

# NNNS workshops for all



## Taking it a step further

There are so many ways of enjoying the natural world. One of them is to focus on a particular group of animals or plants and look at them in a bit more detail. For almost all groups excellent field guides now exist but to get the best out of them requires a little confidence. Let's be honest, sometimes quite a lot of confidence! Ultimately that confidence comes from familiarity and experience, but getting started can be daunting. This is where the NNNS Workshops come in, by getting people as tutors who have got past the daunting stage to take you through the preliminaries. They will do this through a combination of field work, hands-on experience at the bench and by providing information.

## Are the workshops for you?

If you are reading this, the answer is probably 'yes'. No level of pre-knowledge is required, just an interest in taking that further step. With the publication of the Norfolk Wildlife Trusts' *Putting Local Wildlife on the Map* in 2010, more and more people are recording wildlife in their patch but this requires identification skills. It may surprise you to discover just how many species there are – and that with many groups not all can be separated by photographs alone. The workshops are intended for adults and anyone under 18 must be accompanied.

Saturday <b>7 May</b> 10.00am - 4.00pm Holt Hall	<b>Introduction to the practical study of insects</b> Advice on finding, observing, catching, killing, mounting and observing insects. For anyone who wants to start a collection or improve their techniques, particularly among the less showy groups. Morning session in the field followed by work in the lab. All equipment provided.	Tutor: Tony Irwin
Sunday <b>15 May</b> 10.00am - 4.00pm Holt Hall	<b>Basics of plant identification</b> Aimed at beginners and improvers. We will look in detail at the anatomy of a plant, covering all the main plant families (e.g. the carrot family, the pea family, the cabbage family), how to use a hand lens, and the pros and cons of the various field guides on the market. Weather permitting, we will spend time out-of-doors and put what we have learnt into practice.	Tutor: Simon Harrap
Saturday <b>9 July</b> 10.00am - 4.00pm Holt Hall	<b>Introducing freshwater organisms</b> For those who want a broad introduction to collecting and identifying freshwater organisms. Stereo microscopes and a wide variety of literature will be available. Material will be collected in the grounds of Holt Hall and examined in the workroom.	Tutor: Anne Harrap
Saturday <b>6 August</b> 8.30am – 2.30pm The Nunnery, Thetford	<b>Introduction to live trapping small mammals</b> This workshop provides an introduction to the methods for live trapping small mammals to determine which species are present in an area and in what numbers. The workshop will cover how and where to set traps, small mammal identification, handling small mammals, trapping designs, mark recapture methods and more. There will be a strong practical element that will involve extracting small mammals from traps and handling them safely.	Tutor: Mike Toms
Saturday <b>3 September</b> 10.30am - 3.30pm Sheringham Park	<b>Grasshoppers &amp; crickets workshop</b> They provide a soundtrack to the late summer, but how much do you know about these fascinating insects? There are 27 native species of grasshoppers and crickets (Orthoptera) in Britain and they can provide interesting clues to scientific questions on climate change and evolution. This workshop focuses on the identification and ecology of the group, with both indoor and outdoor sessions.	Tutors: Nick Owens and David Richmond

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Saturday <b>10 September</b> 10.30am - 3.30pm Sheringham Park	<b>Bugs &amp; beetles workshop</b> The bugs (Hemiptera) and beetles (Coleoptera) form two of the most diverse groups of insects. This workshop focuses on how to find some common species of beetle and bug using a variety of field techniques. We will also provide a starting point for people who would like to advance their skills in the identification of these fascinating groups during an indoor session. Tutors: Trevor Bantock and Rob Coleman
Saturday <b>17 September</b> 10.00am - 4.00pm Holt Hall	<b>Basics of plant identification</b> Aimed at beginners and improvers. We will look in detail at the anatomy of a plant, covering all the main plant families (e.g. the carrot family, the pea family, the cabbage family), how to use a hand lens, and the pros and cons of the various field guides on the market. Weather permitting, we will spend time out-of-doors and put what we have learnt into practice. Tutor: Simon Harrap
Saturday <b>1 October</b> 10.00am - 4.00pm Holt Hall	<b>Introduction to identifying fungi</b> Even with a good field guide, putting names to fungi can be frustrating; they are quite variable and there are very many of them. Learn how to approach the problem and get some practice with specimens collected from the grounds. Tutor: Tony Leech

## Booking

The easiest way for us (and possibly you) is to email your request to [courses@nns.org.uk](mailto:courses@nns.org.uk) and you will receive a reply confirming your application or answering your query. Alternatively phone Tony Leech on 01263 712282. We will need a phone number or email address so we can contact you during the week before the workshop.

Some of our workshops are likely to be very popular so please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a booked workshop.

## Charges

There are none. We have been fortunate enough to receive a Big Lottery Fund grant to cover all costs but in subsequent years it may be necessary to make a charge for attendance. Please note that you do not have to be a member of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society to attend a workshop.

## General information

Each of the workshops will involve a trip into the immediate surroundings. Please let us know if you would have a problem with a short walk. Please do not bring a dog.

Please bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks will be provided.

## Venues

**Holt Hall** A field study centre 0.5 km north of Holt in North Norfolk. The entrance is from the Kelling Road at TG084396. Post code: NR25 7DU

**Sheringham Park** This National Trust property is south-west of Sheringham. Entrance is from the A148 at TG139410. We will be using the study room near the visitor centre. Post code: NR26 8TL **Please note that for non-members of the National Trust there is a parking charge.**

**The Nunnery, Thetford.** On the south side of the town near to the Nuns' Bridges and home to the British Trust for Ornithology. The entrance is at TL873824 and is most easily approached from the A134 (Bury St. Edmunds road) as it leaves the town. Post code: IP24 2PS

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