

# Hampshire Walks 2018

2018 will herald some new formats to the field trips programme. Some of the summer walks will start promptly at 09:30am as the Purple Emperor can be such a fickle creature, and I find 10:30am is sometimes too late to get on site to see it on the wing. Also some of the field trips are on a Thursday. I will be doing some longer walks as well, to please those of you who like walking for the pleasure of it; these will be taking in some of the well-known routes in and around Hampshire, known as 'Whitlock's Walks', and these will start at 10:00am and will be at least a couple of miles and aim to take most of the day.

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited in our walks for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest.

Note: the grid reference given is for the parking location/meeting point.

## **Thursday 19 April, meet at 10.00am**

**Whitlock's Walk – Micheldever Woods (SU530363), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the FC car park off Northington Lane on the south side of Micheldever Wood. Likely to be muddy so bring appropriate footwear.

*Aiming to see:* early butterflies and invertebrates, plus carpets of bluebells.

## **Sunday 29 April, meet at 10.30am**

**Petersfield Heath (SU754227)**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the Petersfield Heath car park off the B2147, Sussex Road. Petersfield Heath covers around 90 acres (36 ha) and is a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. This will be a short walk of about 1 hour or so.

*Aiming to see:* early butterflies, moths and invertebrates, and waders and waterfowl.

## **Sunday 6 May, meet at 10.30am**

**Oxenbourne Down (SU717189)**

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

*Directions:* Oxenbourne Down is just off of the A3 near the Hogs Lodge pub, reached from the Charlton/East Meon junction. Pass the pub on the left and proceed down the A3 northbound slipway to meet in the small lay-by next to the old Petersfield Road café building. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Green Hairstreak, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper and Duke of Burgundy.

## **Thursday 10 May, meet at 10.30am**

**Butser Hill (SU712201), 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). This will be a strenuous walk taking in several Duke of Burgundy colonies. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, plus Cuckoo and Red Kite.

## **Thursday 17 May, meet at 10.30am**

**Stockbridge Down (west car park SU374346; east car park SU387345), 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. If the east car park is full, use the west car park and meet inside the reserve on the main path paralleling the main road between the two car parks. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, Brown Argus and Grizzled Skipper.

**Sunday 19 May**, meet at 11.00am

**Sidney Wood, near Dunsfold, Surrey (TQ026352)**, site: Woodland Trust

Arranged by Surrey Branch

*Leader:* Frances Kelly, email: fkfranciskelly2@gmail.com Mobile: 07952 285661

*Directions:* Meet at Sidney Wood car park, GU6 8JG, on the south side of Dunsfold Road, 1 mile west of the A281 Alfold crossways. A chance to see the rare Wood White in Surrey, and there will be a walk around **Botany Bay** if not successful in Sidney Wood. Please bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Wood White.

**Thursday 24 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Beacon Hill NNR (SU599227)**, site: Natural England

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

*Directions:* Beacon Hill NNR is to the west of the A32 reached from Exton or Warnford. Meet in the reserve car park. A look at a lesser-known Duke of Burgundy site with some steep slopes that may be slippery after rain. Bring a packed lunch.

In the afternoon, if time allows, we will visit **Stephens Castle Down**, but there is no parking here so space only for one shared car.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Argus, Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, plus Buzzard.

**Sunday 27 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Martin Down and Kitts Grave (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, Brown Argus and Marsh Fritillary.

**Saturday 2 June**, meet at 10.30am

**Old Burghclere Lime Quarry (SU469578)**, site: HIOWWT

Arranged by 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. Bring a packed lunch.

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

**Sunday 3 June**, 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 a packed lunch.

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

### **Saturday 23 June, meet at 10.30am – Caterpillar Hunt**

#### **Butser Hill (SU712201), 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 recent seasons, and let's see if we can do as well this year. Very steep in places. Bring a packed lunch.

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

### **Sunday 24 June, meet at 10.30am**

#### **Bramshott Common (SU855337)**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the car park at the end of Rectory Lane. This can be reached directly off the A3 northbound, taking the lane-turning after the Liphook interchange (this is just before you get to the top of the hill, do not miss it! – there is no access to Rectory Lane from the southbound A3) or leave A3 at Liphook interchange and turn immediately right into Church Lane which leads on to Rectory Lane.

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

### **Sunday 1 July, meet at 10.00am**

#### **Whitlock's Walk – Hawkley to Wheatham Hill (SU746292)**

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

*Directions:* A walk of about 3 miles starting from Hawkley, heading south to Wheatham Hill, where there are possible colonies of White-Letter Hairstreak. A landscape of rolling Beech clad hills, a hidden flower-filled valley and undulating farmland. Park by the village green or the church in Hawkley. Bring a packed lunch; post-walk drink at the Hawkley Inn.

*Aiming to see:* White-letter Hairstreak, Purple Hairstreak and, possibly, Purple Emperor.

### **Thursday 5 July, meet at 09.30am**

#### **Abbots Wood Inclosure (SU810410), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions:* Meet at the Abbots Wood Inclosure car park off Dockenfield Street, just south-east of the Halfway House pub.

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

### **Sunday 8 July, meet at 09.30am**

#### **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 Moths.

**Thursday 12 July**, meet at 09.30am

**Whiteley Pastures and Botley Wood (SU532096)**, site: Forestry Commission

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

*Directions:* Meet in the Whiteley Outlet Village car park (max. 3 hours free before payment) reached off Whiteley Way from M27 J9. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary

**Saturday 14 July**, meet at 10.30am

**Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve (SU506099)**, site: HLOWWT

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

*Directions:* Meet at the reserve off Sopwith Way, which is off Swanwick Lane (just north of M27). At the end of Sopwith Way turn right at the mini-roundabout in front of the NATS security gates.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, White Admiral, plus Kingfisher and Great Crested Newt.

**Thursday 19 July**, meet at 09.30am

**Whitlock's Walk – 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.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillary, and Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

**Sunday 22 July**, meet at 10.30am

**Ampfield Wood (SU375237)**, site: Forestry Commission

Arranged by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

**Booking required, with a small donation**

*Leader:* Coral Newton, Tel: 01794 523759; Email: coralnewton99@gmail.com

*Directions:* Meet in the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens car park (SO51 0QA), north of Romsey. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, and Silver-washed Fritillary.

**Sunday 29 July**, meet at 18.30pm (evening walk)

**Sinah Warren, Hayling Island (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, Grayling and Red Underwing Moths.

**Thursday 16 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Broughton Down (SU296325)**, site: HLOWWT

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

*Directions:* Park in Buckholt Road, west out of Broughton, or in the village, from which walk along Queenswood Road, bear right along the B3084 then go left along Buckholt road; where this ends take the middle of the three ongoing tracks to climb to the reserve. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue.

**Saturday 18 August, meet at 10.30am**

**Perham Ranges (SU234462), site: MOD**

Arranged by Bulford Conservation Group

*Leader:* John Moon, Tel: 01264 710123; Mobile: 07598874899

*Directions:* Cars to assemble at the tank crossing on the Shipton Bellinger to Tidworth road, A338, (grid ref: SU23414623). Then drive up the tank track further into the ranges to park. Bring a packed lunch. One of the few sites in Hampshire with the potential for seeing Brown Hairstreak and Silver-spotted Skipper.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak, Silver-spotted Skipper, and Dark Green Fritillary.

**Thursday 23 August, meet at 10.30am**

**Yew Tree Heath, New Forest (SU351064)**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the Forestry Commission Beaulieu Road car park opposite Beaulieu Road Station, midway between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Grayling, Small Heath and, possibly, late Dark Green Fritillary.

**Sunday 26 August, meet at 10.00am**

**Whitlock's Walk – Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (SZ306915)**

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

*Directions:* Meet in Keyhaven car park (Pay and Display) opposite the Gun Inn; potential parking along Saltgrass Lane. This is a 3-mile walk along the Solent Way in search of one of Hampshire's most endangered butterfly species, in recent years only seen in this area. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Wall Brown, plus coastal flora and birdlife.

**Saturday 1 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.

**Saturday 8 September, meet at 10.30am**

**Gunner Point, Hayling Island (SZ688999)**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the car park by the Ferryboat Inn, off Ferry Road, on the south-western tip of Hayling Island overlooking Langstone Harbour. Pie and a pint in the Ferryboat Inn afterwards.

*Aiming to see:* Small Copper, Clouded Yellow and, possibly, Grayling.

**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.

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