

Learn to Love Bugs



| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Date 10 th June 2020 | Location Cassiobury Park Hub | Level Beginner | Course fee* £5 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

*This course is offered at a reduced rate due to support from the FSC BioLinks project

Course Overview

True bugs (Hemiptera) are one of the largest groups of insects found in the UK, with nearly 2000 species. The Hemiptera are called 'true' bugs because most people - entomologists included - tend to refer to all insects 'bugs'. That is a loose term, whereas the true bugs are just those contained within the insect order Hemiptera. They are found in most habitat types, some species are carnivorous, but most feed on sap sucked from foliage and berries etc.

On the course you will:

- Listen to fascinating talks from a local expert
- Get an introduction to true bug ecology and natural history
- Learn about some of the distinctive groups and species and how to tell them apart

The day will include a mixture of classroom and outside sessions so please dress appropriately.

Timetable

Please arrive in time for the course to start promptly at 10am. Refreshments will be available from 9.45am. The course will end at 4pm.

What's included?

- 6 hours of tuition.
- Certificate of attendance.
- Light refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits).
- Any excursions during the course will be on foot.

Please note lunch is not included and you will need to bring your own packed lunch.

About the Tutor



Joe Gray is the Hertfordshire (VC20) county recorder for shieldbugs, plant bugs, and allies and is a regular contributor to *The Hemipterist*, a journal covering the order in which shieldbugs sit. He is also a co-founder of the Herts Invertebrate Project, which is an initiative aimed at increasing the recording of invertebrates through a series of site surveys each year.

Joe has been awarded Fellowships of both the Royal Entomological Society and the British Naturalists' Association. For the latter, he also serves as a trustee and runs insect-focused field meetings in the Herts area.

What to Bring

- Notebook and pencil
- Field guides/keys (if you have any)
- Hand lens (if you have one)
- Lunch
- Small rucksack or bag
- Waterproofs (just in case!)
- Stout shoes, boots or wellies
- Water bottle and/or thermos flask
- Hat and sunscreen
- Casual clothing

There will be a member of staff with first aid training and access to a first aid kit on site. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have special medical or access requirements.

Getting there

Cassiobury Park Hub, Cassiobury Park, Watford, WD17 3AR

By Car: Charges apply to motorists that wish to use the car park for longer than 2 hours. See Watford Council website for more details: https://www.watford.gov.uk/info/20013/parks_and_recreation/83/cassiobury_park/2

By Train:

- Watford Underground Station (Metropolitan line), two-minute walk from the park
- Watford Junction Railway Station, 20-minute walk from the park
- Watford High Street Railway Station, 20-minute walk from the park

By bus: The 352 (does not run Sundays or Bank Holidays) stops outside Watford Metropolitan line station. Alternatively, many more services stop in Watford town centre.

How to Book

Please book online via www.fscbiodiversity.uk/courses. If you have any questions, you can contact the FSC by phone on 01743 852100 or email on biolinks@field-studies-council.org.

About FSC BioLinks

FSC BioLinks is an exciting project for the FSC which brings together existing volunteers and naturalists with skills in biological recording and invertebrate identification, with new ones. It will run for 5 years and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. As part of the project remit a range of subsidised training courses are available. This course is part of a structured pathway of training courses on true bugs. The diagram on the next page shows the FSC BioLinks training pathway for true bugs and illustrates where this course fits into it.

