



BSBI Field Meetings Programme 2008

Meetings marked with an * are particularly suitable for beginners

SATURDAY 5th APRIL

***CONIFER WORKSHOP, ALLT DDERW, NEAR ABERYSTWYTH,
CARDIGANSHIRE. (v.c.46)**

Leader: Andy Jones

Assemble at 10.30am in the car park of the Countryside Council for Wales (first right on the road to Bont Goch, Penrhynoch, off the main A4159, between Bow Street and Capel Dewi SN628 835). We will then move on to the experimental arboretum established by the Forestry Commission before returning to look at established parkland trees in the grounds of Plas Gogerddan, to be followed by an indoor workshop on conifer taxa. Mostly footpaths on moderate to steep gradients but some scrambling through thickets for the more adventurous. Waterproofs and stout walking shoes essential. Recommended reading: "Collins Tree Guide" by Owen Johnson. Numbers limited. Preference will be given to unsuccessful applicants for our 2007 conifer workshop.

Bookings with SAE please to: Mr. R.A.Jones, CCW, Plas Gogerddan, Bow Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 3EE. Tel. 01970 821119.

SATURDAY 26th APRIL

**NEW FOREST, HAMPSHIRE (v.c. 11)
JOINT BSBI / HAMPSHIRE FLORA GROUP MEETING**

Leader: Martin Rand

This meeting is to update records of *Pulmonaria longifolia* for the Hampshire Rare Plant Register. Many records in the central New Forest are old, and it has declined considerably in some sites since the 1960s. On the other hand new site management initiatives in some of the woodland Inclosures may revive some populations. Attendees will be despatched in small groups to widespread sites across the central and southern Forest with the aim of getting the record up to date and observing site condition. Bring GPS, mobile phone and clipboard if you have them. Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07957 361015 or email vc1recorder@hantsplants.org.uk. Numbers not limited, but please book in advance as he would like some idea of numbers and available vehicles for planning purposes.

SATURDAY 3rd MAY

LLANGOLLEN, DENBIGHSHIRE. (v.c. 50)

Leader: Emily Meilleur

A walk along lanes and hedgebanks and around the castle at Dinas Bran, providing an opportunity to enjoy the spring flowers, including one or two scarce species and with beautiful views of the valley and surrounding hills. Meet at 11am in the car park at Dinas Bran school at SJ215 424. Please send bookings with sae to: Emily Meilleur, Flat 6, Birmingham House, Goodman Street, Llanberis, Gwynedd LL55 4HL. Tel. 07791951233.

**SATURDAY 10th MAY to SATURDAY 17th MAY
ISLES OF SCILLY (v.c. 1b)**

Leader: Rosemary Parslow

A field meeting to the Isles of Scilly is planned for next spring. The Isles of Scilly are an archipelago of c150 islands some thirty miles off the coast of Cornwall. Most of the islands are very small, with the five largest inhabited. We will stay on the main island of St Mary's, in Hugh Town, where we will stay close to the harbour from where we can take launches to visit the other islands.

The Isles of Scilly are all granite; strangely weathered tors and rocks are a great feature of the islands. Brilliantly coloured lichens are evidence of the clarity of the air. Nowhere is far from the sea, so habitats are mainly coastal, maritime heath, rocky shores, sand dunes and brilliant white beaches. Inland there are wetlands, fields with granite walls, pine and elm shelterbelts, green hedges of exotic shrubs around the bulb fields (we should be able to get access to a bulb farm to see some of the wonderful arable weeds). A visit to the famous 'sub-tropical' Abbey Gardens on Tresco is an option.

Although the flora of the islands has similarities and links with both Cornwall and the Channel Islands they are unique. Because of the mild winters many plants are species that are of more southern distribution. The climate has also enabled many alien plants to flourish and become established. Some of the specialities we hope to see include *Viola kitaibeliana*, *Ophioglossum azoricum*, *Ornithopus pinnatus*, *Briza minor*, *Silene gallica* and *Fumaria occidentale*.

The visit will be guided by Rosemary Parslow (vc recorder & author of the New Naturalist on the Isles of Scilly published in August 2007) but participants will be expected to book their own accommodation. This excursion is by now probably fully booked as it has been previously advertised but it is suggested you contact Rosemary in case of any cancellations.

rparslow@cix.co.uk

SUNDAY 11th MAY 2008

*** WESTER KITTOCHSIDE, LANARKSHIRE (v.c. 77)**

Leader: Clare O'Reilly

Basic introduction to vegetative grass identification

Participant standard: No previous knowledge of grasses is required.

This training day includes a morning classroom session in the National Museum of Rural Life Visitor Centre. This will cover the vegetative differences between the grass, sedge and rush families and vegetative characters used to identify grasses. In the afternoon there will be field work on the adjacent NTS Kittochside Farm to practice using a key to identify common vegetative grasses in a range of habitats. Resources for vegetative grass identification will be compared and evaluated. The leader is a trained adult education teacher and the day will be carefully structured, aiming at complete beginners, but with tuition differentiated to suit more experienced attendees.

Time: 10:15am for 10:30am start

Please book with Mrs Dot Dahl, Easter Ballindalloch, Glen Lednock, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2LY e-mail dotdahl@talk21.com who has kindly agreed to take bookings on behalf of the leader, as places are limited. Further details, including accommodation listings, will be provided on booking. If you have any specific learning needs or queries, please contact the leader by email clare@ptyxis.com

SUNDAY 18th MAY 2008
*** ARTHUR'S SEAT, MIDLOTHIAN (v.c. 83)**
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Douglas McKean

Holyrood Park's dramatic hills and crags give Edinburgh its distinctive skyline. They also provide grassland habitats for a remarkably diverse and interesting flora. We hope to see species such as Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*), Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*) amongst many others. Historic Scotland manage the park and we anticipate that one of their rangers would be able to talk about its conservation management. The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning and we would particularly welcome anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before.

Rail & bus stations within reasonably short walking distance. Places will be limited. For further information, and to book, please get in touch with Mrs Dot Dahl, Easter Ballindalloch, Glen Lednock, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2LY e-mail dotdahl@talk21.com who has kindly agreed to take bookings on behalf of Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer.

MONDAY 26th & TUESDAY 27th MAY
ARDMORE AND TEMPLEMICHAEL, CO. WATERFORD (v.c. H6)
Leader: Paul Green

The Monday will be a circular cliff top walk at Ardmore where we should see a good selection of coastal species as well as cowslips and the hybrid between *Rosa rugosa* and *R. pimpinellifolia*. We will try to re-find *Dactylorhiza majalis*, not seen since 1997. Meet at 11am by parking area at X191.777 by the tourist information centre on the sea front.

On the Tuesday we will walk by the tidal River Blackwater by the ruins of Templemichael Castle and Molana Abbey. This is a good area for woodland species including *Orchis mascula* and *Daphne laureola*. It is a rich area for ferns including some of the rarest in the county. Meet at 10.30am in the small car park by the ruins of Templemichael Castle at X080.821. The car park is on a bend and is easy to miss.

It is easy flat walking both days along well worn paths. Bring packed lunches.

Contact details: tel 00353 (0) 51 445541, mobile 00353 (0) 87 7782496, or email paulnewross@eircom.net

SATURDAY 7th JUNE
*** GAITBARROWS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE, WEST LANCS (v.c. 60)**
Limestone Pavement Flora Training Day
Leader: Paul Ashton

Participant level: Complete beginners to improvers. No previous knowledge is required.

This course aims to provide an introduction to the flora of the limestone pavement at Gaitbarrows NNR. It is also hoped, if time allows, to look at wet meadow vegetation and the hydrosere at Hawes Water. The day will include structured tuition on the identification of the flora of this wonderful site. Hence beginners are very welcome. However, experienced botanists are also likely to find much of interest.

Please book with Paul Ashton, 01695 584260 (day) or 01257 424587 (eve) ashtonp@edgehill.ac.uk, as places are limited. Further details will be provided on booking.

MONDAY 9th JUNE

*** FINGRINGHOE WICK, ESSEX (v.c. 19)**
Introduction to Grass Identification Training Day
Leader: Stephen Clarkson

Participant level: Complete beginners. No previous knowledge of grasses, sedges and rushes is required.

This training day will include structured tuition on the differences (and similarities) between grasses, sedges and rushes with the stress on grass identification. The day will start with a classroom session to get to know the parts of these groups, and vegetative features for helping to identify grasses in particular. There will be a hands on practical session on various groups of grasses followed by field work using keys. The reserve has many differing habitats, including some saltmarsh, such that a wide range of material can be covered. At the end of the day you should have a good grounding in the identification of many common grasses.

Please book with Stephen Clarkson on 01206 791209 or SteveC1100@aol.com (be careful with the "el" and the "l") as places are limited to 12. Further details will be sent on booking.

SATURDAY 14th JUNE 2008
***PASS OF KILLIECRANKIE, MID & EAST PERTHS (v.c. 88 & 89)**
Introduction to Ancient Woodland Training Day
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Martin Robinson

Participant Level: Beginners, especially those wanting some tuition on how to record wild plants.

"The Pass is extremely narrow between high mountains, with the Garry running beneath in a deep, dark fove, and a rocky channel overhung with trees, forming a scene of horrible grandeur" wrote Thomas Pennant in 1769. This meeting aims to explore the wildflowers inhabiting this ancient woodland gorge. We hope to see many interesting species such as Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*), Common Wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*) and Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*). The site is managed by the National Trust for Scotland and they have kindly offered to say a few words about its management. The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning wildflower identification and recording using field recording cards.

We can arrange to pick up from nearby Pitlochry, where there are rail and bus connections. Meet at the NTS Visitor Centre car park. As places will be limited please book. To do so, or for further information, contact Mrs Dot Dahl, Easter Ballindalloch Glen Lednock, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2LY e-mail dotdahl@talk21.com who has kindly agreed to take bookings on behalf of Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer.

FRIDAY 20th TO SUNDAY 22nd JUNE 2008

GIRVAN, AYRSHIRE (v.c. 75)

Leaders: Dave Lang & Jim McIntosh

This two day meeting is aimed to help the Vice-county Recorder cover the rich and diverse habitats in the south of Ayrshire, using the delightful seaside town of Girvan as a base. Whilst the focus will be on tetrad recording, there will be ample opportunity to see some of the area's specialities including Isle of Man Cabbage (*Coinceya monensis* subsp. *monensis*), Oysterplant (*Mertensia maritima*) and Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*).

There are rail & bus connections to Girvan. The meeting sets off promptly at 09:30 on Saturday morning. We would be pleased to meet up with any members who might wish to travel on the Friday for dinner on that evening. For further information, about accommodation, etc, and to book, please get in touch with Dave Lang on davelang71@tiscali.co.uk or write to him at Flat 3/3, 6 Windsor Street, Woodside, Glasgow G20 7NA.

SATURDAY 21st & SUNDAY 22nd JUNE

SOUTH DERRY (VC H40)

Leader: Dave Riley

On Saturday, we will visit sites mainly in woodland along the Roe Valley, meeting at the Dog Leap Centre of Roe valley Country Park (C 678201) at 11.00am.

On Sunday, we will go to varied estuarine and ruderal habitats along the Lough Foyle shore, meeting at the Car Park where the A2 crosses the River Faughan (C492206) at 10.00am.

Both days may include short diversions in pursuit of orchids.

Contact: tel 0044 (0) 28 77750463 or email dave.h.riley@virgin.net

TUESDAY 24th JUNE to TUESDAY 1st JULY

VALLE de BENASQUE, ARAGONESE PYRENEES

Leaders: Teresa Farino and Stuart Hedley

At the foot of the highest peak in the Spanish Pyrenees (Aneto, at 3,408 metres), the Benasque valley forms a truly dramatic backdrop to our activities, with snow-clad peaks dropping abruptly to rushing mountain streams, a sprinkling of small glacial lakes known as *ibones*, extensive forests of European silver-fir and mountain pine, flower-rich rock-gardens on both granite and limestone, and – last but not least – some simply glorious haymeadows.

We will be based for the whole of our stay in the charming village of Benasque itself, from which we are well-placed to explore the rich diversity of surrounding habitats with a minimum of driving. Among the highlights are the fabulous damp meadows at Ampriu, a chair-lift ascent to over 2,200 metres, the limestone rock-gardens above the Hospital de Benasque, and the spectacular swallow-hole of the Forau de Aiguallut. Although the main emphasis of the trip will be on the flora, there are around 90 species of butterflies which we expect to see.

This excursion has been previously advertised in the September issue of *BSBI News* and at the Annual Exhibition Meeting but places may still be available. For further details contact Teresa Farino, Apartado de Correoa 59, 39570 Potes, Cantabria, Spain; Tel: 00 34 942 735154; teresa@iberian_wildlife.com

SATURDAY 28th JUNE
ARAN MOUNTAINS, LLANUWCHLLYN, MERIONETH. (v.c. 48)
Leader: Sarah Stille

A meeting to explore a little-botanised montane area, now more accessible following the introduction of the CROW act. This will be a high-level walk of up to 5 miles long and participants must come well equipped. If the weather is inclement, a low-level walk will be substituted. Meet at 10am in the car park at Llanuwchllyn SH879 297 to arrange car sharing. Bookings with sae please to: Mrs. S.E.Stille, The Quillet, Berwyn Street, Llandrillo, Corwen LL21 0TH. Tel. 01490 440418.

SATURDAY 5th JULY
PENYBRYN, CARDIGANSHIRE. (v.c. 46)
Leader: Arthur Chater

A meeting to explore sea cliffs, sand-dunes, coastal slopes and woodland with a good range of species and of coastal variants. Moderately strenuous, please bring stout footwear and packed lunch. Meet at 11am in the National Trust car park at Llanborth, Penbryn, SN296 521 (café, toilets, fee for non-members). Bookings with sae please to: Mr. A.O.Chater, Windover, Penyrangor, Aberystwyth SY23 1BJ. (or by email aochater@nildram.co.uk) Tel. 01970 617409.

SATURDAY 5th & SUNDAY 6th JULY
ACHILL ISLAND, CO MAYO (VC H27)
Leader: Gerry Sharkey

Meet on the Corraun (mainland) side of the Achill Sound Bridge (L739 998) each morning at 10:30 a.m. when weather and conditions will help decide the exact sites to be visited on the day. Please let Gerry Sharkey know to expect you, and if possible provide a phone number of where you will stay, so he can contact you with more detail or with any change in plan. Contact: tel (weekday daytime) ++353 (0) 16166692 or (mobile) 087 6202550; email gsharkey@patodonnell.com

SUNDAY 6th JULY
LAKENHEATH FEN RSPB RESERVE, SUFFOLK (v.c. 26)
Leader: Norman Sills

Lakenheath Fen is a large wetland consisting mainly of reedbeds, as well as grazing marsh and poplar woods. The reserve is over a square mile of fen created on arable land by the RSPB in the late 1990s and forms one of the larger wetland-creation sites in the UK. The poplar woods are remnants of once-extensive poplar plantations used for match-production

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Centre at the reserve : TL719863 (car-park). The entrance is off the B1112 between Lakenheath and Hockwold villages and 200 yds north of Lakenheath railway station.

The walk is about three miles on level ground, with either grass or hardcore surfacing. Walking boots, at least, are advisable.

There are toilets at the reserve but no refreshments other than a (good quality) drinks machine.

Bookings to Kirsty Nutt (Information Officer) e-mail: kirsty.nutt@rspb.org.uk

Tel: 01842 863400 or RSPB Lakenheath Fen Reserve, Station Rd, Brandon, Suffolk IP26 9AD

SATURDAY 12th JULY
***CREEKSIDE CENTRE, DEPTFORD, S.E. LONDON (v.c. 16)**
Brownfield & Urban Plant Identification Training Day
Leader: Mark Spencer

Participant level: Beginners and those unfamiliar with urban non-native flora. Some knowledge of basic flowering plant identification would be advantageous.

The non-native flora of urban and brownfield habitats is a dynamic and important aspect of Britain's flora that often remains under-appreciated. The emphasis of this course will be on introducing urban non-native flora to those unfamiliar with it. The training will include structured tuition on the differences between various groups, including fleabanes and yellow-flowered crucifers. There will be fieldwork at a nearby site identifying various non-native flowering plants characteristic of brownfield sites. Please book with Mark Spencer on 020 7942 5787 or m.spencer@nhm.ac.uk as places are limited. Further details will be provided on booking. Some refreshments provided, but please bring your own lunch.

SATURDAY 12th JULY
RHOS LAWR CWRT, NEAR LLANDYSUL, CARDIGANSHIRE. (v.c.46)
Leader: David Wheeler (CCW reserves manager)

A National Nature Reserve and candidate Special Area of Conservation for its populations of *Drepanocladus vernicosus* (Slender green feather moss) and Marsh Fritillary butterfly, this is one of the best examples of humid Purple moor-grass 'Rhos' pasture in south west Wales. Other habitats include flushes, scrub, wet heath, marshy and dry grasslands. The field visit will include a practical exercise in describing these habitats through the National Vegetation Classification to see how this helps conservation and farm management. Meeting details will be provided on receipt of booking. Bookings with sae please to: Mr. R.A.Jones, CCW, Plas Gogerddan, Bow Street, Aberystwyth SY23 3EE. Tel. 01970 821119.

SATURDAY 12th JULY 2008
***LOCH LOMOND NATIONAL N.R., DUMBARTON (v.c. 99)**
General Training Day
Leader: Jim McIntosh

Participant Level: Beginners and improvers, especially new members.

A one day meeting to explore the wetland habitats of the mainland part of Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve, where the main tributary to Loch Lomond – the Endrick disgorges. We hope to see interesting species such as Scottish Dock (*Rumex aquaticus*), Tufted Loosestrife (*Lysimachia thrysiflora*) and Cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*). If water levels are low there is also the possibility of seeing a number of interesting aquatic species. The site is managed by SNH and we hope that their warden can accompany us and will say a few words about site management. For more information about Loch Lomond NNR see <http://www.snh.org.uk/nnr-scotland/> The emphasis of this field meeting will be on learning and we would particularly welcome anyone who has not been on a BSBI field meeting before.

We can arrange to pick up members up from Balloch railway station. For further information, and to book, please get in touch with Mrs Dot Dahl, Easter Ballindalloch, Glen Lednock, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2LY e-mail dotdahl@talk21.com who has kindly agreed to take bookings on behalf of Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer

SATURDAY 12th & SUNDAY 13th JULY
Co WESTMEATH, v.c. H 23
Leader: Con Breen

This will be meeting to explore and record a variety of habitats in the centre of the County. Meet on both days at Mullingar Railway Station at 10.30 am.
Further details from Con Breen, 101 Bettyglen, Dublin 5; tel 00353 (0) 18 313573, mobile 00353 (0) 86 3539295.

Saturday 19th July to Saturday 26th July
Glynhir mansion, Llandybie, Carmarthenshire, v.c. 44
Leaders: Kath and Richard Pryce

The annual Carmarthenshire Recording and Monitoring Meeting will include visits to well-botanised sites as well as areas in need of additional recording within the county. The meeting will cater for both experienced and inexperienced botanists and will provide an opportunity for the informal development of identification skills.

Glynhir is located about 2km east of Llandybie on the western flank of the Black Mountain at SN640151. The River Loughor runs through the estate and at one point plunges over a 10m waterfall into a rocky gorge where *Dryopteris aemula*, *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* and *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *trichomanes* are included among the ferns growing on the cliffs. There will be ample opportunity in the timetable to visit the site. Large parkland trees provide the setting to the mansion, including *Tilia cordata*, and there remains much scope for further discoveries to be made in the vicinity.

The mansion is run by the Jenkins family providing first class facilities including a large common room for the evening identification sessions. The cost of the week from lunchtime Sat 19th to breakfast on Sat 26th, including full board and packed lunches, will be approximately £400.00 but will be limited to about 20 participants. Accommodation for part of the week will be charged *pro rata*.

Please make initial bookings with the leaders as soon as possible. A 25% deposit will be required by Glynhir followed by full payment six weeks prior to the meeting. Bookings to Mr & Mrs R.D. Pryce, Trevethin, School Road, Pwll, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA15 4AL. Tel:/ Fax: 01554 775847; PryceEco@aol.com.

FRIDAY 18TH JULY to MONDAY 21ST JULY
THURSO, CAITHNESS (v.c. 109)
Leader: Ken Butler

Four full days to explore different aspects of the north-most mainland vice-county. Dunnet Head is an exposed high peaty headland with Alpine Bearberry (*Arctous alpinus*) and Prostrate Juniper (*Juniperus communis ssp. nana*). Munsary is one of the reserves of the flow country with peatland pool systems and a site for Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*). We can visit one of the east coast river valleys where many species reach their northern limit and spend a day on sandy, species-rich dune links where Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) and Scottish Primrose (*Primula scotica*) abound. We can also see speciality sites for the Estuarine Sedge (*Carex recta*), the Scottish Smallreed (*Calamagrostis scotica*) and the Curved Sedge (*Carex maritima*).

There are regular rail and bus services to Thurso from Inverness. The website www.caithness.org gives leads to accommodation and services. Please book with Ken Butler, Seaside Cottage, Thurso East, Caithness, KW14 8HN or e-mail Kbutler243@aol.com

SATURDAY 19th & SUNDAY 20th JULY
SITES IN CO. GALWAY (VC H15 & H16)
Leaders: John Conaghan & Micheline Sheehy Skeffington

On Saturday dry heath and shingle habitats to the west of Spiddal will be visited in order to extend the range of rarities such as *Viola lactea* and *Crambe maritima* which are known to occur further to the west. Meet at the car park at the sandy beach just east of Spiddal (M134.222) at 10.30 am.

On Sunday a number of wet fens and ponds south of Gort will be visited. Meet at the main square in Gort (M451.020) at 10.30 am. Wellies essential on Sunday. Further details from John Conaghan, 11 Dun Ard, Craughwell, Co. Galway; tel mobile 00353 (0) 87 2239858; enviroscope@indigo.ie

SATURDAY 26th JULY to SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST
ISLE OF ISLAY (v.c. 102)
Leader: Malcolm Ogilvie

The main purpose is to carry out a botanical survey of the RSPB's Loch Gruinart reserve, with an emphasis on wetland plants. There are extensive ditches and wetlands on the reserve and the only full survey was carried out 25 years ago. Wetland species found then, which have only been found at Gruinart or are rare elsewhere on the island, include *Ranunculus baudotii*, *Apium inundatum*, *Potamogeton berchtoldii* and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. Since the early 1990's some areas have been bunded so that water levels can be altered seasonally to encourage birdlife, and some fences replaced by ditches. One point of the survey will be to discover what new species have been gained and what may have declined or disappeared. Other habitats that can be covered during the week include groups of dubh lochans and a substantial area adjacent to the reserve of dunes. There will also be opportunities for botanising other botanically rich and special areas across the island, including sites for *Epipactis palustris* and *Cirsium dissectum*.

For further information and to book, please contact Malcolm Ogilvie, Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN Phone: 01496-850218. Fax: 0870-164-1397.
Email: MAOgilvie@indaal.demon.co.uk

SUNDAY 27th JULY
***CLATFORD ARBORETUM nr MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE (v.c. 7)**
'TREES, especially WILLOWS and POPLARS'
Leader: Jack Oliver

A one day meeting at the Clatford Arboretum between the A 4 and the River Kennet, 2 miles west of Marlborough. Most native trees and a number of introduced taxa are represented. Some of the willows are natural, some introduced to the site. Specialist collections include *Tilias*, *Sorbi* endemic to the British Isles and a few conifers held for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh World Conifer Conservation Programme. Any attention to difficult *Salix* and *Populus* taxa can therefore be diluted by other easier tree species!

Meet inside the western gate where there is parking at SU159. 689 off the Clatford Road just south of the A 4. Meeting to start at 10.a.m. but latecomers would easily find the group.

Bring a packed lunch or use tourist cafes in Avebury or Marlborough.

For fuller details and maps send s.a.e. to: Jack (J.E.) Oliver, High View, Rhyls Lane, Lockeridge, Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4ED. Tel: 01672 861 251

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST
BURLISH TOP, WORCESTERSHIRE (v.c. 37)
Leader: Bert Reid

Burlish Top is an area of dry heath situated between Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn. Heathland is a rare habitat in Worcestershire, and this is one of the few remaining fragments of what was once a much larger area of heath. Among the plants we hope to see are *Corynephorus canescens* in a rare inland site and the locally scarce *Filago minima*, *F. vulgaris*, *Jasione montana*, *Ornithopus perpusillus*, *Potentilla agrentea* and *Scleranthus annuus*.

Meet at Blackstone car park on the A456 at SO795744 at 10.30. Bring lunch. Bookings to Bert Reid, 27 Allesborough Drive, Pershore, Worcs WR10 1JH, tel: 01386 553483, email: bert_reid@talk21.com

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST
LLYN EIGIAU, DOLGARROG, CAERNARVONSHIRE. (v.c. 49)
Leader: Wendy McCarthy

Llyn Eigiau is a former reservoir which was the scene of a disaster in 1925 when the dam wall was breached and water flooded downhill into Dolgarrog, resulting in the deaths of 16 people. It was never repaired and this mountain lake in a beautiful setting is now shallow with an interesting muddy shoreline. We will search for *Subularia aquatica*, and then follow the river in to Cwm Eigiau where we will look for interesting old records on the steep cliffs of Craig yr Ysfa. Waterproof footwear strongly advised. Meet at 10.30am at the road end by gate at SH731 663, (turn west from the B5106 in Tal y Bont at SH767 688 and follow the steep road uphill, passing through 2 gates). Bookings with sae please to Mrs. W. McCarthy, 5, Ty'n y Coed, Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy LL30 2QA. Tel.01492 877451.

FRIDAY 8th TO MONDAY 11th AUGUST
GLENSHEE AREA (v.c.89)
Leader: Martin Robinson

This meeting, which will run from Friday morning to Monday evening, is for those who enjoy fieldwork with a real purpose. Tetrad-recording is a new venture for this vice county, and there is, of course, a vast amount to do and your help will be invaluable to the v.c. Recorder. This meeting will concentrate on some of the finest areas in the vice-county, and will be mostly in the hills, but easier more accessible sites can be offered as well if necessary. It will be an opportunity to see some of the fascinating alpine species in this interesting area and there is definitely scope for finding new sites for some of them. For example *Saxifraga nivalis* turned up as recently as 2005, despite the area being quite well botanised.

Accommodation will likely be in the recently refurbished Old Schoolhouse at the base of Glenshee which offers good 'youth hostel' style self catering accommodation for about 20 people at a very reasonable rate. Further details from Martin Robinson, Dalreoch Farm, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 7PF; tel: 01250 881477, email m.robinson888@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY 13th AUGUST to SUNDAY 17th AUGUST
LINDISFARNE AND NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND (v.c. 68)
Leaders Chris Metherell & Bob Ellis

During the course of this meeting we will explore Holy Island and other parts of the North Northumberland coast as well as a number of inland sites, including Cheviot. Though much of the emphasis will be on recording, particularly for the vice-county rare plant register, there will also be plenty of learning opportunities for beginners and improvers.

For booking and further details contact Bob Ellis, 11 Havelock Road, Norwich, NR2 3HQ. Tel: 01603 662260. Email: bob@elymus.demon.co.uk

SATURDAY 16th & SUNDAY 17th AUGUST
BALLYHOURAS AND GALTYS, CO. LIMERICK (v.c. H8)

Leaders: Sylvia Reynolds and Julian Reynolds

The Ballyhoura Mountains, spanning the Limerick/Cork border and rising to 528m, are geologically similar to the higher Galty Mountains nearby. Large conglomerate tors are a feature at the east end of the Ballyhouras. On Saturday, the aim of the meeting is to look at the flora of the blanket bog and heath on Black Rock, Seefin and Long Mountain, and particularly to search for *Cystopteris fragilis*, filmy ferns and *Huperzia selago* on the tors. This will be a long day walking up the mountain and over very uneven terrain, so good walking boots are essential. On Sunday, we shall explore a part of the lower slopes of the Galtys; the terrain is likely to be rough. Sunday details, on request, near the time.

On Saturday, meet at the Greenwood car park (R657.184) at 10.30 am. The car park is on a side road off the R512, about 3km south of Ardpatrick and 10km north of Kildorrery.

On Sunday, meet where the main road crosses the river in Kilbeheny (R859.157) at 10.30a.m – fast road, so park with care.

Contact details: tel 00353 (0)1 2887856 or sylviacpreynolds@hotmail.com.

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST
AMBERLEY WILD BROOKS, WEST SUSSEX (v.c. 13)

Leaders: Frances Abraham & Alan Knapp

Amberley Wild Brooks lies in the Arun Valley close to the scarp of the South Downs and consists of water-meadows intersected by drainagae ditches. It has long been known for its rich aquatic and riparian flora. We will see *Leersia oryzoides*, a variety of pondweeds, including *Potamogeton acutifolius*, and a wide range of other species. We will hope to re-find *Baldellia ranunculoides*, which has not been recorded here for several years.

Park in Amberley village - it may be a squeeze. Meet at 10.30am at TQ030132 at the S end of the public footpath which runs N across the meadows. We will gather at the foot of the slope. Numbers limited to 20. Wellingtons advisable, and bring a picnic and a grapnel if possible.

For bookings or further information contact Frances Abraham, Old School House, Ebernoe, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9LD, email: frances.a@solutions-inc.co.uk

SATURDAY 6th & SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER
***HADRIAN'S WALL LOUGHS, nr HALTWHISTLE, SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND**
(v.c. 67)

Leaders: John & Clare O'Reilly
Introduction to Aquatic Macrophytes Training Day

Participant level: Beginners with some basic experience of plant part terminology / identification. Also those with more experience, but who have not attempted charophyte identification before.

This training day aims to introduce the identification of a range of common water plants, including an introduction to charophytes (stoneworts). Sunday will be a day of recording in small groups, to practice and consolidate the skills learnt the day before. We will end the afternoon with an informal group identification session in a nearby pub! Resources for aquatic macrophyte identification will be compared and evaluated. The leaders are both trained teachers and the day will be carefully structured, aiming at beginners, but with tuition differentiated to suit more experienced attendees. This weekend is also an opportunity to see some classic upland mire communities, botanise in a stunning location, and visit a World Heritage Site (we will walk over Hadrian's Wall!).

Please book with Clare O'Reilly by email clare@ptyxis.com or 3 Railway Cottages, Lambley, Northumberland CA8 7LL as places are limited. Further details, including accommodation listings, will be provided on booking. If you have any specific learning needs or queries, please contact Clare.

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER
WATERFORD AREA

A field meeting will be arranged in association with the Irish Region AGM in Waterford on Saturday 6th September. Details will be circulated to members resident in Ireland. Others should contact the Irish Regional Secretary, Michael Archer tel 00353 (0) 71 9666138, or mobile

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER
***MAGDALEN HILL DOWN & WINCHESTER AREA, NORTH HANTS (v.c. 12)**

Leader: John Poland
Vegetative Identification Training Day

Participant level: Beginners with some experience of plant part terminology / identification and improvers.

Following the success of the 2006 training meeting, an area of chalk grassland will be explored. All plants will be identified vegetatively thus an ideal opportunity to test or improve your identification skills! A good chalk flora is likely to be encountered, along with a few arable 'weeds' and the odd scarcer plant.

Numbers are limited so early application is advisable. Further details provided on booking. Apply to: John Poland, 91 Ethelburt Ave, Southampton, Hants SO16 3DF Tel: 0771 4568361 Email: jpoland197@yahoo.co.uk