

Field Botany in vc76, vc77 & vc99

Fieldwork Programme, April-July 2025

Important: please read carefully!

Here is our programme for the first half of the 2025 season.

(Some events planned elsewhere, or by other organisations, are 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' (species not seen in a place before) and 're-finds' (species 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. **NS2785**).

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).

Plant training: we are all constantly learning from each other and will always welcome questions and discussion about plants and nature - but we have earmarked 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).

There are several mountain or hillwalking outings on this year's programme. 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

This year we've listed the leader of each outing by their initials (next to the start time: full names at the foot of the document for reference). However there are occasions when leaders swop or when others step in, so we reserve the right to change!

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

Outings for all three vice-counties are included on this single published Programme.

Please note: not all outings are at weekends and start times differ!

Public transport: for venues with transport links nearby, the code **[B]** (bus) or **[T]** (train) is shown after the place-name.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
26th April	Saturday all day	10.00 MP	Luss village [B]	Breaking in the season gently in a famous place!
vc99	NS3592 NS3692		Meet 10am in big carpark south of Hotel Postcode: G83 8NY Grid Ref: NS358927	(paths, open ground, wet areas, woodland, stream)
Please car share if possible: drivers should book with Michael at least <u>two days in advance</u> for special parking details.				
27th April	Sunday all day	10.00 PW	Barnhill, Blantyre [B] [T]	A gentle walk to begin the Lanarkshire season
vc77	NS6757 NS6756		Meet 10am at large lay-by opposite 115 Bardykes Road (or park on streets nearby) Postcode: G72 9UH Grid Ref: NS679575	(paths, open ground, boggy ground, woodland, riverbank)
3rd May	Saturday all day	10.00 PW	Clyde margin near Inchinnan	A botanically neglected zone in recent times
vc76	NS4968 NS4970 NS4969		Meet 10am at large parking lay-by, just north of the Inchinnan road bridges Postcode: PA4 9EE Grid Ref: NS491682	(tracks, open ground, boggy ground, seashore)
TRAINING				
4th May	Sunday all day	10.00 MP	Balloch Castle Country Park [B] [T]	Refreshing the record in a rich environment
vc99	NS3982 NS3882		Meet 10am at <u>lower</u> carpark in Balloch (entrance opposite Waterhouse Inn) Postcode: G83 8LE Grid Ref: NS393820	(roads, paths, open ground, woodland, wet areas)
7th May	Wednesday all day	10.00 PW	Rouken Glen Park [B] [T]	Careful plant-hunting in a famous public park
vc76	NS5457 NS5458		Meet 10am at Rouken Glen Garden Centre Postcode: G46 7JL Grid Ref: NS547586	(paths, open ground, boggy ground, woodland, riverbank)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
TRAINING				
10th May	Saturday all day	10.00 PW/MP	Bellziehill (Old Mine Nature Park) [B]	An area neglected by botanists since 1990!
vc77	NS7160 NS7159		Meet 10am at foot of Sanderson Avenue, Fallside (west of Bellshill) Postcode: G71 6JR Grid Ref: NS7148 6054	(tracks, open ground, rough ground, boggy ground, woodland)
17th May	Saturday all day	09.30 MP	Inchtavannach island, Loch Lomond	An opportunity to record plants on this large island
vc99	NS3690 NS3791 NS3691		Meet 9.30am at Arden parking area (exit at Arden roundabout on A82, signed 'Inchmurrin Island' and keep left) Postcode: G83 8RD Grid Ref: NS360847	(paths, open ground, wet areas, woodland, loch shore)
Note earlier start time. Advance Booking essential, due to limited numbers and need for briefing. Contact Michael for full details.				
18th May	Sunday all day	10.00 PW	Blantyre Priory [B] [T]	Woodland walk above the River Clyde
vc77	NS6858 NS6859		Meet 10am at David Livingstone Centre 165 Station Road, Blantyre Postcode: G72 9BY Grid Ref: NS694584	(paths, open ground, boggy ground, woodland, riverbank)
TRAINING				
24th May	Saturday all day	10.00 MP	Bellahouston Park [B]	Easy walking in a public park
vc76	NS5463 NS5563		Meet 10am at Glasgow Club Bellahouston (Sports Centre on Bellahouston Drive) Postcode: G52 1HH Grid Ref: NS546639	(paths, woodland, open ground)
25th May	Sunday all day	10.00 LH	Aldownick Glen, Rhu	Almost no records here for over 45 years!
vc99	NS2785		Meet 10am at small parking area, down access drive opposite 36 Lineside Walk Postcode: G84 8JH Grid Ref: NS270845	(paths, open ground, wet areas, woodland, stream)

**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!**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
31st May	Saturday all day	10.00 MP	Raith Haugh, Hamilton [B] [T]	Hosted by Countryside Ranger (area normally inaccessible)
vc77	NS7157 NS7158		Meet 10am at "Hampton by Hilton" Hotel (at Hamilton Racecourse, Bothwell Road) Postcode: ML3 0DW Grid Ref: NS714570	(tracks, open ground, rough ground, boggy ground, riverbank)
1st June	Sunday all day	10.00 CS	Locher Wood	Rough walking in upland woodland
vc76	NS3463 (and adjoining)		Meet 10am near Locher Bridge on B786 Postcode: PA10 2QA Grid Ref: NS3528 6401 (small carpark: car-share if possible!)	(tracks, paths, woodland, boggy areas, steep or rough ground) NB postcode is approximate - use grid reference!
6th June	Friday evening	18.00 MH	Croftamie [B]	Deepening the record and hunting for re-finds
vc99	NS4786 NS4886		Meet 6pm at 'The But and Ben' Postcode: G63 0EU Grid Ref: NS477861 Evening walk: note start time.	(paths, open ground, wet areas, woodland)
7th June	Saturday all day	10.00 KM	Sergeantlaw & Bardrain Moss	Rough walking in upland woodland
vc76	NS4459		Meet 10am parking area on west side of Gleniffer Road, directly below the pylon lines Postcode: G78 3AN Grid Ref: NS4513 6017 (carpark is near the crest of Gleniffer Road, between the large substation and the carpark for Gleniffer Braes) NB postcode is approximate - use grid reference!	(open ground, woodland, boggy areas, rough ground)
7th June	Saturday all day	10.00	Perth	Workshop: Plant Families
This is an official BSBI Workshop - advance booking required: Booking open at: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/botanicalsocietyofbritainireland/1581546				(a one-day introduction to identifying plants by family)
9th June	Monday all day	10.00 PW/MP	Harthill [B]	Low-level walk, close to the vice-county boundary
vc77	NS9065 NS9165		Meet 10am in parking area on B7066, opposite Harvest Centre, 113 West Main St. Postcode: ML7 5RX Grid Ref: NS900643	(tracks, open ground, rough ground, boggy ground, woodland)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
12th June	Thursday evening	18.30 KM	Harelaw Reservoir, near Barrhead	An evening walk to see interesting plants
vc76	NS4859		Meet 6.30pm at Brownside Farm Postcode: PA2 7TX Grid Ref: NS489607 Evening walk: note start time.	(tracks, open ground, wet areas)
14th June	Saturday all day	10.00 KW	Smeath Hill	Challenging moorland walking (possibly a long day)
vc76	NS3166 (and adjoining)		Meet 10am at Lukeston Farm Postcode: PA11 3SL Grid Ref: NS330665 Advance Booking essential, due to remote area. Contact Michael for full details.	(open moorland, boggy areas, rough ground)
14th June	Saturday all day	10.00	Holyrood Park, Edinburgh	Workshop: Start to Identify Grasses
This is an official BSBI Workshop - advance booking required: Booking open at: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/botanicalsocietyofbritainireland/1581633				(a one-day entry-level course on Grass identification)
TRAINING				
15th June	Sunday all day	09.00 MH	Parlan Hill	Challenging hill-walking day, no excuses, no alternatives!
vc99	NN3218 NN3318 NN3317	NN3417 NN3517 NN3516	Meet 9am at Beinglas campsite, Inverarnan Postcode: G83 7DX Grid Ref: NN321187 Note very early start. This day is being led by Matt Harding.	(paths, high moorland, bog areas, very rough ground)
21st June	Saturday all day	10.00 MP	Ardenconnel Wood, Rhu	Detailed plant-hunting in a small, old wood
vc99	NS2684 NS2784		Meet 10am at small parking area, down access drive opposite 36 Lineside Walk Postcode: G84 8JH Grid Ref: NS270846	(paths, woodland, wet areas)
TRAINING				
26th June	Thursday all day	10.00 PW/MP	Calderglen Country Park, East Kilbride [B]	Updating the record in this rich environment
vc77	NS6552 NS6553	NS6551	Meet 10am at main carpark Postcode: G75 0QZ Grid Ref: NS652526	(tracks, open ground, rough ground, boggy ground, woodland)

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29th June	Sunday all day	09.00 PW/MP	Bailevoulin & Auchengaich Hills	Choice: a hard hill day or a low-level walk (steep, rough hillsides - or road, open ground, riverbank)
vc99	NS2989 NS2990 NS2988	NS2890 NS2889 NS2888	Meet 9am at Arden parking area (exit at Arden roundabout on A82, signed 'Inchmurrin Island' and keep left) Postcode: G83 8RD Grid Ref: NS360847	(we will then drive on in convoy)
Note very early start. <u>Advance Booking essential</u>, due to need for shuttle cars. Contact Michael for full details.				
<i>5th-6th July Weekend</i>		<i>Dunbar, East Lothian</i>		<i>Annual Bramble Workshop</i>
<i>This is an official BSBI Workshop: advance booking required (details on request)</i>				<i>(weekend workshop on Bramble identification)</i>
<i>Contact Angus Hannah: butesedge@yahoo.co.uk</i>				<i>Local accommodation not provided</i>
2nd July	Wednesday all day	10.00 PW	Greenhead Moss, Wishaw [B] [T]	Large public area (tracks, open ground, rough ground, ponds, boggy ground)
vc77	NS8054 NS8055	NS8154 NS8155	Meet 10am at Creamery Road carpark Postcode: ML2 8GA Grid Ref: NS805544	
5th July	Saturday all day	10.00 PW	Creuch Hill	A day in the moors: rough, tough walking (track, rough grassland, wet areas, open ground)
vc76	NS2567 NS2568	NS2667 NS2668	Meet 10am at pull-in area near summit of Old Largs Road Postcode: PA16 9LX Grid Ref: NS251678	NB postcode very approximate - use grid reference!

**With advance notice, lifts or pick-ups from stations can often be arranged.
 If this would enable you to participate in any difficult-to-reach outing,
 please contact Michael or Peter to see what may be possible.**

Advance notice

The programme for the second half of the season will come to you by early June.

One highlight will be on Sat. 19th July when our network will reach the summit of our first Munro (Ben Vane). Save The Date!

Leaders for outings

CS Catriona Scriven

KM Kirsty Menzies

KW Keith Watson

LH Lucy Hollingworth

MH Matt Harding

MP Michael Philip

PW Peter Wiggins

Big thanks to all who have offered to lead or 'host' outings this year - an all-time record!

We're always looking for more people to do this, so if you'd like to help, let's talk . . .