



## BSBI IRISH FIELD PROGRAMME 2015

See website for supplementary info: <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/ireland.html>,  
or contact **Irish Officer:** Maria Long, [maria.long@bsbi.org](mailto:maria.long@bsbi.org), +353 87 2578763



G = General  
S = Specialised  
R = Recording  
T = Training

### SAT 9<sup>th</sup> AND SUN 10<sup>th</sup> MAY (G, R) - SLIEVE AUGHTY MOUNTAINS, SOUTH-EAST GALWAY (v.c. H18)

**Leader:** Micheline Sheehy Skeffington

Exploring woods on SE slopes of the Slieve Aughty Mountains and other areas with a good spring flora. Stout footwear important. **Meet** 10.30am both days in Woodford at the bridge over the Aughty River (R734999).

**Contact** Micheline ([micheline.sheehy@nuigalway.ie](mailto:micheline.sheehy@nuigalway.ie)) to confirm attendance and lest there be any change of plans.

### SAT 16<sup>th</sup> MAY (G, R) - CURRAGH CHASE FOREST PARK, CO. LIMERICK (v.c. H8)

**Leaders:** Sylvia Reynolds and Julian Reynolds

Curragh Chase Forest Park, some 18km west of Limerick City off the N69, is an extensive area mainly of deciduous woodland (with outcropping limestone), also lakes, wet grassland and an attractive arboretum. The aim of the meeting is to record the early season flora in two areas of adjoining 10km squares. Parasitic *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) should be in flower. **Meet** 10.30am in the car park of the Forest Park (R411492), nearly 4km from the main road (N69) at Kilcornan, and bring lunch. You will need €5 in coins to get through the entrance barrier on the way to the car park. **Enquiries** to Sylvia ([sylviacpreynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviacpreynolds@hotmail.com) - note cp in middle), 353-1-2887856 or mobile 353-86-3511075.

### SAT 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE (G, R) - THE HEATH, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS (v.c. H14)

**Leaders:** Mark McCorry and Fiona MacGowan

The Heath is an area of commonage that has acidic grassland, rich fen and some wetland habitat.

**Meet** 10.30am at the Church of the Assumption, The Heath (N535016)

**Enquiries** to Mark ([mark.mccorry@bnm.ie](mailto:mark.mccorry@bnm.ie)) or 353-87-7530718

### FRI 12<sup>th</sup> to TUE 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE - IRELAND'S NORTH COAST (H39, 40) (G, R) ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

The BSBI's Annual Summer Meeting will be based at the University of Ulster in Coleraine, which overlooks the River Bann. Accommodation with kitchen facilities will be available on site. Alternatively, there are many hotels and guest houses in the area. The meeting will start on Friday with dinner and introductory talk. Saturday will be a combination of talks and an excursion, and Sunday to be dedicated to further organised excursions to visit some of the key locations. On Monday and Tuesday, we will break into smaller groups and visit less well-known areas to generate much-needed records for Atlas 2020. This will be an exciting part of the programme and we hope to have lots of skilled botanists who will help to gather a large number of records in a short space of time.

**Information:** The full programme will be made available on the Meetings and Irish pages of the BSBI website, and as a flyer in the April issue of BSBI News. **Contact:** John Faulkner ([jf@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:jf@globalnet.co.uk)).

### SAT 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE (G, R) - BALLYHALE QUARRY, BALLYHALE, CO. KILKENNY (v.c. H11)

**Leader:** Roger Goodwillie

Ballyhale quarry is one of the richest disused quarries in Kilkenny, with *Filago minima*, different forms of *Viola canina*, *Salix repens*, *Hieracium* and orchids. A mixed calcareous and acidic flora occurs and we also want to search for *Carex curta* and *Ophioglossum* in a nearby fen.

**Meet** 10.00am at gate (S547310), 4km south of village; the quarry itself is marked on Discovery map.

**Enquiries** to Roger ([rogerq@indigo.ie](mailto:rogerq@indigo.ie)) or 353-87-2443024

### **SAT 27<sup>th</sup> AND SUN 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE (R) - CAVAN TOWN AND VIRGINIA, CO. CAVAN (v.c. H30)**

**Leader:** Robert Northridge

The aim of the weekend will be to visit under-recorded areas in small groups to collect data for Atlas 2020. Come suitably equipped for botanising in Cavan: wellingtons, walking boots and waterproofs are advised.

On Saturday **meet** 10.00am in the car park of the Cavan Crystal Hotel on the Dublin side of the town (H441040).

On Sunday **meet** 10.00am in the middle of Virginia outside the gates of the Church of Ireland church (N602878).

**Contact:** If you wish to attend please email Robert Northridge ([robhannort@aol.com](mailto:robhannort@aol.com)).

### **SAT 4<sup>th</sup> AND SUN 5<sup>th</sup> JULY (G, R) - LOUGH FERN AREA, WEST DONEGAL (v.c. H35)**

**Leader:** Ralph Sheppard

Habitats visited during the weekend will include lake shore and fens along Leannan River, and also small lakes and oakwoods between Lough Fern and Lough Gartan. Wellingtons probably essential.

**Meet** both days 11.00am in Kilmacrenan village, bend in N56 just north of central crossroads (C140205).

**Enquiries** to Ralph ([rsheppard@eircom.net](mailto:rsheppard@eircom.net)), or 353-74-9147129

### **SAT 11<sup>th</sup> AND SUN 12<sup>th</sup> JULY (G, R) – COURTMACSHERRY & ENVIRONS, CO. CORK (v.c. H3)**

**Leaders:** Fionnuala O'Neill and Edwina Cole

The main aim of this two-day event will be to generate records for Atlas 2020. Possible habitats investigated over the two days will include deciduous woodland, coastal beaches, coastal headland/heath and a graveyard. Walking boots/wellingtons, raingear, sunblock and a packed lunch required. **Meet** both days in Courtmacsherry at 11.00am in the carpark past the hotel, adjacent to the beach at the eastern end of the village (W517427).

**Contact** Fionnuala ([foneill@botanicalenvironmental.com](mailto:foneill@botanicalenvironmental.com)), or 353-86-3786752

### **MON 27<sup>th</sup> JULY TO MON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST (R) - EAST & WEST MAYO (v.c. H26 & H27)**

**Leaders:** Gerry Sharkey, Rory Hodd (+ helpers)

Mayo is one of Ireland's most spectacular counties, with vast areas of blanket bog, mountain ranges and breathtaking coastline. Because of this, and its sheer size, it is a very challenging area to record in. Gerry Sharkey, BSBI vice-county recorder, will lead a week aimed at recording for Atlas 2020. This will be a fun-filled and adventurous week, where new-comers are guaranteed to learn loads from the masters and make new friends. Visit the Irish webpage (<http://bsbi.org.uk/ireland.html>) for booking details. **Meet** – we will be based out of Castlebar, further details to be confirmed. **Contact** Maria Long, the Irish Officer ([maria.long@bsbi.org](mailto:maria.long@bsbi.org)), or 353-87-2578763

### **FRI 14<sup>th</sup> TO SUN 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST (G, R) - INISHOWEN PENINSULA, EAST DONEGAL (v.c. H34)**

**Leaders:** John Conaghan, Mairéad Crawford and Oisín Duffy

We aim to visit under-recorded areas of the Inishowen peninsula. Habitats will include sand dune, coastal heath and blanket bog. We will also search for rarer species, e.g. *Saxifraga oppositifolia* and *Euphorbia hyberna*. Whilst the main aim is to record for Atlas 2020, beginners are always welcome. Good walking boots, raingear, sunblock and a packed lunch required. **Meet** Friday and Saturday 10.30am in the car park of the Inishowen Gateway Hotel on the southern approach to Buncrana (C346312). On Sunday **meet** 10.30am in the Market Square Merville (C612385). **Enquiries** to John ([conaghaj@indigo.ie](mailto:conaghaj@indigo.ie)), or 353-87-2239858

### **SAT 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST (G, R) - BANGOR ERRIS, WEST MAYO (v.c. H27)**

**Leaders:** Janice Fuller and John Conaghan

North-west Mayo is dominated by an extensive blanket bog landscape which is punctuated by lakes, forestry and semi-improved grassland. This field meeting will primarily record in blanket bog areas where species such as *Juniperus communis*, *Eriocaulon aquaticum*, *Carex limosa*, *Carex lasiocarpa* and *Vaccinium oxycoccus* are often found. Beginners are most welcome. Good raingear, a packed lunch and wellingtons are essential. This field meeting is dedicated to the memory of a dear friend and field meetings secretary Caoimhe Muldoon who spent many happy days on the bogs of north-west Mayo. **Meet** at the football pitch just south of Bangor Bridge (F863226). **Enquiries** to Janice ([janicefuller@eircom.net](mailto:janicefuller@eircom.net)), or 353-86-3476891

### **SAT 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER (R) - STREAMSTOWN, CO. WESTMEATH (v.c. H23)**

**Leader:** Con Breen

The object of the meeting will be to explore under-recorded habitats in the area around Streamstown.

**Meet** 11.00am by the large specimen beech tree in the centre of Streamstown (N283433).

**Contact** Con Breen ([conbreen101@yahoo.com](mailto:conbreen101@yahoo.com)), 353-1-8313573, or mobile 353-86-3539295