

Glamorgan Botany Group

2024 Excursions

Welcome to our 2024 excursion listing!

This year's listing is slightly different from usual, because on two excursions we'll be meeting up with botanists from other parts of Wales. In July we have an all-weekend botanical extravaganza timed to coincide with the BSBI Wales AGM (which it's our turn to host this year), while in September we will have a joint meeting with Monmouthshire Botany Group that will straddle the vice-county boundary.

A small caveat is that the weekend in July will be for BSBI members only... so if you've been thinking about joining the BSBI (for £39/year), then what better time to do so? The registration form and list of membership benefits (which will soon include access to the BSBI's Big Database of plant records) can be found at <https://bsbi.org/join-us>.

As usual on our excursions, as well as generating species lists for the places we visit, a focus will continue to be sharing identification tips – 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 (apart from in July) open to all interested, 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.

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

David Barden, Karen Wilkinson and Julian Woodman

Sunday 14 April

Sandy Bay, Porthcawl

Meeting place:

Sandy Lane car park, Porthcawl (SS824.771, CF36 5BW). *From New Road, turn S onto Mackworth Road, and after 40m turn left onto Sandy Lane. The car park is on the right after 100m.*

On this visit, we'll be investigating areas of sandy turf in and around the recreation area known as 'Sandy Bay Bowl' just to the east of Porthcawl town centre. At this time in the year, the hope is that we might be lucky and find some early-flowering, easily-overlooked annuals, including *Poa bulbosa* (Bulbous Meadow Grass) tentatively reported from this site. However, this is unlikely to take all day, so in the remaining time, we'll take a look at the remnant dunes to the south, the coastal strip, and nearby streets and green spaces.

Saturday 11 May

Dinas (Rhondda) & Trealaw

Meeting place:

Dinas (Rhondda) railway station (ST0062.9194, CF40 2PJ). *If you would like to join us on the train up from Cardiff or Taff's Well, then look out for notices on email and facebook the week beforehand. Alternatively, if you're arriving by car, there is on-street parking on George's Row, on the N side of the train station.*

The aim on this excursion is to look at some of the street plants of this Valleys town, before moving on to some of the surrounding semi-natural habitats, and in particular targeting Trealaw Cemetery. This large cemetery, also known as 'Llethyrddu', was opened in 1881, so may support some areas of older turf; sections have also been targeted for cut-and-collect grassland management in recent years.

Saturday 15 June Cefn Glas, Bridgend

Meeting place: S end of Wildmill View, Tondu, Bridgend (SS9001.8098, CF31 4LJ). *Wildmill View is on the E side of the A4063 dual-carriageway, but crossing points allow it to be accessed from either carriageway. Coming from the N, look out for the brown sign to 'Hazelwood Lodge' on the left. Coming from the S, the turning to the right is about 100m N of the Toyota car dealership.*

On this excursion, we'll aim to explore the large areas of rough grassland and woodland N of Cefn Glas, including Coedtymaen and Coed-y-gains. Although parts of this are designated a 'Site of Interest for Nature Conservation', there are very few localised records in the database, and in such a large area, there should be plenty to occupy us.

Friday 5 July – Sunday 7 July BSBI AGM and Excursion weekend

For BSBI members only. The weekend will be based at Swansea, with excursions focused on brownfield and coal-spoil sites. For details and to reserve a place, visit www.bsbi.org/field-meetings-and-indoor-events.

Sunday 4 August Cwm Rhydymilwyr

Meeting place: Taff Ely Ridgeway car park, Minffrwd Road, between Rhiwceiliog Pencoed and Glynogwr (SS968.859, approx. CF35 6EN). *Minffrwd Road is a long, narrow lane with only occasional passing places, and parking space is limited. Because of this, it would be useful if you could let us know by 28 July if you plan to come, and we recommend sharing a lift; please check email/facebook the week before.*

On this excursion, our aim is to carry out a detailed survey of the population of *Rhynchospora alba* (White Beak Sedge), at one of only four sites recently seen in Glamorgan, and the only one in the E of the vice-county. We'll also be looking out for other species of interest, including *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew), *Eleogiton fluitans* (Floating Club-rush), *Hypericum elodes* (Bog St John's-wort) and *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean). Please come prepared for rough and boggy ground.

Saturday 7 September New Tredegar & Brithdir

Meeting place: Town car park, Elliot's Town, New Tredegar (SO147.026, NP24 6DE).

This will be a joint excursion with Monmouthshire Botany Group. We'll start off on the Monmouthshire side of the Rhymney, but will head straight across into Glamorgan, zigzagging up the hillside to the open ridge of Cefn y Brithdir. Walking partly along lanes, we'll then drop down to Brithdir, where we'll cross back into Monmouthshire again. We'll then explore the hillside of Comin Coed-y-moeth before continuing via areas of rough grazing in Cwmsyfiog to Elliot's Town, where we'll look at urban habitats and road verges.

Any enquiries about these excursions to:

David Barden
glamorgan.botany@yahoo.co.uk
Tel.: 07791 153262

...and also find us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/459413357740225/>