

NRS training course info sheet

Knepp Estate, West Sussex.
24 May – 26 May 2019



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 of a variety of farmland, woodland and scrub-nesting species, while following the NRS Code of Conduct. There will also be indoor sessions on how to complete nest records using the survey codes and methodology.

When

The course will run over three days:

Friday 24 May, 17:30-20:30
Saturday 25 May, 07:00–17:30
Sunday 26 May, 07:00–17:30

Where

Occupying a 1,400 hectare area between Horsham and Worthing in central Sussex, the family-owned Knepp Estate is home to a 14-year rewilding project that has seen modern arable and dairy farmland converted to low-input, extensively grazed pasture and developing scrub. It is one of few sites in southern England with strong and increasing populations of Nightingale, Turtle Dove, Lesser Whitethroat and Lapwing.

Most of the course activities over the weekend will take place on the estate, beginning with a meeting and talk at 17:30 at New Barn, which is signposted from the village (see directions).

How to book

To book a place on the course, please complete the online booking form and pay via debit / credit card.

Accommodation

There is a campsite on Knepp Estate—pitches are £15 per person per night and you can book via the website:

www.kneppsafaris.co.uk/Stay/Camping

If you wish to book accommodation elsewhere, some alternatives are listed below.

Knepp Safari

Other accommodation on Knepp Estate:

www.kneppsafaris.co.uk/Stay

Goffsland Farm

goffsland-farm.co.uk/index.html

Thornhill B&B

www.thornhillbandb.co.uk/tariff

White House B&B

www.lindys-bedandbreakfast.co.uk

Catering

Food will not be provided on the course, so please make your own arrangements. We will usually break for lunch in the field, so please bring a lunchbox. Course participants typically eat breakfast before they arrive, bring their own lunches, and then dine out together at a local pub in the evening.

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

New Barn Farm, Swallows Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex RH13 8NN.

Grid reference: TQ150203.

Google Map: <http://tiny.cc/35uu8x>

Knepp Estate is next to the village of Dial Post, off the A24, approximately 1hr 30mins from London and 40mins from Brighton. The village is well sign-posted from the motorway but sat-navs tend to fail from the village to the estate, so please ensure you have a copy of the directions below.

Coming south on the A24 take the turn off for Dial Post, 2.9 miles south of Buck Barn cross roads. Follow the road until you enter the village, take the first right onto Swallows Lane, then take the first left after the national speed limit signs, the track is sign posted New Barn Farm.

Coming north on the A24 from the Washington Roundabout take the turn off for Dial Post after 4.5 miles. Follow the road until you enter the village, take the second left onto Swallows lane, then take the first left after the national speed limit signs, the track is sign posted New Barn Farm.

NRS training course programme

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Below is a programme for the weekend, however plans will be adjusted on the day to ensure the course runs smoothly. For example, lunch may be delayed slightly if a field session is going well and all are happy to continue. On one or more days we may plan to have lunch in the field, so please bring a lunch box.

Friday

From 17:30	Arrival, with refreshments.
18:00	Introduction to the course.
18:30	Talks on nest recording and IPMR session.
20:30	Finish for the day. Optional group trip to the local pub for dinner.

Saturday

07:00	Early morning nest-finding session.
09:00	Break
09:45	Late morning nest-finding session.
13:00	Lunch: self-catered.
13:45	Afternoon nest-finding session.
17:30	Finish for the day. Optional group trip to the local pub for dinner.

Sunday

07:00	Early morning nest-finding session.
09:00	Break
09:45	Late morning nest-finding session.
13:00	Lunch: self-catered.
13:45	Afternoon nest-finding session.
16:30	Closing discussion
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

