

Wiltshire Botanical Society Meetings Programme 2026

For further information contact

Fran Sinclair Email: fransinclair6@gmail.com Tel: 07804 835905

Please car share whenever possible. You may be able to find passengers or lifts via the WhatsApp Group. Please note that except where indicated meetings are all day so bring a packed lunch and plenty of water. We regret that we cannot accommodate dogs on our meetings. Every effort is made to inform participants of known difficulties associated with visits, and this includes a blanket warning to dress appropriately for terrain, weather and protection against ticks and sun. However, all those attending WBS field meetings do so at their own risk.



Booking is not necessary unless stated but it is always helpful to know how many members to expect.

Saturday 25th April **10:30am** **ST 8771 5741**

WWT Green Lane Wood

Leader: Matt Calloway

This Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve is rapidly becoming more of an urban woodland but don't let that distract you from the beautiful displays of ground flora from the Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* to Goldilocks Buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus*, Moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, all of which should be putting on a good display. Access is all flat, gravel paths with a short grass path that can be muddy during wetter periods. Compost loo available a short distance from the entrance to the woods.

From the B3105, Leapgate, turn into Mascroft Rd. Take second right into Castle Heddingham. Follow road round and park in one of the four or five laybys along the curved stretch at ST87715741 W3W configure.thinks.pizza From here we will walk straight into the wood along the edge of some attenuation ponds.

Sunday 17th May **10:30am** **ST 8311 7312**

Hall Farm, Thickwood

Leaders: Lara Spearman & Haydn Jenkins

An extensive area of species-rich, lowland, calcareous grassland with a variety of orchids: Pyramidal *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, Bee *Ophrys apifera*, Greater Butterfly *Platanthera chorantha* and Common Spotted *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* on Lara's list. The farm also includes the Out Woods SSSI which is known for its Angular Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum odoratum* and Lily of the Valley *Convallaria majalis*. There are also riverside meadows covered in Bistort *Persicaria bistorta* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, which the local family of beavers is very keen on grazing.

Turn north off Thickwood Lane at ST83117295 up a single track road and take first right towards Hall Farm. Woodyard Cottage is on your right; a large yard for parking at ST83117312 W3W cuter.roughness.roofer

Sunday 24th May **10:30am** **ST 9648 6672**

Chittoe

Leader: Dave Green

An area of heath, arable, marsh and woodland habitats. Plants will range from tiny Small-flowered Crane's-bill *Geranium pusillum* to statuesque Wood Club-rush *Scirpus sylvaticus* but what else might we find?

*Turn off the A342 Devizes Rd at Chittoe Heath and park in the layby at ST96486672 W3W objecting.aside.mouse from where we will decant into just a few cars. **Booking is essential for this meeting.***



Sunday 31st May **10.30am** **SU 1294 2947**

Broken Bridges, Harnham

Leaders: Pat Woodruffe & Anne Appleyard

Broken Bridges Nature Reserve is 34 acres of flood plain meadows along the River Nadder. It was purchased by the local community in 2025. The habitat has suffered from unsuitable management for many years and The Trust has started active management to restore it, see www.mybrokenbridges.org.uk. WBS survey work in 2024 confirmed the presence of Yellow Loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris*, Meadow Rue *Thalictrum flavum*, Early Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* and Tubular Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*. Our visit should help to re-find these species and discover many more.

Meet at the junction of Middle St. and Upper St. Harnham SU12942947 W3W serves.caked.host. The entrance to the reserve is immediately to the west. Roadside parking at the approach to this bend in the road.

Saturday 6th June **10.30am** **ST 0199 6705**

WWT Morgan's Hill

Leader: Nick Self

Last visited by WBS in 2022, this reserve is on the site of a former quarry and holds SSSI status for its wildflowers, butterflies and for the general quality of its chalk grassland. We hope to find Frog and Fly Orchid *Dactylorhiza viridis* and *Ophrys insectifera*, Lesser Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera bifolia*, Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata* and many other choice plants; if we're very lucky, Musk Orchid *Herminium monorchis*. Meeting open to BSBI members, who should book with fransinclair6@gmail.com.

Meet at Smallgrain car park off the Devizes to Calne road and close to North Wilts Golf Club. The terrain is steep and uneven in places. SU01996705 W3W refer.vast.trooper

Saturday 13th June **10.30am** **ST 8377 4426**

NT Cley Hill

Leader: Kat Newbert

Botanically rich chalk downland with archaeological interest and fine views. There should be plenty of lovely plants, with Early Gentian *Gentianella amarella subsp. anglica* as the potential highlight. Steep walk.

From the A36 west of Warminster turn on to the A362 towards Corsley. About 400m beyond the Longleat Picket Post roundabout is the small NT car park on the north side of the road at ST83774426 W3W willing.climbing.mermaids.

Saturday 27th June **10.30am** **SU 0314 8923**

WWT Distillery Meadows

Leader: Nick Self

A hint of how the countryside looked in the early 20th century when it was covered with small, traditionally managed, family run farms. Across the various fields we will see Heath Spotted-orchids and Common Spotted-orchids *Dactylorhiza maculata* and *D. fuchsii*. We will probably be too early for Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* but its buds are every bit as attractive as flowers. These fields are part of the SSSI here and Nick will tell us about the management and its challenges.

*Park at SU 0314 8923 masts.tooth.braced There is space for only a few cars here so **members must book with fransinclair6@gmail.com by 20th June** so that we will know whether we need to arrange additional parking.*



Sunday 5th July **10.30am** **SY 9171 8745**

Wareham Common joint with Dorset Flora Group

Leaders: Tom Smith, Trevor Warrick

Morning: Wareham Common is species-rich and includes some SSSI areas. We'll be covering parts of the banks of the River Piddle, ditches and areas of wet neutral grassland as well as some acid grassland. Examples of special species we hope to see include Whorled Caraway *Trocdaris verticillata* and River Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*.

Park in the gravel area at the western end of Streche Road near Wareham Hospital SY91718745 W3W swatted.incursion.distracts If full, park in Streche Rd at SY919 8737 W3W tributes.hook.cable

Public toilets at Howard's Lane car park SY 9236 8745 W3W moderated.vowel.seeing

Arne Triangle joint with Dorset Flora Group

Leaders: Dave Green, Fran Sinclair

After lunch: Slepe Heath and Arne Triangle. Lowland heath and mire, with some acid grassland. With some old but tantalising records of Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, Yellow Centaury *Cicendia filiformis*, Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea* and Viper's-grass *Scorzonera humilis*, we also hope to see Brown Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora fusca* and some less common Potamogetons and sedges.

Park initially along wider verges on Soldiers Rd SY94588586 W3W noted.cases.claim We will move to the eastern side of Slepe Heath later, again parking along verge at approximately SY95858596 W3W frog.wages.match

Saturday 18th July **10.30am** **SU 2584 1843**

WWT Landford Bog (& Nomansland)

Leader: Caroline Longley

Landford Bog is a SSSI, a lowland valley bog and heath, which is very rare in Wiltshire. It contains carpets of Sphagnum mosses dotted through with peatland plants such as Sundews *Drosera spp.*, Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*, and Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. Even in summer the main waterline is very wet and there are several pools with aquatic plants and the chance for spotting a fen raft spider - bring your wellies!

The main entrance is on the left-hand side of the B3079 Lyndhurst Road, south of Landford village at SU25841843 W3W fault.hatter.wrist. There is limited parking in a layby directly outside this gate and more, further along the road in other laybys or on the road itself.

Landford Bog is a small site, so we will visit **Nomansland** after lunch, where we will find similar habitats but hope to spot Coral Necklace *Illecebrum verticillatum* or even Hairy Bird's-foot-Trefoil *Lotus subbiflorus*.

Turn right off B3079 to Nomansland, drive through village and after sharp left-hand bend car park is on left at SU24961656 W3W eggplants.kiosk.tripled



Sunday 26th July **10.30am** **SU 1398 4166**

NT Stonehenge Reversion Fields

Leader: Keith Steggall

The National Trust have been working on arable reversion in the Stonehenge landscape and, of the 750 hectares of grassland planned to reach priority habitat standard chalk grassland, they have reverted around 250 hectares in the last 3 years using seed from Salisbury Plain. We will learn about what the Trust is doing at Stonehenge and the ongoing work. Keith suggests there may also be "the odd arable weed" (the odder the better!) and as well as looking at it from a nature conservation point of view it is, of course, an interesting archaeological landscape.

Parking will be at West Amesbury Farm. From the double roundabout in the centre of Amesbury, keeping Aldi on your left, turn into Salisbury Street. Keep left and turn into Church Street. After crossing the R. Avon follow the road as though you were going to join the slip-road for the A303. The entrance to the farm is on the left, about 400 metres before the A303. SU13984166 W3W dwarves.eclipses.every.

Saturday 8th August **10:30am** **SU 0287 8674**

Somerford Common

Leader: Nick Self

Somerford Common is a superb example of a North Wiltshire mixed woodland. Sitting on the clay vales of Minety, north of Royal Wootton Bassett, its slightly acidic soils and mixture of deciduous and coniferous habitats are suitable for a wide range of plants, including ferns and mosses. Although better known for its rare butterflies, such as the White Admiral and Brown Hairstreak, some plant species to look out for include Pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, Velvet Bent *Agrostis canina* and Slender St John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*.

Park at SU02878674 W3W trickling.flamed.earmarked (if car park full, park on Queen St. at SU03048718 W3W copying.towel.protect).

Saturday 22nd August **10.30am** **SU 1658 6002**

Pewsey Allotments

Leaders: Jane Brown, Paul Darby

The Easterton Lane site in Pewsey is typical of allotment areas in many places; a mix of 'tidy' and less so. As many people now grow vegetables without using weedkillers there will, we hope, be even more interesting weeds than when WBS last visited the site in 2011. If time and energy allow, we will also visit Scotchel Nature Reserve nearby to update the parish's plant list for the reserve.

Park behind the Co-op at SU16586002 W3W warp.grouping.flipping

Saturday 5th September **10.30am** **ST 8786 4297**

Southleigh Woods

Leader: Kat Newbert

Once part of ancient Selwood Forest, it has for several hundred years been part of the Longleat Estate. Mixed deciduous woodland and coniferous plantation, it has been clear-felled in parts, allowing ground flora to return. This includes typical woodland and a diverse acidic heathland flora.

Turn east off A350 just south of the roundabout/ junction with the A36 onto Five Ash Lane and park at ST87864297 W3W campers.portable.overt

Sunday 11th October **10:30am** **ST 8311 7312**

Hall Farm, Thickwood

Leaders: Lara Spearman & Haydn Jenkins

For the second visit to Hall Farm this year we will concentrate on woodland, including Out Woods SSSI, which is known for its population of Wild Service Tree *Sorbus torminalis*. As well as admiring the trees we will be looking at ferns, fungi and bryophytes. We will have a mini-workshop session on ferns in the barn before departing.

Turn north off Thickwood Lane at ST83117295 up a single track road and take first right towards Hall Farm. Woodyard Cottage is on your right; a large yard for parking. ST83117312 W3W cuter.roughness.roofer

