

Field Botany in vc76, vc77 & vc99

Fieldwork Programme, April-June 2024

Important: please read carefully!

Here is our programme for the first half of the 2024 season. Before the end of June, you will receive an update for the second half of the season.

(Some events planned elsewhere, or by other organisations, may be included in italics for your interest. Details of all official BSBI events, such as Workshops and Field Meetings, can be found on the BSBI website.)

We are mostly hunting for 'new finds' (things not seen in a place before) and 're-finds' (things seen in a place before, but not recently). We normally work in **monads** (i.e. single 1km map squares). Map references for the monads we are targeting are shown (e.g. **NS4686**).

Some of the locations are remote, or suffer from restricted access or parking. It is therefore more important than ever that we know who will be present. If you wish to take part in any event, **please email or text Michael Philip or Peter Wiggins no less than 24 hours in advance**.

It would also be helpful for us to have confirmation of your mobile phone number, in case of any last-minute alterations or hitches.

Please take particular note of the start time: it varies from outing to outing, so do check! Some outings are not at weekends: again, please check!

Sometimes finding the meeting-place will require some navigation skills. The grid references below will be more accurate than the postcode/satnav method, especially in open countryside. Please allow enough time to arrive on time. We expect reasonable standards of time-keeping, only because latecomers hold back the group. If you know you're going to be late, please phone (mobile numbers are given below).

Michael's car is an orange (yes, it's now orange!) Honda Jazz and he wears either a red or a bright yellow-green jacket.

Peter's car is a blue Toyota CHR and he usually wears a dark green jacket.

Plant training: we are all constantly learning from each other and will always welcome questions and discussion about plants and nature - but this season we have decided to earmark a number of outings to place particular emphasis on training in plant identification (highlighted in green and marked '**TRAINING**'). If you or any of your contacts want to work on plant skills, these dates may be of particular interest.

Finally, please be aware that your participation in any of these events is at your own risk.

We recommend that you bring your own food and water with you (less crucial for afternoon or evening events).

We have indicated on the programme the kind of terrain to expect. Take precautions over clothing and equipment, and be sensible about steep or boggy ground, climbing gates or fences, and pacing yourself. **It is of the utmost importance that everyone remains in contact with the group throughout.** If you feel uneasy about distance, terrain or time, please say so - we won't ask anyone to go beyond what they feel they can do.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Michael Philip email: botany@opus44.co.uk mobile: 07811 749296

Peter Wiggins email: pswiggins@gmail.com mobile: 07951 160870

Key: **vc99** = Dunbartonshire **vc76** = Renfrewshire **vc77** = Lanarkshire

Outings for all three areas are included on a single published Programme this year for the first time.
Please note: not all outings are at weekends!

** For outings marked with red asterisks, public transport information is given at the foot of the document.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
21st April **	Sunday all day	10.00	Croftamie (west) **	Easy walking for an early season limber-up
vc99	NS4686 NS4786		Meet 10am at 'The But & Ben' Postcode: G63 0EU Grid Ref: NS477861	(roads, tracks, open ground, woodland)
27th April **	Saturday all day	10.00	Erskine Harbour **	Varied habitats in the early season
vc76	NS4671		Meet 10am at small carpark: (Kilpatrick Drive, near junction with Bridgewater Place) Postcode: PA8 7BF Grid Ref: NS470708 (NB postcode is approximate)	(tracks, open ground, woodland, riverbank, wet areas)
TRAINING				
28th April	Sunday all day	10.00	Chatelherault Country Park	(Workshop Day for South Lanarkshire volunteers)
vc77			<i>This is a Workshop Day organised by South Lanarkshire Council Countryside Ranger Service for local volunteers. However, there may be one or two free places available for other local people just starting to get to know plants. Booking essential. Contact Michael Philip for details: botany@opus44.co.uk</i>	
TRAINING				
4th May **	Saturday all day	10.00	Stoney-mollan, Alexandria **	Time to update records from ten years ago
vc99	NS3781 NS3681		Meet 10am at Loch Lomond Shores carpark Postcode: G83 8QL Grid Ref: NS382819	(tracks, rough ground, woodland, wet areas)
5th May **	Sunday all day	10.00	Morgan Glen, Larkhall **	In partnership with the local Countryside Ranger
vc77	NS7550 NS7549	NS7649	Meet 10am at foot of Millheugh Brae Postcode: ML9 1QU Grid Ref: NS752508	(tracks, paths, woodland, riverbank, wet areas, rough ground)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
TRAINING				
11th May **	Saturday all day	10.00	Lochwinnoch **	A rich area with lots of diversity
vc76	NS3558		Meet 10am at Castle Semple Loch Postcode: PA12 4EA Grid Ref: NS357590	(road, tracks, open ground, wet areas)
18th May **	Saturday all day	10.00	Viewpark (north), near Uddingston **	A completely unrecorded and varied location
vc77	NS7162		Meet 10am on Laburnum Road, at junction with McCracken Drive Postcode: G71 5NE Grid Ref: NS711621	(streets, tracks, open ground, woodland, riverbank)
18th May	Saturday all day	10.00	Dunfermline	Workshop: Plant Families
This is an official BSBI Workshop - advance booking required: Booking open at: https://botanicalsocietyofbritainandireland.beaconforms.com/form/6ecaec18				(a one-day introduction to identifying plants by family)
19th May	Sunday all day	10.00	Ross Park	A leisurely walk on the Bonnie Banks . . .
vc99	NS3587 NS3687		Meet 10am at South Lodge (this is the grand gateway by the A82, 300m south of junction with B832) Postcode: G83 8RQ Grid Ref: NS353868	(paths, open ground, wet areas, woodland, loch shore)
21st May	Tuesday evening	19.30	<u>Special event on Zoom</u>	A talk by Angus Hannah on the Scottish Brambles project: (a fascinating picture is emerging of the distribution of Scotland's different species of Brambles - and you can help!)
All welcome! (If possible, please let us know in advance if you can attend: otherwise, do just turn up.) Join us at 7.30pm on Zoom with this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89524090506?pwd=T2RNaVhJSGNlU3NHZGxLVWlBdG4zQT09				
TRAINING				
23rd May **	Thursday evening	18.00	New Stevenston **	Exploring a rich area of waste ground
vc77	NS7559		Meet 6pm on Coronation Road Postcode: ML1 4RF Grid Ref: NS755598	(rough grassland, wet areas, woodland)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
25th May **	Saturday all day	10.00	Dunwan Dam **	A largely unrecorded or under-recorded area
vc76	NS5548 NS5549		Meet 10am at Whitelee Visitor Centre Postcode: G76 0QQ Grid Ref: NS530490	(tracks, wet areas, rough ground - a spare car will provide lifts to and from the Dam area)
TRAINING				
26th May **	Sunday all day	10.00	Loch Bowie **	Gentle walking in a rich area
vc99	NS4275		Meet 10am at Overtoun House carpark Postcode: G82 2SH Grid Ref: NS425760	(roadside, paths, open ground, wet areas, woodland)
27th May **	Monday all day	10.00	Hamilton Low Parks **	In partnership with the local Countryside Ranger
vc77	NS7156 NS7257 NS7157		Meet 10am by Strathclyde Park Golf Centre Postcode: ML3 6BY Grid Ref: NS724561	(rough grassland, wet areas, woodland) Please note: MONDAY!
1st June **	Saturday all day	10.00	Glen Luss **	In partnership with Luss Estates
vc99	NS3093 NS3193		Meet 10am at large lay-by on northbound A82 (just north of entrance to Cameron Club) Postcode: G83 8RF Grid Ref: NS353861	(track, wet areas, rough ground, riverbank, hillsides) (we will then use just two cars to drive up Glen Luss)
TRAINING				
5th June **	Wednesday evening	18.30	Thornly Park, Paisley **	A leisurely Wildflower Walk for learners
vc76	NS4861		Meet 6.30pm on South Avenue (nr. No.22) Postcode: PA2 7SP Grid Ref: NS488617	(paths, wet areas, open ground)
9th June **	Sunday all day	10.00	Whitelee Windfarm **	A largely unrecorded or under-recorded area
vc76	NS5448 NS5449		Meet 10am at Whitelee Visitor Centre Postcode: G76 0QQ Grid Ref: NS530490	(tracks, wet areas, rough ground)
12th June **	Wednesday all day	10.00	Inchmurrin island **	A treat - nice to visit Britain's largest non-maritime island!
vc99	NS3786 NS3886 NS3787 NS3887		Meet 10am <u>sharp</u> at ferry carpark, Arden Postcode: G83 8RD Grid Ref: NS360847	(paths, woodland, wet areas, rough ground, loch shore)
WEDNESDAY! 12 people max. Cost of ferry is £8 return. Advance booking essential via Michael.				

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
TRAINING				
15th June **	Saturday all day	10.00	South Haugh, Hamilton **	In partnership with the local Countryside Ranger
vc77	NS7255 NS7355		Meet 10am at Smithy Croft carpark Postcode: ML3 7UL Grid Ref: NS733550	(tracks, paths, riverbank, rough ground, wet areas)
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22nd June	Saturday all day	10.00	Falls of Clyde, New Lanark	Workshop: Start to Identify Grasses
This is an official BSBI Workshop - advance booking required :				(a one-day entry-level course on Grass identification)
Booking open at: https://botanicalsocietyofbritainandireland.beaconforms.com/form/49442031				
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TRAINING				
23rd June **	Sunday all day	10.00	Duncryne, near Gartocharn **	A wee hill with a famous view!
vc99	NS4385 NS4386		Meet 10am at Gartocharn Hall (enter by Church Road and go to end) Postcode: G83 8NF Grid Ref: NS428863	(tracks, paths, seashore, rough ground)
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28th-30th June Weekend			Dumfries area	Annual Bramble Workshop
This is an official BSBI Workshop: advance booking required (details on request)				(weekend workshop on Bramble identification)
Contact Angus Hannah: butesedge@yahoo.co.uk				Local accommodation not provided
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30th June **	Sunday all day	10.00	Floak Bridge **	Rough walking in under-recorded area
vc76	NS5049 NS5050	NS5150	Meet 10am at Whitelee Visitor Centre Postcode: G76 0QQ Grid Ref: NS530490 (followed by transfer to site in one or two cars)	(roadside, boggy areas, rough ground)
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Please make sure to read the blurb at the beginning of the Programme.

You are welcome to join any of the above outings at your convenience. No previous knowledge is required - and you will undoubtedly learn stuff!

Advance notice

There will be a similar spread of outings from July to early October, but here is advance notice of some events you may wish to plan ahead for:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
13th July	Saturday all day	10.00	Dumfries	Workshop: Sedges & Rushes <i>(a one-day course on identification of Sedges & Rushes)</i>
<i>This is an official BSBI Workshop - advance booking required: Booking open at: https://botanicalsocietyofbritainandireland.beaconforms.com/form/75db24eb</i>				
13th July	Saturday all day	10.00	Leap Moor area	A long day of rough, moorland walking (several miles)
vc76	NS2370 NS2470	NS2269	Meet 10am at Greenock Cut Visitor Centre Postcode: PA16 9LS Grid Ref: NS247721	(tracks, boggy areas, rough ground)
20th July	Saturday all day	10.00	Ben Lawers	Grasses, Sedges and Rushes <i>(field training day suitable for all levels of experience)</i>
<i>This is an official BSBI Workshop: advance booking required (details on request) Contact Faith Anstey: faithanstey@gmail.com</i>				
21st July	Sunday all day	09.00	Gana Hill	Recording in rough, remote area - not for the faint-hearted!
vc77	NS9401 NS9501	NS9601	Meet 9am at Daer Water Treatment Works Postcode: ML12 6TH Grid Ref: NS975094 Note very early start. <u>Advance Booking essential</u>. Contact Michael for full details.	(long walk in remote country: rough hillsides, wet areas)
27th July	Saturday all day	10.00	Fort William	Workshop: Plant Families <i>(a one-day introduction to identifying plants by family)</i>
<i>This is an official BSBI Workshop - advance booking required: Booking open at: https://botanicalsocietyofbritainandireland.beaconforms.com/form/25cdc994</i>				
3rd August	Saturday all day	10.00	RSPB Loch Lomond Reserve	Aquatics day at Wards Ponds (marshy ground)
vc99	NS4487 NS4488		Meet 10am at first carpark Postcode: (G83 8SB) Grid Ref: NS438870 (On A811, entrance is a couple of bends east of sign to Caravan Park) <u>Advance Booking essential</u>, due to limitation on group size. Contact Michael for full details.	(paths, tracks, woodland, grassland, wet areas) NB do not follow postcode - use grid reference!

**** Public Transport information** (please check all relevant details yourself)

[On behalf of everyone, big thanks to those who have researched all of this!]

21st April (Sunday) - Croftamie

Bus: from Balloch 9.40 arriving Croftamie at 10.10am, McColls No. 309 (earliest bus on Sundays)

27th April (Saturday) - Erskine Harbour

Bus: nearest stop is Bridgewater Shopping Centre, a 5-10 minute walk to the meeting point

- McGills 757 Clydebank Bus Station to Paisley via Dalnottar, Erskine Bridge, **Erskine Bridgewater Shopping Centre**, Glasgow Airport and New Sneddon Street Paisley. Every 30 minutes, see timetable and map: <https://www.mcgillsbuses.co.uk/services/McG/757>
 - McGills 23 Glasgow to Erskine via Govan, Braehead, Renfrew, Inchinnan (x23 goes via M8 then Braehead, bypassing Govan). Every 20-30 minutes, see timetable and map: <https://www.mcgillsbuses.co.uk/services/McG/23>
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4th May (Saturday) - Stoneymollan, near Balloch

Bus: nearest stop is Lomond Way or by train to Balloch Railway Station, both a 10-15 minute walk to the meeting point

- First Greater Glasgow 1, from Glasgow to Balloch via Clydebank and Dumbarton, every 30 minutes, see timetable at <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/greater-glasgow/plan-journey/timetables?search=1>

Train: Glasgow to Balloch, every 30 minutes, find times at <https://www.scotrail.co.uk>

5th May (Sunday) - Morgan Glen, Larkhall

Bus: nearest stop is Trinity Church on Union Street

- Whitelaw Coaches, 250, East Kilbride/Hamilton to Larkhall or 254 Hamilton Bus Station to Larkhall
Every 60 mins from East Kilbride, every 30 minutes from Hamilton. See journey planner at <https://whitelaws.co.uk/services/local-bus-service/>

Train: Glasgow to Larkhall arrive 9am and 10am then 15 minute walk to meeting place.

11th May (Saturday) - Castle Semple Loch, Lochwinnoch

Train: Glasgow to Ardrossan/Largs via Paisley and Lochwinnoch, every 30 minutes, see Scotrail website <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/>

Lochwinnoch Train Station is a 15-20 minute walk to the meeting point. (Possible pick-up from station by arrangement.)

18th May (Saturday) - Viewpark, near Uddingston

Train:

- to Uddingston: Glasgow Central (high level) to Edinburgh dep. 9.15, arr. 9.29 <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/>
- to Uddingston: Glasgow Central (high level) to Lanark dep. 9.21, arr. 9.33 <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/>

(Pick up from Uddingston Station at 9.35 can be arranged if required - contact Michael)

23rd May (Thursday evening) - New Stevenston

Train: half-hourly from Glasgow Queen St to Holytown, then 20 minute walk to meeting place

25th May (Saturday) - Whitelee Visitor Centre, for Dunwan Dam

Not accessible by public transport. Nearest train station is Hairmyres East Kilbride or bus to Eaglesham (FirstBus No.4a) but would need private transport from there.

26th May (Sunday) - Overtoun House, for Loch Bowie

Bus: nearest stop is Stop after Arnold Clark Dumbarton Renault, on Dumbarton Road

- First Greater Glasgow 1, from Glasgow to Balloch via Clydebank and Dumbarton, every 30 minutes. (Possible pick up opposite Logspan on Milton Brae, just off Dumbarton Road)
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27th May (Monday) - Hamilton Low Parks

Bus: nearest stop Keith Street, before Palace Grounds Road, then 15 minute walk to meeting point

- JMB Travel 41 Hamilton to Lanark, from Hamilton bus station, every 15 minutes, see map and [timetable](#).
- First Greater Glasgow 201, Hairmyres to Petersburn via East Kilbride, High Blantyre and Hamilton, every 15 minutes, see journey planner at <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/greater-glasgow>
- First Greater Glasgow 266, Hamilton to Shotts, from Hamilton bus station, every 10-15 minutes, see journey planner at <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/greater-glasgow>

Train: to Hamilton West, then 15-20 minute walk to meeting place.

1st June (Saturday) - Luss, for Glen Luss

Bus: nearest stop is at Luss (possible pick up from there by arrangement)

- Scottish Citylink 914/915/916/926/975/976 Glasgow to Fort William/Uig/Campbelltown/Oban via Clydebank, Dumbarton. Check times - limited service and stops details at <https://www.citylink.co.uk/travelling-with-citylink/>
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5th June (Wednesday evening) - Thornly Park, Paisley

Bus: nearest stop is the end of Thornly Park Avenue on Neilston Road, a 5 minute walk from meeting point.

- McGills 51/51A from Paisley to Auchenback, Barrhead via Neilston Road, every 15 minutes till 6pm then every 30 minutes. See timetable and map <https://www.mcgillsbuses.co.uk/services/McG/51>

Train: pickup from Barrhead Railway Station by arrangement

9th June (Sunday) - Whitelee Visitor Centre

Not accessible by public transport. Nearest train station is Hairmyres East Kilbride or bus to Eaglesham (FirstBus No.4a) but would need private transport from there. Possible pick up from Barrhead Rail Station or Patterton Rail Station by arrangement, only on this date.

12th June (Wednesday) - Inchmurrin

Bus: nearest stop is at Arden on A82 opposite the Duck Bay Marina (possible pick up from there by arrangement)

- Scottish Citylink 914/915/916/926/975/976 Glasgow to Fort William/Uig/Campbelltown/Oban via Clydebank, Dumbarton. Limited service and stops details at <https://www.citylink.co.uk/travelling-with-citylink/>
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15th June (Saturday) - Hamilton, South Haugh

Bus: nearest stop A72 Carlisle Road, opposite Old Avon Road, then short walk to meeting point

- Whitelaw Coaches, 250, East Kilbride/Hamilton to Larkhall ; 253 Wishaw General/Hamilton to Coalburn; or 254 Hamilton Bus Station to Larkhall Whitelaws Coaches. every 30 minutes from Hamilton. See journey planner at <https://whitelaws.co.uk/services/local-bus-service/>

Train: to Hamilton Central then 20 minute walk to meeting place.

23rd June (Sunday) - Gartocharn, for Duncryne

Bus: from Balloch 9.40 arriving Gartocharn at 9.46am, McColls No. 309 (earliest bus on Sundays)

30th June (Sunday) - Whitelee Visitor Centre, for Floak Bridge

Not accessible by public transport. Nearest train station is Hairmyres East Kilbride or bus to Eaglesham (FirstBus No.4a) but would need private transport from there.
