

TVERC Training Programme 2017

Would you like to volunteer to help survey habitats or species in Oxfordshire and Berkshire but lack the skills?

TVERC is running a further 7 training courses in 2017 to help train volunteers to improve identification skills and knowledge of a range of priority habitats and species.

These introductory training courses are run by expert ecologists and aimed at beginners. Courses will cover basic ecology, relevant legislation, identification features and survey techniques. This will involve both an indoor session and a practical session outside.

Tea and coffee are provided on all the courses but you will need to bring your own lunch.

Each course costs £60

Professionals will be charged £120

Students £30*

*There are limited student places available on each course & given on a first come first served basis. (Scanned copy of student ID will be required at time of booking).

No refund will be made on cancellations made less than one month before the course. Courses may be cancelled if insufficient numbers book on the course and refunds made.

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL



Thames Valley
Environmental Records Centre

www.tverc.org

WINTER TREE ID

11th FEBRUARY, 10am-4pm
BBOWT Warburg Nature Reserve

BUMBLEBEE ID & FIELD TECHNIQUES

30th APRIL, 10am-4pm
Horspath Community Hub

INTRO TO BIRD SURVEY TECHNIQUES

13th MAY, 9am-3pm
Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre

INTRO TO INVERTEBRATES

10th & 11th JUNE, 10am-4pm
BENHS, Dinton Pastures

INTRO TO GIS

24th JUNE, 10am-4pm
RISC, Reading

HEDGEROW SURVEY TECHNIQUES

16th SEPTEMBER 10am-4pm
BBOWT Chimney Meadows

OTTER ECOLOGY & SURVEYING

4th NOVEMBER, 10am-6pm
RSPB Otmoor Nature Reserve

BOOK YOUR PLACE

<https://tverc.wufoo.com/forms/s3gw2d70e6z9nu/>

TVERC Training Programme 2017

WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION

TRAINER: JULIE KERANS

11th FEBRUARY, 10am-4pm
BBOWT Warburg Nature Reserve

This course will be an introduction to identifying trees without leaf, through the use of botanical keys and field characters. It aims to enable participants to identify a range of the common broad-leaved trees and shrubs found locally. Twigs from several species will be provided for reference. This course is suitable for beginners.

Books and equipment will be supplied but if you have your own hand lens or botanical key please bring it along on the day.

It will be classroom based but, if the weather is reasonable, we will go for a short walk to look at some trees nearby.

Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

BUMBLEBEE IDENTIFICATION & FIELD TECHNIQUES

TRAINER: IVAN WRIGHT

30th APRIL , 10am-4pm
Horspath Community Hub

The day will mostly deal with the accurate identification of bumblebees for recording purposes. Also covering what is - and is not - possible in the field with pragmatic understanding of difficult species e.g. transect work. Also hands-on survey and preparation - including a chance to practice field and bench techniques.

Bring any ID books you have and hand lens if you have one. We will have some available to borrow. Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRD SURVEY TECHNIQUES

TRAINERS: CAROLINE COLEMAN & KATHERINE HOLMES

13th MAY, 9am-3pm
Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre

The course will provide an overview of some of the approaches taken whilst monitoring birds. It is intended for people with some identification skills who have limited experience of surveys and want to widen their knowledge. You will learn about Breeding Bird Surveys and territory mapping as well as looking at a variety of other approaches.

Tea and coffee only available in the morning, but there is a café on site.

For the outdoor sessions we will aim to practice some of the techniques that have been covered. This short course will provide brief information covering a variety of survey techniques. It will not go into detail with bird identification or legislation.

Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear, binoculars (if you have them), notepad & pencil.

INTRODUCTION TO INVERTEBRATES (2 DAY COURSE)

TRAINER: DR DAN CARPENTER

10th & 11th JUNE, 10am-4pm
BENHS, Dinton Pastures

This course will be an introduction to surveying invertebrates, managing samples and specimens and the identification to major taxonomic groups (typically insect Orders). The course is aimed at beginners with little or no experience in surveying or identifying invertebrates. The course will provide practical experience of a range of survey methods including different trap types. Practical experience of identification will also be provided using material collected in the traps.

Books and equipment will be supplied. There is ample car parking, but please note that there is a charge. Tickets can be purchased from the machines or from the café.

Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

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INTRODUCTION TO GIS

TRAINER: DAN CARPENTER

24th June 10am-4pm

RISC, Reading

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are systems for storing, managing and analysing spatial data.

Modern desktop GIS systems are incredibly powerful and have considerable capabilities. This course is designed to introduce you to GIS and spatial data and enable you to display, manipulate and interrogate spatial data. You will learn about different types of spatial data, how to create simple maps, how to create and edit spatial data and how to carry out some simple analytical tasks. This course is ideal for students and biological recorders looking for a basic introduction to GIS.

This course will use the free open source QGIS system.

Participants will need to bring their own laptop with a copy of QGIS (which is freely available) already installed on it. If you do not have a laptop, please contact us in advance as we have a very limited supply of laptops for this course. A full set of course notes and course data will be provided.

There are places local to the venue to buy lunch.

HEDGEROW SURVEY TECHNIQUES

TRAINER: JULIE KERANS

16th September, 10am-4pm

BBOWT Chimney Meadows nature reserve

This course will be an introductory course about hedgerows, their management and how to carry out a survey. It will also highlight the legal protection that some hedgerows have.

A field session will include the opportunity to survey a hedgerow with discussion about typical plants and trees found in UK hedges.

Please bring suitable footwear and outdoor clothing. Tea and coffee are provided but you will need to bring your own lunch.

Indoor sessions are held in an agricultural building so bring warm clothes. Car park is 10 min walk to building.

Books and equipment will be supplied but if you have your own hand lens or botanical key please bring it along on the day. Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

OTTER ECOLOGY & SURVEYING

TRAINER: DR ELLEN LEE

4th NOVEMBER, 12-6PM

RSPB office, Beckley & Otmoor nature reserve

Introduction to the ecology of otters, covering their distribution, diet and behaviour. You will learn about key field signs to look out for and the methods used to survey for otters.

The outdoor session will include a walk at Otmoor Nature Reserve looking for signs of otters.

RSPB Office in Beckley for morning session. In afternoon short drive to Otmoor Nature Reserve. Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.