

Glamorgan Botany Group

2021 Excursions

At last, our botanical excursions are back... although you might notice some similarities between this listing and what we planned for 2020!

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!

As always, excursions are free and open to all interested, **but** for the first couple of excursions (at least) we'll be making some COVID-related changes to minimise the risk to everyone attending:

- 🍃 **Booking:** To keep the meetings manageable, numbers will be capped at 15. A reminder will be sent out to the email list one week before each meeting, and you **must respond** in order to book a place (first come, first served). If you are not currently on the email list, please ask David to add you (contact details below).
- 🍃 **COVID guidance:** You must follow government-issued guidance on attending gatherings, and any requests we might make on the day. Please bring a face-mask and hand-sanitiser with you in case they are needed.

Otherwise, guidance remains the same as usual:

- 🍃 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

Saturday 8 May

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 Leckwith).

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.

Saturday 19 June

St Fagans (to be confirmed)

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.*

Assuming permission is granted, we plan to visit some ponds not far from the museum grounds that are known to have a rich aquatic flora, including (hopefully) a variety of duckweeds, pondweeds and crowfoots. If time permits, we'll explore damp grasslands in the vicinity.

Sunday 18 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.

Saturday 31 July St Athan, Gileston Beach & Fonmon (BSBI excursion)

Meeting place: For details and to book, you need to be a member of the BSBI.
Email Julian at juwood66@gmail.com with your email and mobile details.

At St Athan, we will search arable fields to see if *Ranunculus arvensis* (Corn Buttercup) and *Scandix pecten-veneris* (Shepherd's Needle) appear this year. At Gileston, we will take a census of the *Galeopsis angustifolia* (Red Hemp-nettle), followed by a search for other plants of the adjacent saltmarsh and brackish grassland. If time allows, we will search other habitats in the area for *Petroselinum segetum* (Corn Parsley) and *Linum bienne* (Pale Flax).

Saturday 14 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.

Sunday 19 September Cwm Ffrwd, Gellideg

Meeting place: Post Office & Stores, Heol Tai Mawr, Gellideg (S0031.071, 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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