

NRS training course info sheet

The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.
17 May – 19 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 in a variety of habitats while following the NRS Code of Conduct.

When

The course will run over three days:

Friday 17 May, 17:30-20:30

Saturday 18 May, 07:00-17:30

Sunday 19 May, 07:00-17:30

Where

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. Most of the nest finding sessions will take place within the Nunnery grounds, where there is quite a variety of habitat types including mixed woodland, gorse scrub, reedbed and suburban. The indoor parts of the course will take place in the Nunnery buildings, which is where we will first meet on Friday at 17:30.

British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery,
Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU

NGR: TL 872 823

Google Map: <http://tinyurl.com/4997bhj>

How to book

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

Accommodation

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

The Old Rectory B&B

www.theoldrectorythetford.co.uk

The Bell Hotel

<https://www.oldenglishinns.co.uk/our-locations/the-bell-hotel-thetford>

Wereham Guest House

<https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/werehamhouse.en-gb.html>

Travelodge

www.travelodge.co.uk

Premier Travel Inn

www.premierinn.com

Thomas Paine Hotel

thethomaspainehotel.co.uk

Catering

Food will not be provided on the course, so please make your own arrangements. Breaks are scheduled for breakfast and lunch at The Nunnery, which has a kitchen for storing and preparing food. We may sometimes eat out in the field, so please bring a lunchbox. There are supermarkets and local grocery shops in Thetford. Course participants usually bring their own breakfasts and 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

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 major 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 turn left into the BTO entrance after approximately 100 yards.

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.

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 20 minutes walk from the station and 5 minutes by bicycle.

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.
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	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

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	Closing talks and refreshments
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

