

2022 Programme of meetings

All events are on Thursday and start at 10.30am. Some events are morning only and others all-day (bring lunch), but there is usually a chance to join for just the morning or afternoon session if preferred.

March 24

Site plant surveys I

(a) Holy Trinity churchyard Prestwood (north meadow)

(b) Widmere Field Prestwood

Meet at the church car-park off Wycombe Road. All day for both surveys. This event is intended to provide participants with the skills for site-recording and experience doing so. The first site is small and a recently designated "wildflower meadow" for which we need baseline data on the existing flora. The second site is subject to regular planning applications for a large housing estate (so far unsuccessful) and we need to update our record of the flora to bolster its protection. Both sites are, unusually for the Chilterns, on acid soil and contain relics of plant communities that are mostly now vanished in the area.

March 31

Primrose homostyles.

(a) Coach Hedgerow.

(b) Hampdenleaf Wood.

Meet at car-park on Rignall Road opposite entrance to Coach Hedgerow. We shall move to the car-park at the top end of Little Hampden road at midday. All day, but morning or afternoon only are possible. This is a follow-up of our discovery of long-homostyle primroses in Rook Wood last year to see whether other primrose colonies in the Chilterns contain them, and how prevalent they are.

April 14

Millfield Wood BBOWT reserve.

General walk; coralroot, herb paris. Also, nearby, our only local site for barberry.

Meet at lowest car-park in Hughenden Park (near the church). Morning only, but could be extended into afternoon to see more coralroot in the woods behind Hughenden Manor (café available for snacks).

May 5

Dandelions.

Prestwood Picnic Site and Meadsgarden Field.

Meet at Picnic Site car-park off Hampden Road. Morning only, but if weather is kind we can lunch at the site and have an outdoor Botany Group business meeting on our aims, activities and organisation. The intention of this event is to try out the new BSBI guide to dandelions.

May 26

Sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.

This is a rare plant with us; we shall visit the last known site (Priestfield Arboretum) to check it is still there, have a look round the arboretum, and then search some older records for sheep's sorrel elsewhere in the afternoon. Park in Windsor Lane and meet at entrance to Stony Lane, Little Kingshill. All day.

June 9

Site plant surveys II. See March 24.

June 23

Pale lady's-mantle *Alchemilla xanthochlora*.

Another rare plant that has recently been lost from at least one site. We shall first visit the largest local colony and then drive to near Little Hampden to visit Hampdenleaf Wood (last seen 2011), followed by another drive to Clappins Lane (between North Dean and Walter's Ash) to check an older record. Meet at TM's house, 49 Lodge Lane, Prestwood. Morning only (probably!).

June 30

Orchids & other plants at Grangelands BBOWT reserve.

We shall particularly seek the rare musk orchid *Herminium monorchis*. Possible alexanders and deadly nightshade (and we need to look for the rare Belladonna flea-beetle on the latter). Probable Roman snail.

Meet at car-park on Longdown Road. All day. In the later afternoon we hope to visit a private site where there is a hybrid between common spotted and southern marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza x grandis*. If we have not had a Botany Group business meeting on 5 May, this would be another chance to do so over a picnic lunch.

July 14

Nanfan Hedge.

Survey of all woody plants in a long hedge, one of the oldest in our area, with guidance on tree and shrub identification. We should see wild service tree and orpine. Meet at High Street car-park, Prestwood (or some other place in Prestwood to be decided). Morning only.

July 28

Fumitories and other rare arable annuals.

Visit to fields near Four Ashes with good older records. As it will be outside school term we should be able to park on the verge at the top of Cryers Hill Road near the school. Morning only (probably!).

August 4

Ferns on bridges and walls.

Survey of ferns and other plants on railway bridges and walls, including a search for the rare hybrid *Asplenium x clermontiae*. Meet at car-park by Great Missenden Church of St Peter & St Paul (where everyone can see brittle bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis* at its only Bucks location). We shall walk from there to various railways bridges. In the afternoon we shall have to use cars to travel to sites further away.

August 18

Site plant surveys III. See March 24.

September 1

Fringed gentian *Gentianella ciliata*.

A walk to try to see one of Britain's rarest plants at its only site, just outside our area. Flowering-time varies considerably, it only opens in full sunlight, and it does not appear every year - chances of success are not good: I see it generally on one in three visits. So come prepared just to enjoy the walk and the other flowers! (But if you don't try you don't find.) Meet at car-park for Coombe Hill (National Trust) SP851062. Morning only, but on the way back we can visit a rare sedge that does grow inside our area, starved wood-sedge *Carex*

depauperata. [If members prefer we could make this a whole day walk from Little Hampden, which would take us to both plants. A final decision will be made at a Botany Group business meeting.]

September 15

Plant galls and mines.

Location to be decided.