**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**



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| **Course Title:** Identification and Natural History of Bumblebees for beginners | **Day/Date/Year:** Saturday 14 May 2022 |
| **Start Time:** 10am | **Finish Time:** 4pm |
| **Course Tutor:** | Dr Nikki Gammans |
| **Course description and subjects covered** | No previous experience necessary.The course aims to give you an introduction to Bumblebees in the UK looking at their identification, behaviour, ecology and conservation. The course leader is Dr Nikki Gammans from Bumblebee Conservation Trust co-author of the recent book *Bumblebees: An Introduction.* **Course outline:**The day will start with an indoor session looking at the three types of bee, their identification, behaviour, life-cycles and ecology. We will then focus on the ecology, decline and conservation of bumblebees and how to identify the most common species, the 'Big 7'. Many of the UK’s bumblebees are rare and have limited distribution in the UK. Nikki will be focussing on the ‘Big 7’ – the seven species you will encounter with regularity in Sussex. We will discuss each bumblebee’s identification and look at specimens as an aid for identification. After lunch we will explore the Woods Mill reserve looking for bumblebees and put our new knowledge to the test. We’ll be identifying bees ‘in the field’ practising using nets and hand lenses while learning more about their behaviour and requirements. Nikki will also talk about bumblebee conservation and what can be done to help bees in our gardens and the wider countryside.  |
| **Meeting point / Venue address:** | Classroom, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/woods-mill>  |
| **What to bring:** | Good walking shoes, light raincoat (in case!), packed lunch. Camera, magnifying glass and any photographs of bees you would like help to identify. |
| **Other Information:**  | Tea & Coffee will be availableToilets are available in Woods Mill car park. Please may we ask that you take all packed lunch waste home with you. |
| **Public Transport:**  | Compass Bus Service 100 passes Woods Mill on Saturdays. See online for timetable. |
| **Accessibility:**  | Field component requires ability to walk at a gentle pace for 2-3 km in a couple of hours.  |