

Warwickshire Flora Group

SPRING AND SUMMER FIELD MEETINGS 2023

All botanical meetings will start at 10 a.m. and finish at about 3.30 p.m. or when everybody has had enough. Please bring sandwiches and drinks. Walking will be limited to a couple of miles. You do not need to be member of the BSBI or anything else to come along. You can be a beginner or an expert, or just interested in identifying and finding plants. Please bring field guides and a lens if you have one. If you want any more information ring us on 01827-712455 or e mail jomowalton@gmail.com

Friday 31 March WELLESBOURNE AND MORTON MORRELL.

We will start the year gently, having dusted off our plant books, with a visit to St. Peter's Churchyard, Wellesbourne, which has not been surveyed before, and a walk around the village. In the afternoon we will do the same thing around Moreton Morrell. Within the monad, we will follow the path beside the River Dene and search for casuals around the houses.

For Wellesbourne travel south along the A426 towards Wellesbourne, turn left on to the B4086 at the first roundabout into the village. Turn right at the one-way system going back on yourself into Church Street and taking the left fork that goes straight on and park in the road behind The King's Head, SP277555, CV35 NLS. The Church of the Holy Cross in Moreton Morrell is on the Main Street, SP310555, CV35 9AL. There is a public toilet in Wellesbourne Library and Information Centre in Kineton Road, CV35 9NF.

Sunday 23 April SOUTHAM

We did a recce around Southam in early December last year in the hope that it would make a good place for a New Year Plant Hunt but changed our mind as there was little in flower. By the end of April there should be much more to see. We will spend up to three hours walking around the town and then visit the Purple Toothwort site on the other side of the bypass to check that it is still there.

Park in the free car park in Wood Street where there are toilets. Going south, turn right at the second roundabout on the Southam bypass into Daventry Road and then right again into Wood Street and you will see the car park on the right. We will probably walk between two and three miles.

Saturday 29 April TOCIL WOOD NATURE RESERVE AND GIBBET HILL WOOD

(A joint meeting with the Warwickshire Fungus Group). **Half-day meeting.**

An enthusiastic presentation at the recent Recorder's Meeting from the Coventry ecologists running the City Nature Challenge (a digital Bioblitz) encouraged us to organise a survey to boost their record total for the weekend, as well as update our own records. We will meet in The Shrubberies, which is off Cannon Hill Road, Coventry at SP310758. Park on the RH side just before the houses start.

Saturday 6 May EDGE HILL WOODLANDS and RATLEY

In 1965 G. C. Grant found the last record in Warwickshire of *Gagea lutea*, Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem in Edge Hill Woodlands and it hasn't been seen since. We may not be successful but the group has not visited Edge Hill before and there will be plenty other plants to see. The paths can be very, very slippery after rain, the ground is thick sticky clay and if it has been raining substantially before the meeting we may decide to go somewhere different, so keep an eye on your emails to check if there are any changes. In the afternoon we will move a short distance to Ratley to get some post 2020 records for the tetrad.

From Kineton, go up the hill on the B4086 and just after where the road turns very sharply left there is a large layby on the opposite side of the road from the wood at SP380481. Boots are essential, there are no toilets available.

Wednesday 7 June KINGSBURY WATER PARK

Ben Coleman the WCC Grassland Officer has asked us to visit the park to survey a meadow area near the River Tame to provide a baseline for management. There will be plenty of opportunity to explore the rest of the park which is a large, varied habitat with gravel pits, wet woodland and grassland with many species. Expect *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* Southern Marsh Orchid, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* Adderstongue fern, sedges, rushes and a good selection of ferns and don't forget your binoculars as there are plenty of birds too. Park at the main Visitor Centre in Bodymoor Heath Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B76 ODY, (actually nowhere near Sutton Coldfield), where there are toilets and a café. Parking will be free so you will not need to buy a parking ticket.

Wednesday 14 June UFTON FIELDS and BISHOPS HILL

(Joint Meeting with Wild Flower Society).

Apologies to those who went to Ufton last year, but we chose these two sites for the WFS members to visit as they have an interesting flora. It is unlikely that places will need to be limited. I will find out the number of WFS members coming nearer the time, and then send out another email if it is needed. The more pairs of eyes, the more likely we will find rarities.

Meet at **10.30 am.** in the reserve car park in Ufton Fields Lane, CV33 9PU, SP378615.

The lane is south of the A425 Leamington to Southam road, south of Ufton Village.

After lunch we will travel to Bishop's Hill, in Ladbroke Road, Bishop's Itchington, CV47 2UT, SP392581. Coming south on the B4451 into the village, turn left into Fisher Road. Then turn left again into Ladbroke Road and park on the verge by the track on the left, at the right-hand bend near the end of the village.

Ufton is the only Warwickshire site for Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora* and a good colony of Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* has been discovered there recently. Bishop's Hill has a lovely colony of the rare biennial Rough Marsh-Mallow *Malva setigera* as well as many other limestone plants.

You will need to bring lunch and there are no toilet facilities, the nearest public toilets being in the Wood Street Car Park (free) in Southam, CV47 1PH.

Monday 26 June ALNE WOOD

After last year's successful trip to Spernall Wood with Sam MacVie from the Heart of England Forest, he has asked us if we could survey Alne Wood a similar wood about a mile away from Spernall. Park at the Alne Wood Natural Burial Ground, off Spernall Lane at SP103610, W3W; magnum.instance fruits, where there is room for 7 or 8 cars.

Saturday 8th July WORKSHOP ON YELLOW COMPOSITES. BRANDON MARSH

If you can't tell your Hawkbits, Hawk's-beards from your Hawkweeds, your Sowthistles from your Catsears and Lettuces this is the meeting for you. Meet in The Barn at Brandon Marsh at 10 a.m. There will be a short, digital presentation, lots of different specimens to examine and we have a mixture of keys to use. If you have a copy of The Wild Flower Key please bring it, but we also have a key written by Pam Copson, a previous VC Recorder and another published by the Wild Flower Society specifically on yellow composites for you to work through. The more experienced amongst you may also wish to bring Poland and Stace, and there will be an opportunity to try the recent Hawkweed book with material. Please bring a lens if you have one.

In the afternoon we will have a walk around the reserve to try to put our learning into practice. The Brandon Marsh Nature Centre is well signposted on Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW where there is a café, a shop and toilets.

We will be limiting the number of participants so please email us to book a place.