

Bats in Woodlands Course 2008

Dates **16th - 19th June 2008**

Horner Woods, Somerset

Cost £550

A specialist course aimed at professional ecologists, arboriculture workers and ecological consultants. A three day / three night course based at the beautiful Holnicote Estate on the North Somerset coast 5 miles west of Minehead. Accommodation and meals will be provided in the Lorna Doone Hotel in Porlock. Indoor sessions will be held a couple of miles away in the National Trust Field Study Centre at Piles Mill, Allerford. Field visits will be made into local woods, where to date 14 bat species have been recorded.

The course will run from Monday afternoon until Thursday afternoon and the cost includes delicious meals and comfortable accommodation. There will be free time for relaxation and informal discussion during two evenings.

The aim will be to demonstrate the range of roosting sites bats use in trees and to show participants how to survey and assess woodlands for bats. We will cover exclusion techniques, mitigation procedures and Natural England license compilation. Sessions on bat ecology and netting will also be offered. Participants will need to be equipped for lengthy field visits, some at night and at times through pathless sections of woodland.

Field visits to include:

Day

- Visits to roosting sites and foraging areas
- Exercises in tree survey/assessment
- Setting out and analysis of fixed point sampling
- Exclusion techniques demonstration

Night

- Bat trapping and handling methods will be demonstrated
- Acoustic lure – to aid catching specific species i.e. Bechstein's & Barbastelle bats
- Greater Horseshoe nursery roost monitoring

Classroom sessions to include:

General

- British bats: ecology and identification
- British woodland bats and how they use trees
- How cavities and holes suitable for bats form
- Summer and winter roosting sites
- Horner Woods - bat research and management
- Bats and the law

Survey

- Survey equipment and techniques
- Woodland survey and assessment methods
- Detailed tree inspection techniques

Practical conservation

- Tree felling and branch removal management
- Exclusion techniques
- Mitigation measures
- Compiling DEFRA licenses
- Case studies
- Practical application of techniques

The tutors will be among the most experienced bat surveyors / researchers in the country with extensive knowledge of working in woodlands led by Geoff Billington (Greena Ecological Consultancy) assisted by professional ecologists.

NB The woodlands course can be booked in conjunction with the
Transect and Sound Analysis course running on 19th – 20th June.

Spaces limited, so for further details or to book a place please contact:

Geoff Billington

1 Hindon Farm Cottage, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 8SH

Phone: 01643 704943

Mobile: 07748 742475

Email geoff@npennines.fsnet.co.uk