



**CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
COURSE
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND DATES
CASTLE HILL
Autumn 2023**



IMPORTANT: Please attend each session wearing sturdy outdoor footwear, waterproofs and clothes that you do not mind getting mucky!

Please arrive at 9.45am prompt for a 10.00 am start.

The course will have both theory and practical elements, based between undercover 'classroom' space and locations throughout the country park. Attendees should dress appropriately for outside learning in any weather.

This course aims to be an introductory step into the deeper workings of conservation. Attendees should develop a broader understanding of the basic principles used when managing land for an ecological purpose, gaining an overview to inspire further learning.

Topics that will be introduced and covered include:

- British Native, non-native noteworthy species and plants of Castle Hill, developing identification skills, using scientific names and accepted common names.
- Basic Tree science (How trees work) photosynthesis, respiration, transpiration – deciduous, broadleaves, evergreens and conifers.
- Woodland Structure/ functions and roles within a woodland leaf litter, ground layer, herb layer, shrub layer, sub-canopy, canopy and woodland eco systems.
- Natural and economic history plus cultural importance - timber and wood products.
- Pruning- from pollarding to coppicing to fruit tree identification of "pip" and "stone" fruit. Renovation, pruning, plus winter and summer pruning. Importance of orchard habitat.
- Hedgerows, inhabitants, history and importance in connectivity. Hedgerows as linear corridors.
- Grassland, meadow, and wildflower changes in agriculture and land management. Impacts on grassland habitats.
- Managing habitat for conservation (how and why) habitat creation synecology versus autecology (single super species). Recognising problems caused by pest disease and weed competition.
- Basic soil science.
- Identification, diagnostic and nomenclature skills, technical terms and language, basic plant and animal groupings, natural histories, and soil science.

DATE OF TRAINING	LOCATION
<u>SESSION 1:</u> Thursday 30th November 2023 10.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. (Half hour break for lunch)	CASTLE HILL – Ford Road Car Park- https://goo.gl/maps/Cm4kA5pRCjG4Yp1o8 <i>*Please bring your lunch</i> <i>Refreshments will be provided</i>
<u>SESSION 2:</u> Friday 1st December 2023 10.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. (Half hour break for lunch)	CASTLE HILL – Ford Road Car Park- https://goo.gl/maps/Cm4kA5pRCjG4Yp1o8 <i>*Please bring your lunch</i> <i>Refreshments will be provided</i>