

Dorset Flora Group Events 2024

Overview of Events

Please book in advance on to our events by contacting the meeting/workshop's leader. The majority of events are outdoors so please wear and bring clothing suitable for our changeable weather, as well as water and sunscreen. For longer meetings/workshops please bring a packed lunch along with you.

This is a revised (May) edition of the DFG programme. If further information becomes available on events during the season this will be notified via email.

MARCH	
Monday 25th	Seaweed/Marine Algae Identification
APRIL	
Saturday 27 th (postponed from 6 th April)	Beginners Woodland Flora ID
MAY	
Friday 3rd	Woodland Survey at Girdlers Coppice
Thursday 9th	Survey at West Moors MOD Fuel Depot
Saturday 18th	Early Gentian Survey, Fontmell & Melbury Downs
Tuesday 21st	Survey in the Wareham Arc (Piddle Valley, Hyde to Buddens Farm area)
Saturday 25th	Woodland SSCI Surveys, Ashley Chase Estate, Litton Cheney
JUNE	
Saturday 1 st	Botanical Walk at East Hill, Milborne Port and The Terraces, Sherborne
Saturday 8th	Botanical Walk at Holes Bay, Poole
Wednesday 19 th	Evening Botanical Walk, Puncknowle
Saturday 29 th	SNCI Heathland and Acid Grassland Surveys, East Dorset - location TBC
JULY	
Saturday 6 th	Recording Day Based on BSBI Field Identification Skills Certificate, Kingcombe
Saturday 13 th	Introduction to Sedges Identification Workshop, Kingcombe
AUGUST	
Saturday 3rd	Survey at Coombe Heath, Lulworth
Saturday 10 th	SNCI calcareous grassland surveys, central Dorset - location TBC
SEPTEMBER	
Saturday 7 th	Recording in an Under-recorded Area of North Dorset
DECEMBER	
Saturday 7th	Conifer ID and Christmas Wreath Making, Dorchester

Dorset Flora Group Events 2024

Full Programme

Please note that finish times for events are approximate.

Monday 25th March. Seaweed/Marine Algae Identification Workshop at Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre, Kimmeridge

An introduction to marine algae identification including microscopy with biologist Lin Baldock.

Saturday 27th April (postponed from 6th April). Beginners Woodland Flora ID at Bonsley Wood, Hilcombe Coppice nr. Durweston

A leisurely stroll around this ancient woodland with an introduction to the woodland flora.

When: 10am – 1pm.

Leader: Fiona Wood.

Meeting point: Grid ref: ST83410862, What 3 words - ///cornfield.bottled.fended

Booking essential via: Fiona.Wood@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk; 07599 441887.



This site is tricky to find. You will need to drive to Durweston and turn onto Norton Lane. Follow Norton Lane for over a mile before turning right on the track up to Dorset Coppice Group's Living Classroom. It is not possible to access the site from a different route.

Friday 3rd May. Woodland Survey at Girdlers Coppice

Some quadrat monitoring and general recording across the site, to update our records.

When: 10am – 3pm

Leader: Steve Masters.

Meeting point: Grid ref: ST801135; What 3 words - ///skyrocket.rope.claims; Nearest postcode - DT10 2BX.

Booking essential via: smasters@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk; 07557 561624.

Thursday 9th May. Survey at West Moors MOD Fuel Depot

This site is very botanically rich, so we expect to see a wide range of plants. We will be specifically looking for Dwarf Rush (*Juncus capitatus*) (only site in Southwest England outside of Cornwall) and Pale Dog-violet (*Viola lactea*), Heath Dog-violet (*Viola canina*), plus hybrids.

When: 10am – 3.30pm.

Leaders: Tom Smith and Bryan Edwards.

Meeting point: Visitor car park by the entrance where you check in. Grid ref: SU083043. What 3 words - ///headlines.grapevine.marzipan. Nearest postcode BH21 6QS

Booking essential via: dorsetfloragroupprogramme@yahoo.com; 07717 437250.

A TEX camera will be available for use by the group. No other phones or cameras permitted due to risk of fire.

Saturday 18th May. Early Gentian Survey at Fontmell & Melbury Downs

A chance to visit these excellent chalk grassland sites where we should see a good range of species. We will also be carrying out a survey of Early Gentian (*Gentianella anglica*) for the National Trust. Depending on time we might also survey at Win Green in the afternoon.

When: 10am for a 10.30am start (as parking logistics might take 15 minutes) – 4pm.

Leader: Jenny Ashdown.

Meeting point: to be confirmed to booked participants.

Booking essential via: Jenny_ashdown@yahoo.co.uk; 07252 457919.

Tuesday 21st May. Survey in the Wareham Arc (Piddle Valley, Hyde to Buddens Farm area)

Survey of the fields and woodland in the Piddle Valley as part of the Wareham Arc project.

When: 10am – 4pm.

Leader: Robin Walls.

Meeting point: to be confirmed to booked participants.

Booking essential via: robin44walls@outlook.com; 07393 998538.

Saturday 25th May. Woodland SNCI Surveys, Ashley Chase Estate, Litton Cheney

SNCI survey training and woodland surveys covering up to five sites on a private estate. The woods have a good range of woodland indicator species and together form almost 50 ha of continuous woodland. Green Hellebore is particularly notable in one of the sites.

When: 10am – 4pm.

Leader: Mariko Whyte.

Meeting point: Meeting point and site information to be confirmed to booked participants.

Booking essential via: mwhyte@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk; 07852 810191.

Saturday 1st June. Botanical Walk at East Hill, Milborne Port and The Terraces, Sherborne

Visiting under-recorded limestone grassland sites in the Sherborne area where recent conservation work is improving habitat quality.

When: Morning walk to East Hill 10am – 1pm.

Afternoon walk on the Terraces near Sherborne 2pm – 3.30pm.

Leaders: Wren Franklin, Sarah Warren and Nigel Spring.

Meeting point: For East Hill (am): Grid reference: Parking in road: ST679190 Access to hill ST 685194. What 3 words – parking in road: [///dispensed.cushy.huts](http://dispensed.cushy.huts). Access to hill: [///develop.sensitive.sticky](http://develop.sensitive.sticky).

For Terraces (pm): Grid reference: ST642157. What 3 words - [///cherubs.resources.media](http://cherubs.resources.media). Nearest postcode - DT9 5NS

Booking essential via: wrenfranklin@yahoo.co.uk; 07776 100613.

If weather permits, we may also see Marsh Fritillary and other butterfly species on East Hill. Recommend tick-proof clothing.

Saturday 8th June. Botanical Walk at Holes Bay, Poole

Botanical walk northwards along shoreline as far as the eastern gate to Upton Country Park. We should see a good range of plants. Not recommended for families with young children because of busy A350 which runs close by.

When: 10am - 1pm.

Leaders: Stephen Smith & Tom Smith.

Meeting point: On cycleway on eastern side of Holes Bay, at junction between cycleway and path leading NE to pedestrian crossing across A350. Grid ref: SZ00704 91476. What 3 words - [///during.curiosity.beast](http://during.curiosity.beast). Holes Bay, Poole.

Booking essential via: Stephen Smith thesmiths@southroad.plus.com; 01202 692470, or Tom Smith 07717 437250.

For 2021 report on the plant life of the site, go to: Birds of Poole Harbour: - surveys; [Holes Bay Nature Park Birds and Wildlife Report 2021](#), pp. 127 -134.

Car parks available in Poole town centre (nearer) and Upton country Park (about 1 mile distant from meeting point). Parking in nearby residential roads is limited to 2 hours. Short walk from Poole rail station or Poole town centre is well served by buses.

Wednesday 19th June. Evening Botanical Walk in West Dorset

An amble around Puncknowle to record all plants within this area with no recent botanical records.

When: 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

Leader: Fiona Wood.

Meeting point: Grid reference: SY53778864, What 3 words: [///repeated.steam.website](http://repeated.steam.website), Nearest postcode - DT2 9BB.

Booking essential via: Fiona.Wood@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk; 07599 441887.

There appears to be roadside parking along Looke Lane (near Hooper's Lane), so we will park here before heading out on the footpaths and lanes of Puncknowle to record the plants that we come across. There haven't been any botanical records for this and neighbouring grid squares for at least 13 years.

Saturday 29th June. SNCI Heathland & Acid Grassland Surveys, East Dorset – location TBC

Carrying out SNCI surveys of remnant heathland sites managed by Forestry England looking at some of the key indicator species here and condition assessment for these habitats.

When: 10am – 4pm.

Leader: Mariko Whyte.

Meeting point: Meeting point and site information to be confirmed to booked participants.

Booking essential via: mwhyte@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk; 07852 810191.



Saturday 6th July. A Fun Recording Day Based on the BSBI's Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) at The Kingcombe Centre

Test your knowledge by identifying a small number of plants in the classroom and then recording plants in a rich meadow, trying to match the records made by an expert leader.

When: Please arrive by 9.45am for a prompt 10am start. Room booking ends 2pm.

Leaders: Jon Crewe and Robin Walls (our expert for the day).

Meeting Point: The Kingcombe Centre, Lower Kingcombe, Dorchester DT2 0EQ
Grid reference: SY 55431 99051. What 3 words - /// masts.originals.losses

Booking essential via: Crewie4@outlook.com; 07970 847344.

Cost: £10/person to cover room hire and leader travel costs, payable in advance to:
Account Name: *Dorset Flora Group*, Sort Code: 30-92-69, Account Number: 20350860,
Reference: "Your name" FISCW

Your recording sheet will be scored and feedback given. For those considering taking on the challenge for real, this is a chance to have a lower key introduction to some of the methodology and practice. Please note that the recording sheets used will use taxonomic names only – as is the case with the BSBI FISC. There will be a blank page to allow you to write species down using English names if you can't remember the Latin and time is pressing!

Please bring a packed lunch, unless you wish to make a booking in the café for 1.30pm.

Saturday 13th July. Introduction to Sedge Identification Workshop at The Kingcombe Centre

Combination of an introduction to Sedges in the classroom in the morning followed by identification of the more common sedges in the field.

When: 10am – 4pm.

Leader: Robin Walls.

Meeting point: The Kingcombe Centre, Lower Kingcombe, Dorchester DT2 0EQ
Grid reference: SY 55431 99051. What 3 words - /// masts.originals.losses

Booking essential via: robin44walls@outlook.com; 07393 998538.

Cost: £10/participant, payable in advance to: Account Name: *Dorset Flora Group*, Sort Code: 30-92-69, Account Number: 20350860, Reference: "Your name" SIW

In the afternoon you will need clothing and footwear suitable for damp meadows and the weather forecast for the day. Please bring a hand lens.

Bring lunch or if you prefer, please indicate when booking if you would like lunch at The Kitchen at Kingcombe Café (select from menu on arrival at the event). Tea, coffee and biscuits provided on arrival.

You may prefer to buy a book after seeing what is available. Robin will bring the most appropriate books, including:

Sedges, Jermy, A.C. et al. 2007, BSBI handbook no.1, ed.3 (also available as a download).

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns, Rose, F. 1989. Viking

Wildflower Guide, ed.2, Streeter, D. 2016, Collins

New Flora of the British Isles, ed.4, Stace, C.A. 2019, C&M Floristics

Saturday 3rd August. Survey at Coombe Heath, Lulworth

Survey of heathland site where in recent years Marsh Clubmoss (*Lycopdellia inundata*), Allseed (*Linum radiola*), Chaffweed (*Lysimachia minima*) and Marsh Gentian (*Gentiana pneumonanthe*) have been found. Also, a chance to visit a nearby site where heathland reversion is taking place.

When: 10am – 3.30pm.

Leader: Alex Mills.

Meeting point: Grid reference: SY860843, What 3 words - ///hardening.survive.trades, Nearest postcode - BH20 6AR. Rendezvous point to be confirmed.

Booking essential via: altmills1@gmail.com; 07969 514993.

Only room for approx. six vehicles, so car sharing advised.

Saturday 10th August. SNCI Calcareous Grassland Surveys, central Dorset

This will look at a number of chalk grassland sites in central – west Dorset focussing on the many indicator species and condition assessment for these habitats.

When: 10am – 4pm.

Leader: Mariko Whyte.

Meeting point: and site information to be confirmed to booked participants.

Booking essential via: mwhyte@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk; 07852 810191

Saturday 7th September. Recording in an Under-recorded Area of North Dorset (the area between Stalbridge and Sherborne)

Depending on numbers we'll split into groups to cover different squares and there will be the opportunity to meet up at a local pub later in the day.

When: 10am – 3.30pm.

Leaders: Tom and Jean Smith.

Meeting point: to be confirmed to booked participants at least two weeks before the event.

Booking essential via: dorsetfloragroupprogramme@yahoo.com; 07717 437250.

Saturday 7th December. Conifer ID and Christmas Wreath Making in Dorchester

If you have some local conifer greenery, please bring a selection along with you to share. We will work our way through keys and look at resources to aid identification of conifers, in particular the foliage we have collected. Participants will then be guided in creating a wreath to take home.

When: 10.30am - 1.30pm.

Leader: Fiona Wood.

Meeting point: To be confirmed.

Booking essential via: Fiona.wood@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk; 07599 441887.

Cost: There will be a charge (TBC) for this workshop to cover room hire and some equipment costs.

Events to be confirmed:

- Dorchester herbarium. We are planning a visit to the Dorchester Herbarium in the autumn.
- Botanical illustration. We are hoping to arrange a half day workshop on making reference drawings.

Other Group Botanical Surveys:

Dorset Wildlife Trust Friday botanical survey group focusing on quadrat monitoring for condition assessment of sites as well as some species-specific surveys. These will begin in May and run through until September, alternating between various sites with a focus on Kingcombe and Wild Woodbury for the majority of summer. For more information please contact: Steve Masters, Reserves Ecologist, Email: smasters@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

National Trust North Dorset Ecology Volunteer Group. A new group is establishing to carry out monitoring and surveys at a range of the Trust's North Dorset sites including Melbury Wood, and the recently acquired site Clubmans Down. The group will complement the well-established **National Trust West Dorset** Ecology Volunteer group. Training will be given and new volunteers are welcome. An inaugural/introduction meeting for the group will be held on Tuesday, 30th April at Melbury Wood. For more information please contact: Ruth Worsley, National Trust North and West Dorset Property Ecologist, ruth.worsley2@nationaltrust.org.uk

