



# A Guide to Surrey Wildlife Trust's Wild Skills Course 2015

## Course Information



### What is Wild Skills?

Our Wild Skills course is a unique learning opportunity provided by qualified trainers. It gives young people and adults a chance to learn basic nature conservation skills for working outdoors.

Classroom and outdoor activities will support your learning about local habitats, surveying wildlife, planning conservation work, and cutting trees and shrubs safely.

You will also have a chance to put your new knowledge into practice on Westfield Common in Woking, as well as developing your confidence and self-esteem in a supportive and safe environment.

It is a **free** six-day course provided at the Woking Adult Learning Centre.

### Why choose our course?

Wild Skills is for people who have recently left school, are unemployed or retired. It will provide you with knowledge and practical skills for working in nature conservation and is ideal if you are seeking employment or thinking about changing career, or are a conservation volunteer. It is also useful as a taster if you're thinking of further education on a nature conservation or countryside management course.

You do not need to have a qualification or prior experience to take part in this course. The trainers will provide all learning resources, tools, safety clothing and equipment. All you need to do is bring along a packed lunch each day, plenty of enthusiasm and a passion for nature.

Encouraging people to engage with wildlife and the natural environment is at the heart of what we do at Surrey Wildlife Trust. As the only local charity concerned solely with conserving all forms of wildlife, we have knowledge and experience in nature conservation, wildlife surveys and habitat management and can offer you a unique learning opportunity.

**FIND OUT MORE OVERLEAF**





### **Description:**

This **free** course will be delivered through a range of presentations, group activities, field trips and practical tasks to cover the following main topics:

- **Habitats** – where are important habitats found in Britain?
- **Species** – what are we trying to conserve and how do we study them?
- **Improving** – why do we manage habitats to benefit people and wildlife?
- **Planning** – how will we manage habitats on Westfield Common SSSI?
- **Delivering** – who is ready to put into practice what they've learnt?
- **Reviewing** – when will you be ready to take the next step?

### **Requirements:**

Although you do not need a qualification or prior experience to enrol on this course priority will be given to applicants meeting the following criteria:

- Aged over 18 years,
- Living in the Borough of Woking, and
- Recently left school, unemployed, or retired.

### **Commitment:**

To enrol on this course and gain full benefit of this learning opportunity you must:

- Attend on six Wednesdays from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 (9am – 3pm),
- Contribute to sessions, group activities and practical tasks, and
- Maintain a personal portfolio of learning.

**If you would like any more information about this course please contact:**

[paul.ritchie@surreywt.org.uk](mailto:paul.ritchie@surreywt.org.uk) Tel: 01483 795478





# Wild Skills Course 2015

## Booking Form

Please complete this form and return to [paul.ritchie@surreywt.org.uk](mailto:paul.ritchie@surreywt.org.uk)

Or post to: Paul Ritchie, Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Surrey GU24 0JN

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Contact Address</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	
<b>Mobile Number</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

<b>Criteria</b> Please tick <b>all</b> those that apply to you	<input type="radio"/> Over 18 years <input type="radio"/> School leaver <input type="radio"/> Unemployed <input type="radio"/> Retired	<input type="radio"/> Resident in Woking <input type="radio"/> Existing conservation volunteer <input type="radio"/> SWT member
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<b>Car Sharing</b>	Journey start location	If you're happy for SWT to pass on your contact details, please sign here.
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<b>Payment</b>	<b>FREE</b> Cost of this course is fully funded by Evolution (Woking) Ltd, working in partnership with Woking Borough Council, Kier Partnership Homes and Thames Valley Housing to deliver affordable rented homes in Westfield.
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# Wild Skills Course 2015

## Booking Conditions

### Health & Safety:

Training activities run by Surrey Wildlife Trust have your health and safety as a priority, and our trainers are qualified in First Aid. They will give safety instructions, which you are expected to follow and provide you with personal protective equipment if necessary.

Please inform the trainers if you have any allergies, injuries, dietary requirements, medication or other conditions that may affect your participation in the learning activities.

### Welfare & Hygiene:

Wild Skills training lasts all day, so please bring a packed lunch and a drink but where possible we will also provide hot and cold drinks during the session breaks.

During this course we have access to the Woking Adult Education Centre for classroom sessions and its facilities are about 0.5km from Westfield Common.

### Clothing & Equipment:

All participants should be dressed and prepared for the working outdoors or field work.

- Wear clothing that will keep you warm and dry.
- Choose clothing that can get muddy and/or damaged by vegetation.
- Long trousers and long sleeved tops help prevent bites, scratches and ticks.
- Sturdy boots or outdoor trainers reduce the likelihood of slips, trips and falls.

Surrey Wildlife Trust will provide tools, gloves and personal protective equipment if necessary.

### Inclement Weather:

Outdoor training sessions will run unless the weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

### Absences or Cancellations:

If you're unable to attend a session we ask that you notify the trainers by email or text.

Similarly if it is necessary to cancel a session owing to circumstances outside the control of the trainers we will notify you by email or text.

### Variation of Conditions:

Surrey Wildlife Trust reserves the right to vary these booking conditions if necessary. Bookings will be subject to those conditions prevailing at the time of confirming your booking.

**Paul Ritchie CBiol CSci MRSB**

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