

Small Mammals

8th - 12th October 2010

Led by Jeff Clarke

Level : Open to all



Woodmouse

Photographed by: Jeff Clarke

Kindrogan Field Studies Centre

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The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 Centres



Course outline: This short course offers an introduction to monitoring small mammal populations.

You will learn:

- Safe handling techniques
- The where and how of setting 'live traps'
- Identifying likely spots for catching target species
- Reading tracks and signs
- Dissecting kestrel and owl pellets and identifying their prey remains.

In addition we will undertake evening bat detecting sessions, watch rutting deer and attempt a late evening stake-out for pine martin and wildcat

Your Tutor: Jeff Clarke is a freelance ecologist and environmental educator with a lifelong passion for the natural world.

Equipment to bring with you:

Wellingtons and/or waterproof walking boots (some are available at the centre at a small cost)

Waterproof clothing (some are available at the centre at a small cost)

Lunch Box , vacuum flask

Rucksack

Plenty of spare warm clothing

Binoculars (can be loaned by arrangement) , Telescope (optional)

Carry-mat style cushion for late evening stake outs

Lightweight fold out chair or stool, capable of being carried a moderate distance .

Booking Procedure

To book a place on this course, please complete the booking form and send it together with a deposit of £50.00 (cheque payable to Field Studies Council). Provisional bookings should be made by telephone. Payment of the balance of the course fee will be 30 days before the beginning of the course. Cancellation after this date may leave the customer liable for the full amount – a condition which is accepted when the booking is confirmed. You are recommended to take out personal cancellation insurance to cover this eventuality.

Course Fees & What's Included

Resident - £190 Sole Occupancy / £150 Shared Accommodation includes tuition, full board accommodation, transport to sites, use of library, from supper on 8th until after breakfast on 12th October 2010

Non – Residential - £140 includes tuition packed lunches, evening meals and transport (in other words everything but bed and breakfast).

Transport – Any excursions during the trip will be made in either the Centre vehicles or private cars. The cost of this is included in the fee. For anyone who kindly uses their own vehicle for the course excursions will be reimbursed for petrol costs at a set rate.

Times – Resident and Non-resident visitors are requested to arrive at the centre before 7pm on 8th and report to reception. Supper will be served at 7.30pm after which there will be an introductory talk about the centre. Breakfast is served at 8am. Tuition will end on the afternoon of the 12th with departure after 4pm.

Weekend/Mid week Courses – Courses that run from Friday to Sunday or mid week may finish late, so to accommodate this we maybe able to offer extra nights accommodation.