

Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Batscape Project

Hedgerow Survey Training

Thursday 26th April 2018, 10.00am – 1.00pm

Puzzlewood, Perrygrove Rd, Coleford GL16 8QB

As part of the Batscape Project, this year we will be continuing our hedgerow surveys on farmland surrounding key Horseshoe bat maternity and hibernation roosts. And we need your help!

A good network of continuous hedgerows surrounding the maternity and hibernation roosts is very important, as Horseshoe bats use the hedges as flyways and for foraging. With a better knowledge of the condition of the hedgerow network, we can then work to enhance it and improve connectivity.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the wildlife value of hedgerows, the importance for horseshoe bats, and the tree/shrub species within them. Following the training session, volunteers will be able to work in pairs/small groups to carry out hedgerow surveys in their own time. This training will include feedback on the surveys carried out last year, and is aimed at people who attended the training last year as well as new volunteers.

Booking is essential – see FVAF contact details on reverse.

Programme:

10.00 am – Arrival and refreshments.

10.10 am – Indoor training session to include:

- Summary of hedgerow surveys completed so far
- Hedgerows and Horseshoe bats
- Volunteer's perspective on completing the survey forms, hints and tips
- Survey methodology and tree/shrub identification

11.30 am – Outdoor session on Lower Perrygrove Farm:

- Look at and discuss a range of hedgerow types and features, including tree/shrub identification
- Completing the survey form
- Health and safety

c. 1.00pm – Finish. Everyone is welcome to bring a packed lunch or buy lunch at Puzzlewood and eat together. We can continue with tree ID and answer any further queries until 2pm.

Trainers/speakers: Rosie Kelsall (Glos Wildlife Trust), David Priddis (bat expert), Sarah Howells (Natural England), Lee Jenkins (volunteer)



Additional Information

Booking is essential: please contact Michelle Goodfield at Forest Voluntary Action Forum: forestersforest@fvaf.org.uk or 01594 822073.

Equipment to bring:

It is essential to bring the following:

- Suitable footwear and clothing for the outdoor surveying (*'personal protective equipment', such as waterproofs and wellington boots, is available on loan from Natural England if requested before the event – please ask Michelle*).

It would be good to bring:

- Pen and paper for taking notes.
- Clipboard if you have one
- Mobile phone if you have one (please ensure it is fully charged).
- Forest of Dean OS map if you have one.

We will provide you with:

- Survey forms, guidance notes and maps.
- Field Studies Council Tree Identification Chart (if not already provided), although you may wish to bring additional tree identification books/guides if you have them.
- We will have some clipboards available, but please bring your own if you have one.

Location:

The training is based at Puzzlewood, near Coleford. Please park in the main car park then meet in the café. You will not be charged for entry. The outdoor session will be on farmland adjacent to the car park. If you have any concerns about this please let Michelle know.



You will have the option to come back into Puzzlewood following the outdoor session, to use the facilities and have lunch. We will be there until 2pm to answer and further queries or carry on with more tree identification. Also, we have very kindly been given free entry to the woods for the afternoon, so you can stay longer if you'd like to have a look around!

Directions:

Puzzlewood is less than a mile south of Coleford in the Forest of Dean. The simplest way is to head to Coleford and follow the brown tourist signs for Puzzlewood.

Travel expenses can be claimed back through Natural England. Please let us know at the training if you would like to make a claim.