

NRS training day info sheet 2025



BTO Scotland, Beta Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, FK9 4NF

Online talk on Tuesday 6th May, 6pm.

Field session on Saturday 10th May, 7 am - 12 noon

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 begin with an online talk on Tuesday 6 May, from 6pm.

Then there will be a field session on the Stirling University campus and nearby sites on Saturday 10th May, 7am to noon.

Where

On Saturday morning we will meet outside the Beta Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, FK9 4NF. This is the home of BTO Scotland's offices, and we will have the use of the toilets, meeting room and tea/coffee making facilities.

The campus has a mix of lochside habitat, woodland and bramble scrub. We may also visit other field sites nearby for experience of other species/habitats.

How to attend the talk

The talk will be held over Zoom and you will be emailed a link in advance. If you are unable to use Zoom or don't think you will be able to attend the talk for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible.

How to book

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

Catering

We will start at the BTO offices, so anyone arriving early will be welcome to a tea/coffee. We will return after an initial foray to use the facilities and grab another cuppa. Refreshments will otherwise be outdoors, so please bring your own snacks and drinks. We'll finish in time for lunch – you may wish to bring a packed lunch, or there are various options in the university campus centre.

Accommodation

If you require local accommodation Stirling has a variety of budget hotels, B&Bs etc.

What to bring

Nest finding requires walking off the beaten path, typically, so please bring outdoor gear, but not your very best gear! There is a high chance of things getting snagged on brambles etc. Bring sturdy footwear – ideally wellies, or failing that walking boots. 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

If coming by car, the following Google Maps 'pin' will take you to the meeting point in the University Innovation Park:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Cy5w6gACFP3PRZ2u9>

Stirling is well served by rail and coach services, and from here regular buses run to the university. From the main bus hub it is a 5 minute walk to the Innovation Park.