterinary Surgery on the corner to your left. Carry on along Mill Lane, which after 200 yards and some traffic control measures will run parallel to a river on your left. At the end of road, turn right at the t-junction and then take the next left, approximately 100 yards along. You will see a BTO sign at the entrance to the Nunnery.

Coming south-west down the A11 from Norwich, at the first roundabout on the outskirts of Thetford, take the first exit (left) and then carry on along the A1075 for 1.5 miles. At the second roundabout, take the first exit (left) onto the A1066 and continue for half-a-mile. At the next roundabout, take the third exit (right) onto Castle Street. *** Take the first left at the signpost for Bury St. Edmunds (A134) into Castle Lane. Follow the road into the one-way system and take the first left. Continue over three very narrow bridges and then after approximately 100 yards turn left into the BTO entrance.

Coming south-east along the A134 from Kings Lynn, at the roundabout where the A11 crosses, go straight over (second exit) onto the A1066. After 1.5 miles go straight over the next roundabout (2nd exit). At the next roundabout, take the third exit (right) onto Castle Street. Continue from **** above.

Coming west along the A1066 from Diss, at the first roundabout on the outskirts of Thetford, carry straight over (2nd exit) into Castle Street. Continue from **** above.

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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 7 May

18:00 Online talk on nest recording.

Friday 10 May

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 11 May

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 12 May

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.

16:30 Debrief

17:30 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