

2017 Field Trips Programme – Hampshire

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest. The grid reference given is for the parking location/meeting point.

Sunday 30 April, meet at 10.30am

Park Hill, East Meon (SU677222)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Park Hill is the prominent chalk summit behind East Meon church. Meet in the car park off Workhouse Lane at the western end of the village.

Aiming to see: early butterflies and invertebrates, plus good raptor watching.

Sunday 7 May, meet at 10.30am

Ramsdean Down (SU711200)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: **This is a strenuous walk with some very steep slopes (not recommended for vertigo sufferers) and uneven ground**, taking in a few good Duke of Burgundy colonies. Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display).

Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, Red Kite.

Saturday 13 May, meet at 10.30am

Small Down (SU676190)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet at the Sustainability Centre car park www.sustainabilitycentre.org (ex HMS Mercury). There is a walk from here along the South Downs Way to Small Down. There's a five-bar gate to negotiate to enter the site. This is a lesser-known downland site, close to Butser Hill, with potential for Duke of Burgundy.

Aiming to see: Grizzled and Dingy Skipper and possible Duke of Burgundy.

Sunday 14 May, meet at 10.30am

Stockbridge Down (SU375346), site: National Trust

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Stockbridge Down is 1 mile east of Stockbridge and 6 miles west of Winchester on the B3049. Meet at the main NT car park on the south side of the road.

Aiming to see: Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy.

Saturday 20 May, meet at 10.30am

Old Winchester Hill (SU645214), site: Natural England

In association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Leader: Brian Fletcher, Tel: 01962 882746

Directions: Meet in the nature reserve's car park, which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford.

Organised by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, please contact Mary on 01962 864440 or Brian on 01962 882746 for further details. Sorry, no dogs. Donations invited. Bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: Spring butterflies and chalk downland flora and fauna.

Saturday 27 May, meet at 10.30am

Kitts Grave and Martin Down (SU036200), site: Natural England

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in the nature reserve's main car park, off the A354, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. This national nature reserve is a large tract of open chalk grassland with many species of wildflowers, butterflies and moths. Bring lunch. We may well look for Duke of Burgundy near to the reserve's other car park in the afternoon.

Aiming to see: Adonis Blue, Small Blue, Duke of Burgundy and Burnt-tip Orchid.

Sunday 28 May, meet at 10.30am

Bentley Wood (SU258291), site: Trustees of Bentley Wood

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet at Bentley Wood car park, just across the Wiltshire border, reached along a track signed off Scouts Lane, which runs between West Dean and Middle Winterslow to the east of Salisbury. Good invertebrates and birdlife. Bring lunch.

Aiming to see: Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Argent and Sable Moth.

Saturday 10 June, meet at 10.30am

Old Burghclere Lime Quarry (SU469578), site: HIOWWT

In association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Leader: Mervyn Grist, Tel: 01264 358737

Directions: Meet in the old station farmyard to left of gate, reached by a rough lane, south off minor road through Old Burghclere between the manor house and old railway bridge. The large quarry is a short walk away. Donations invited.

Aiming to see: Small Blue, Grizzled Skipper and Wood Tiger Moth.

Saturday 24 June, meet at 10.30am

Broxhead Common (SU803373), site: HCC Local Nature Reserve

Leader: Arthur Greenwood, Tel: 01428 604730; Mobile: 07920 803900

Directions: Meet in the layby on the B3004, Broxhead Farm Road, just north of Bordon.

Aiming to see: Silver-studded Blue and other heathland flora and fauna.

Sunday 25 June, meet at 10.30am – Caterpillar Hunt

Butser Hill (SU711200), site: Natural England

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display). A successful and popular field trip in 2015 and 2016 seasons, and let's see if we can do even better this year. Very steep in places. Bring lunch.

Aiming to see: Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath, Brown Argus and Green Hairstreak.

Saturday 1 July, meet at 10.30am

Hawkhill Inclosure and Hatchet Moor (SU350019), site: Forestry Commission

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in the Hawkhill Inclosure Forestry Commission car park, off the B3055, west of Hatchet Pond between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu. A wonderful walk around one of the best parts of the New Forest, encompassing coppiced woodland and heathland.

Aiming to see: Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue and Clouded Buff.

Sunday 9 July, meet at 10.30am

Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest (SU723102), site: Forestry Commission

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet at Havant Thicket car park, signed as the 'Forest of Bere', off the B2149 on the western outskirts of Rowlands Castle.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

Saturday 15 July, meet at 10.30am

Abbotstone Down (SU584360)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet at the Abbotstone Down and Oliver's Battery Settlement car park signposted off the B3047, north of New Alresford and south-east of Swarraton. An old field trip favourite with woodland and chalk grassland flora and fauna. Bring lunch.

Aiming to see: Marbled White, Dark Green Fritillary and, possibly, Purple Emperor.

Sunday 16 July, meet at 10.30am

West Wood, Crab Wood and Pitt Down (SU420292), site: Forestry Commission and HCC

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in Spindle Trees car park, signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks. Bring lunch. In the morning we will circumnavigate West Wood and look in on Crab Wood, and walk on Pitt Down in the afternoon.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillary, and Tiger Moth.

Sunday 23 July, meet at 10.30am

Broomy Inclosure and Broomy Plain (SU199104),

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in car park signed off track to the High Corner Inn, off the lane north-east of Linwood, New Forest.

Aiming to see: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath and Clouded Buff Moth.

Sunday 30 July, meet at 10.30am

West Harting Down (SU739156)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Charlton village. From the A3 take the Butser Ancient Farm exit and at Charlton turn left before the Red Lion and then cross the railway. The lane (to Ditcham Park School) is immediately left with limited parking on the left-hand side. In the 2015 season Purple Emperors were seen at least twice on two occasions, and there's plenty of interest for the wildflower connoisseur. Buddleias on the ride side verges were packed with Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshells in 2015.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillary.

Saturday 5 August, meet at 10.30am [NOTE CHANGE OF DATE]

St Catherine's Hill (SU487281), site: HLOWWT

In association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Leader: Brian Fletcher, Tel: 01962 882746

Directions: Meet in Parking Area G of the St Catherine's Park and Ride (parking charge applies, or use the park and ride bus); postcode SO23 9BN. Organised by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust,

please contact Mary on 01962 864440 or Brian on 01962 882746 for further details. Sorry, no dogs. Donations invited. Bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: High-summer chalk downland flora and fauna.

Saturday 5 August, meet at 10.30am

Shipton Bellinger (SU229456)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet at the Village Hall car park off Bulford Road, accessed from the A338 Shipton Bellinger/Tidworth road, north from the A303.

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak.

Sunday 6 August, meet at 10.30am

Sinah Warren (SZ697995)

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: On Hayling Island, drive south along the A3023 to the last roundabout before the beach, go right following signs to Hayling Golf Club/Sinah Warren, and park opposite the holiday village on Ferry Road. An area of scrubby oak where observations of Purple Hairstreak should be easy.

Aiming to see: Purple Hairstreak, possibly Grayling.

Saturday 26 August, meet at 10.30am

Noar Hill (SU737321), site: HIOWWT

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet by the access track to Charity Farm. Verge parking with polite consideration – *avoid blocking farm access* – by Charity Farm on the lane south of Selborne.

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak, Brown Argus and Clouded Yellow.

Saturday 2 September, meet at 10.30am

Old Winchester Hill (SU645214), site: Natural England

Leader: Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

Directions: Meet in the nature reserve's car park, which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Steep hillsides in places.

Aiming to see: Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue and Clouded Yellow.

Field trips are for everyone. Rough terrain over fields and woods could, most regrettably, make access impossible for some people with mobility issues. Please check with the leader if in doubt. Field trips can be enjoyed by everyone, whether butterfly-novice or expert. Photographers, children (with adult supervision) and first time field trippers, **YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!**

If the weather looks inclement then please phone the leader of the field trip advertised. I will change the date of my field trips if the 5-day forecast suggests the weather is going to be wet and windy, so look out for this on the Branch website and on the Hampshire Butterfly Facebook page.

Ashley Whitlock, Field Trips Organiser

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