

Hampshire Walks 2022 (Version 2, updated 25/4/22)

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 which is *not always* at the site of the walk's focus.

If the weather looks inclement then please phone the leader of the advertised field trip who will personally change the date, a few days beforehand if the long-range weather forecast suggests the weather is going to be wet and windy,

- a) on the Hants/IoW Branch Butterfly Conservation web site at www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk and
- b) on the Hampshire Butterfly Facebook page and
- c) on the Ashley Whitlock Butterflies and Moths website at www.purple-emperor.co.uk

Sunday 24 April, meet at 10.30am

Matley Heath, New Forest (SU332073), site: Forestry England

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

Directions: Meet in the FC Matley Heath car park, on the B3056 between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu Road Station. Bring a packed lunch. **NB This venue may change at short notice as car park may close in early spring due to ground nesting birds in the vicinity.**

Aiming to see: Emperor moth.

Sunday 1 May, meet at 10.30am

Little Butser Hill and Pillow Mound (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). This is a strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Bring a packed lunch. Good Duke of Burgundy colony with skylarks, buzzards and (possibly) cuckoo, and spectacular views towards Ashford Hill and the Meon Valley.

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

Sunday 8 May, meet at 9.30am

Beacon Hill NNR, Exton (SU598227), site: Natural England; and Stephen's Castle Down

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

Directions: Meet in the reserve car park, which is approx. 1¼ miles west of Warnford and a similar distance north-west of Exton, both off the A32. **NB There is no parking at Stephen's Castle Down so a car will have to ferry field trippers to the site from Beacon Hill. Please note the meeting time as this could take some time!** Bring a packed lunch.

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

Sunday 15 May, meet at 10.30am

New Copse Inclosure and Lymington River, New Forest (SU315024), site: Forestry England

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

Directions: Meet in the car park at Ivy Wood on B3055, about 1 mile east of Brockenhurst. In the afternoon the walk will be extended along the Lymington River looking for dragonflies and other invertebrates so bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

Wednesday 18 May, meet at 10.30am

West Wood and Pitt Down – Farley Mount (SU420292), site: Forestry England 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 a packed lunch.

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

Sunday 22 May, meet at 10.30am

Stockbridge Down (East car park SU387344), 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. Park in the east car park or in the west car park (SU374346) and walk onto the reserve and turn right. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Thursday 26 May, meet at 10.30am

Martin Down NNR 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 A354, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. Bring a packed lunch. In the afternoon we may look for Duke of Burgundy near the lower car park.

Aiming to see: Marsh Fritillary, Adonis Blue and Small Blue.

Wednesday 1 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. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Sunday 5 June, meet at 10.30am

Coulters Dean, Queen Elizabeth Country Park (SU733198), site: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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

Directions: Meet in the country park car park, off Kiln Lane, about ½ mile south-west of Buriton. Coulters Dean is a small reserve within the country park with excellent displays of Cowslips. Bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper and various orchid species.

Sunday 26 June, meet at 1.30pm

Broxhead Common (SU806369), site: Hampshire County Council

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

Directions: Meet in the cricket ground car park off Broxhead Farm Road, B3004, 1 mile north of Bordon.

Aiming to see: Silver-studded Blue.

Wednesday 29 June, meet at 10.30am

Danebury Hillfort (SU329377), site: Hampshire County Council

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

Directions: Meet at Danebury Hillfort car park signposted off Old Stockbridge Road, 2 miles north-west of Stockbridge. Bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: Dark Green Fritillary and Wall Brown.

Sunday 3 July, meet at 9.30am

West Wood and Pitt Down – Farley Mount (SU420292), site: Forestry England 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 a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor and Silver-washed Fritillary (including Valezina) in West Wood; Dark Green Fritillary on Pitt Down.

Wednesday 6 July, meet at 9.30am

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

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

Directions: Meet in the Whiteley Outlet Village car park, opposite Marks and Spencer (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.

Sunday 10 July, meet at 9.30am

Pamber Forest and Silchester Common (SU616621), site: HLOWWT

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

Directions: Meet in Pamber Forest car park, on Impstone Road, Pamber Heath. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Wednesday 13 July, meet at 9.30am

West Harting Down (SU739156), site: Forestry England

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, Dark Green Fritillary, and Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

Sunday 17 July, meet at 9.30am

Creech Wood, Forest of Bere (SU648112), site: Forestry England

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

Directions: Meet in the Forestry England car park, off Bunkers Hill, approx. ½ mile south-west of Denmead.

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

Sunday 14 August, meet at 10.30am

Noar Hill and Selborne Common (SU737321), site: HLOWWT

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

Directions: Meet in the lane south from Selborne by Charity Farm, where there is limited verge parking only: please park considerately. Bring a packed lunch. Noar Hill walk in the morning followed by Selborne Common after lunch.

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

Wednesday 17 August, meet at 9.30am

Shipton Bellinger (SU229456)

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

Directions: Meet in the village hall car park. Bring a packed lunch as there will be a visit to another local site in the afternoon.

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak and Wall Brown.

Sunday 21 August, meet at 10.30am

Broughton Down (SU304327), site: HLOWWT

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

Directions: To avoid rough track up to the reserve (SU296325), 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: Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper.

Wednesday 24 August, meet at 10.30am

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). This is a strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see: Adonis Blue and Clouded Yellow.

Wednesday 31 August, meet at 10.30am

Beacon Hill NNR, Exton (SU598227), site: Natural England

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

Directions: Meet in the reserve car park, which is approx. 1¼ miles west of Warnford and a similar distance north-west of Exton, both off the A32. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Sunday 4 September, meet at 10.30am

Old Winchester Hill NNR (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: Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper and Clouded Yellow.

Wednesday 7 September, meet at 10.30am

Portsdown Hill, Fort Widley (SU662064), site: Portsmouth City Council

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

Directions: Meet at Fort Widley car park, off B2177, just east of Fort Widley.

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow and Small Copper.

Debrief on the 2022 season at the Churchillian pub, Portsdown Hill.

Ashley Whitlock, Field Trips Organiser

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Ashley Whitlock Butterflies and Moths website: www.purple-emperor.co.uk