

2016 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 1 May, meet at 10:30am

Catherington Down (SU690143), site: Hampshire County Council

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

Directions: meet in Lovedean Lane. Leave the A3(M) at Junction 2, taking the B2149 towards Horndean, pass Morrison's and keep ahead into Catherington Lane. Turn left at Roads Hill and then right into Lovedean Lane; park in Lovedean Lane. A chance to see a lesser known site in the Meon Valley with good flora and fauna.

Aiming to see: Brimstone, Orange Tip and other early butterflies and moths

Saturday 7 May, meet at 10:30am

Little Butser Hill (SU711200)

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

Directions: Butser Hill is well signposted from the A3(M) at Clanfield. Meet at Butser Hill car park (Pay & Display). A chance to visit another area of Butser with a substantial Duke of Burgundy colony, to see Skylarks and Buzzards, and take in spectacular views towards Ashford Hill and the Meon Valley. Very steep in places. Bring Lunch as we will be visiting another part of Butser in the afternoon.

Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, Small Heath, early moths

Saturday 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. Bring lunch.

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

Sunday 15 May, meet at 10:30am

Standing Hat to Perrywood Ivy Inclosure – New Forest (SU314035), site: Forestry Commission

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

Directions: meet at the Forestry Commission Standing Hat car park, just north of Brockenhurst off the B3055 at Balmerlawn by Balmer Lawn Hotel, taking the long track to the car-park. A different area to observe the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and one of the largest colonies of this species in the New Forest. Bring lunch.

Aiming to see: Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Cuckoo and woodland flora and fauna

Saturday 21 May, Meet at 10:30am

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

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

Directions: meet at Martin Down NNR car park, off the A354, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. The reserve is a large tract of open chalk grassland with many species of wildflowers, butterflies and moths. Bring lunch. We may well look for the Duke of Burgundy near to the other car park in the afternoon.

Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Adonis Blue, Small Blue, Brown Argus and other rare invertebrates

Wednesday 25 May, Meet at 10:30 am. With Hants-IOW Wildlife Trust

Old Winchester Hill (SU 646 214), site National Nature Reserve.

Leader: Brian Fletcher, Tel. Brian on 01962 882746; Mary on 01962 864440

Directions: Meet in the main reserve car park on the minor road south east of Warnford. Join Brian Fletcher for a walk at this chalk downland reserve to see butterflies and flowers. Sorry no dogs. Ends 3.30 pm.

Aiming to see: spring butterflies such as skippers and blues, and other wildlife.

Sunday 29 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 Fritillary, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Argent and Sable Moth

Wednesday 1 June, meet at 10:30am

Old Burghclere Lime Quarry (SU469578), site: HIOWWT

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. Joint with HIOWWTrust.

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

Saturday 4 June, meet at 10:30am

Coulter's Dean (SU734197), site: HIOWWT

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

Directions: meet at Head Down car park. From the A3 follow signs to Buriton along Greenway Lane; at the Village Inn crossroads turn right along Kiln Lane, pass under the railway bridge and the car park is a little farther along where the South Downs Way crosses the lane. A small reserve within the confines of Queen Elizabeth Country Park, reached by a short walk from Head Down. Possibility of a Duke of Burgundy!

Aiming to see: Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper

Saturday 11 June, meet at 10:30am

Portsmouth Hill (SU647065), site: Portsmouth City Council

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

Directions: meet at the James Callaghan Roundabout car park off the B2177, where Portsmouth Hill Road, Southwick Hill Road and James Callaghan Drive converge, just north-west of Queen Alexandra Hospital.

Aiming to see: Small Blue, Common Blue, Holly Blue, and spectacular views over the Solent

Saturday 25 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: Early Silver-studded Blue and other heathland invertebrates

Sunday 26 June, meet at 10:30am – Duke of Burgundy Larvae Hunt

Butser Hill (SU711200), site: Natural England

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

Directions: Butser Hill is well signposted from the A3(M) at Clanfield. Meet at Butser Hill car park (Pay & Display). Very steep in places. Bring lunch.

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

Hairstreak

Saturday 2 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 good woodland and chalk downland flora. Bring Lunch.

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

Sunday 10 July, meet at 10:30am – The Purple Emperor Experience!

Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest (SU723101), 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. Following the success of the field trip in 2015, hope is high that this year could be even better! We will visit Southleigh Forest in the afternoon to look at a Purple Emperor assembly point.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-Washed Fritillary, and other good flora and fauna

Saturday 16 July, meet at 10:30am

Butter Wood (SU718513)

Leader: David Walton, Mobile: 07759 684513

Directions: meet in the Fox and Goose car park, The Street, Greywell, RG29 1BY, parking there or if not intending to imbibe, with consideration on adjacent roads.

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

Sunday 17 July, meet at 10:30am

Farley Mount Country Park (SU420291), site: Hampshire County Council and Forestry Commission

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

Directions: meet in Spindle Tree car park, signposted off Sarum Road (the Roman road heading due west from Winchester), and one of several car parks at the site. This is a full day so bring lunch; in the morning we will circumnavigate West Wood and look in on Crab Wood, and then in the afternoon walk on Pitt Down.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Dark-Green Fritillary Silver-Washed Fritillary, Tiger Moths

Wednesday 20 July, meet 10:30am

Odiham Common (SU747517), site: Hart District Council

Leader: David Walton, Mobile: 07759 684513

Directions: meet in the car park at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham, on the Basingstoke Canal. Approach from the bottom of Odiham High Street, turn down Colt Hill, go past the Waterwitch pub (RG29 1AL), over the canal bridge and follow the road round into the car park. A walk across the common and adjoining meadow and woodland footpaths, returning along the canal towpath.

Aiming to see: Silver-Washed Fritillary, White Admiral, possible White-letter Hairstreak, Small and Large Skipper

Thursday 21 July, meet at 10:30am – Bring the Children Day

Abbotts Wood Inclosure (SU815407), 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. Bring lunch.

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-Washed Fritillary

Sunday 24 July, meet at 10:30am

Head Down and Holt Down – Queen Elizabeth Country Park (SU734197), site: Hampshire County Council

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

Directions: meet at Head Down car park. From the A3 follow signs to Buriton along Greenway Lane; at the Village Inn crossroads turn right along Kiln Lane, pass under the railway bridge and the car park is a little farther along where the South Downs Way crosses the lane. Fabulous Beech woodland, part of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park complex, with a mix of other trees and good ride-side flora. Bring lunch as we will visit Holt Down in the morning and nearby Head Down in the afternoon.

Aiming to see: Silver-Washed Fritillary, Marbled White, Dark-Green Fritillary, possible Purple Emperor

**Saturday 6 August, meet at 10:30am
Shipton Bellinger (SU229456)**

Leader: Mike Gibbons, Tel: 01202 470849

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

**Saturday 13 August, meet at 10:30am
Ildsworth 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 and Charlton Down. From the A3 take the Butser Ancient Farm exit and at Charlton turn left at the Red Lion and over steep hill to cross the railway. The lane (old school track) is immediately left with limited parking on the left-hand side.

Aiming to see: Typical, chalk downland with Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue, possible Silver-Spotted Skipper

**Saturday 13 August, meet at 2:00 pm. With Hants-IOW Wildlife Trust
Stockbridge Down (SU 375 346), site National Trust**

Leader: Brian Fletcher, Tel. Brian on 01962 882746; Mary on 01962 864440

Directions: Meet at 2 pm at the upper car park (on the south side of the road, about one mile east of Stockbridge). Join Brian Fletcher for a walk on this chalk downland reserve to see butterflies and flowers. Sorry no dogs. Ends 5 pm.

Aiming to see: summer flowers and butterflies.

**Sunday 21 August, meet at 10:30am
St Catherine's Hill Down (SU483280), site: HLOWWT**

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

Directions: meet at St Catherine's Hill car park, south of Winchester and just to the west of M3 Junction 10, on the south side of Bull Drove. Very steep in places with spectacular views of Winchester from the hill fort and maze. Bring lunch.

Aiming to see: Adonis Blue and Silver-Spotted Skipper

**Sunday 28 August, meet at 10:30am
Beacon Hill NNR (SU598227), site: Natural England**

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

Directions: meet at the reserve's hill-top car park, located off the narrow lane to the north-west of Exton, off the A32, in the Meon Valley.

Aiming to see: Silver-Spotted Skipper, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow and spectacular Meon Valley view

**Saturday 3 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 reserve's car park. The reserve is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Very steep hillsides in places.

Aiming to see: Silver-Spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue, Clouded Yellow and other good

flora and fauna

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 Meetings Organiser