

Glamorgan Botany Group

2020 Excursions

With the data for the BSBI's 2010–2019 date-class now safely collected, we're shifting focus for this year away from under-recorded squares, and instead targeting certain little-recorded species in the eastern half of Glamorgan.

Although we don't always find what we set out to see, we invariably come across something interesting and unexpected. Of course, we'll be sharing identification tips too, so if you want to hone your skills at identifying the plants of Glamorgan, then this is the place to be!

Excursions are free, and open to all interested. There's no need to book in advance, but please note the following:

- 🍃 All excursions will start promptly at **10am**, and will end in the late afternoon (although on most excursions there is opportunity to head back earlier if you want to).
- 🍃 Please bring a packed lunch, hand-lens, field-guide(s), and a GPS if you have one.
- 🍃 Excursions may be cancelled if heavy rain is forecast to last all day – please check with David if in doubt.
- 🍃 Be aware that some sites may be wet, rocky, or overgrown – we've indicated below if we expect the going to be particularly tough, but please come appropriately attired.
- 🍃 If you require (or can offer) a lift, contact David and he'll let you know if anyone can help.

We look forward to seeing you on one or more of our excursions this year!

David Barden, Karen Wilkinson and Julian Woodman

Saturday 25 April

Leckwith Woods, Ely

Meeting place: Car-park for Trelai Park, off Vincent Road, Ely (ST144.763, CF5 5AQ).
Note that we'll enter the woods by heading S through Trelai Park and crossing under the A4232 (this is easier than trying to get in from the Leckwith end).

Our target on this day will be Leckwith Woods and Plymouth Wood just to the S of Ely, Cardiff. These have long been known for *Vicia sylvatica* (Wood Vetch), but there is only one modern record, so the aim will be to check how it's doing and hopefully find more. The two 1km squares involved also have relatively few records generally, so there should be opportunity to boost the day's tally with other species of limestone woodland.

Sunday 17 May

Ogmore Downs, St Brides Major

Meeting place: Layby and verges of the B4265, N of St Brides Major (SS898.763, CF35 5AN).

The limestone-heath flora of Ogmore Down and Old Castle Down is well-known, but we'd like to update the records for some of its specialities, including *Viola lactea* (Pale Dog Violet), *Hippocrepis comosa* (Horseshoe Vetch) and *Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancywort). It will also be an opportunity to see *Carex montana* (Soft-leaved Sedge), which is locally abundant here, as well as keeping an eye out

for *Antennaria dioica* (Mountain Everlasting), last seen on this site in 1999. If time permits and access can be obtained, we may look at some of the streamside habitats and woodlands in Cwm Alun, just to the E.

Sunday 14 June

St Fagans

Meeting place: Car-park for the National Museum of History, St Fagans (ST116.771, CF5 6XB). *Please note there is a £5.00 fee for parking.*

Aquatics will be our focus on this day, and we plan to visit some pond not far from the museum grounds that are known to have a rich flora. Here we'll be able to get acquainted with a variety of duckweeds, pondweeds and crowfoots, as well as plants we've not encountered before on our excursions, such as *Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering Rush), *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (Alternate-leaved Water Milfoil) and *Veronica catenata* (Pink Water Speedwell). If time permits, we'll explore grasslands in the vicinity.

Sunday 19 July

Quaker's Yard

Meeting place: Layby next to Prince Llewelyn Farm, off Coitre-Coed Road, Quaker's Yard (ST087.962, CF46 5PG). *After turning off the A4054, continue uphill through the village, and turn right immediately after the bridge over the A470. The layby is 200 metres on the right.*

Vicia orobus (Wood Bitter-vetch) has just a handful of sites in v.c. 41, one of which is on Cefn-glas, where just one plant was seen in 2007. We'll see if this can be re-located, and then move onto the short grassland nearby, and hopefully Craig-yr-efail beyond. If we have the energy, a circuit via Pontygwaith and the old Merthyr tramroad will provide plenty of botanical interest on our way back to our cars.

Sunday 16 August

Parc Penallta, Ystrad Mynach

Meeting place: Car-park, Parc Penallta (ST126.951, CF46 6PR).

On this excursion we'll be checking-up on the highlight of Parc Penallta – *Dianthus armeria* (Deptford Pink) – as well as investigating more thoroughly the diverse flora of this area of reclaimed and landscaped coal-spoil.

Saturday 26 September

Cwm Ffrwd, Gellideg

Meeting place: Post Office & Stores, Heol Tai Mawr, Gellideg (SO031.071, CF48 1ND). *Parking is available on nearby estate roads.*

This wooded gorge right on the vice-county boundary is the home of the only recent record for *Rubus saxatilis* (Stone Bramble) in v.c. 41, so we'll start by seeing if the plants can be refound. In the vicinity there are also other species of interest, including *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* (Oak Fern) and *Sanguisorba officinalis* (Great Burnet). *Please note that although the fields down to the gorge have good paths, the gorge itself is rough underfoot.*

Any enquiries about these excursions to:

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