**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**



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| **Course Title:** Introduction to the Wildlife of Chalk Downland | | | **Day/Date/Year:**  Thursday 18 June 2020 |
| **Start Time:** 9am | | **Finish Time:** 3pm | |
| **Course Tutor:** | Petra Billings | | |
| **Course description and subjects covered** | Chalk downland is one of Western Europe’s richest wildlife habitats. It has up to 40 species of flowering plants per square metre, many of them chalk specialists, and 60% of the UK’s butterflies including iconic ‘blues’ such as the Adonis and Chalk Hill Blues.  In this one day course you’ll all about this species-rich habitat; how it is created and managed and the species that thrive here.  After an indoor session the course will be held at the Steyning Downland Scheme, a flagship downland restoration project in the heart of the South Downs National Park.  It aims to provide an introduction to this wonderful place and its wildlife. The indoor session will give you some background on the chalk downland habitat but we’ll be out on the Downs for the greater part of the day, identifying the flowers, butterflies and birds and discussing the ecology and management of this very special site. | | |
| **Meeting point / Venue address:** | The Steyning Centre committee rooms, Fletchers Croft, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3XZ.  The Steyning Centre is just off Steyning High Street. <http://www.thesteyningcentre.co.uk/getting-there/> | | |
| **Other sites to be visited:** | N/A | | |
| **What to bring:** | Bring a packed lunch and suitable outdoor clothing and footwear for the time of year and weather. You may need a hat, water and sunscreen. A wildflower identification guide, camera and binoculars would be useful but not essential. | | |
| **Other Information:** | Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. There is a public car park near the venue where cars can park for up to 4 hours, but will therefore need to be moved over lunch. There are toilet facilities at the Hall.  The field visit in the afternoon is unsuitable for wheelchairs.  Please may we ask that you take all packed lunch waste home with you. | | |
| **Public Transport:** | Nearest train station: Shoreham by Sea (~5 miles)  Bus No. 2 (Rottingdean to Steyning via Shoreham); 106 (Worthing to Henfield via Steyning) | | |
| **Accessibility:** | We will be out for about 3 hours, walking about 2 miles with some steep slopes and uneven ground. No stiles. | | |