

Land Snail Identification

FSC Juniper Hall



In the heart of the Surrey Hills, surrounded by the chalk North Downs, Juniper Hall is a historic country house with excellent transport links.

Date 3 - 5 May 2019	Level Open to all	Sole occupancy £240	Shared room £220	Non-resident £180
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Course Overview

Based in classic snail country of the North Downs the weekend includes searching for land snails in their appropriate habitats with follow-up identification at the centre. There is an excellent key to snails in the FSC publications. Unlike some insect groups there is a limited number of species making it an accessible group to learn but at the same time the species are sensitive to conditions of habitat so are useful environmental indicators, both for conservation and archaeology. Come and enjoy a weekend looking at snails. Schedules may be adapted according to weather conditions.

Course objectives

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Have an appreciation of the habitats in which snails are found
- Have a grounding in the features that are used to identify them from shells
- Be able to distinguish an adult from a juvenile shell
- Interpret the ecological meaning of a list of snails from fieldwork
- Have leads for taking the interest further

Course description

Course fees

Sole occupancy: £240

Shared occupancy: £220

Non-resident: £180

Friday	<i>Introduction to the course and the study of land snails</i>
Saturday	<i>Morning – searching in the Field Centre grounds followed by identification session in lab and lunch. Walk to other habitats for alluvial field by River Mole and woodland with lab work after tea including the sifting of leaf litter for tiny snails that are difficult to see in the field. Evening interpretation of snail lists in terms of habitat requirements for the species.</i>
Sunday	<i>Morning – Chalk grassland slopes of Juniper Top and valley near the field centre. Concluding session summarising leads for further study and the application of shell identification in ecology and environmental archaeology. The course finishes in the afternoon.</i>

What is included within the fee?

- Up to 10 hours of tuition a day
- Full board accommodation including a cooked breakfast, packed lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available
- All bedding and towels are provided
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Use of wi-fi internet, bar/lounge, library
- Any excursions during the course will mostly be on foot. However, if longer excursions are to be made then these will be by Centre minibuses or by private cars. Arrangements will be made to reimburse petrol costs if cars are used.

Non-residential fees include all of the above except breakfast and accommodation.

Timetable

Start and finish times

Residential guests are welcome to arrive, register and settle into rooms any time between 15.30 and 17.30 on Friday. Non-residents should aim to be here by 17.30. Afternoon tea will be served at 16.00. A short welcome talk will take place at 18.30. You will then be shown into dinner at 18.45. The course will begin with a classroom session after dinner and finish with afternoon tea at approximately 16.00 on Sunday.

About the tutor

Dr June Chatfield has had a lifelong interest in snails and is a Vice President of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland with a career as a college lecturer, museum curator, author and consultant. She has led snail courses at Juniper Hall since 1967.

What to bring

Please bring the following with you if you can:

- x10 hand lens - can be borrowed from the Centre
- Camera
- Waterproof clothing
- Stout shoes (wellies can be borrowed from the Centre at no extra cost)
- Lunchbox
- Water bottle and/or thermos flask
- Small rucksack

How to Book

Please book online via www.field-studies-council.org or contact the Centre by phone on 01306 734501 or email enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

Please note our accommodation is currently not en-suite. All bedrooms do have a sink and are close to private bathrooms. If you prefer en-suite you may prefer to book as a non-resident and find accommodation locally and centre staff will be happy to advise.

