



Southampton Natural History Society

Current Programme of Field Meetings/Walks (April 2024 – September 2024)

For additional details contact Phil Budd by e-mail philipbuddathos@gmail.com, or mobile 0784 918 5896, or the walk leader for information about specific walks or to book a place if required.

All events are free of charge. Field meetings may be cancelled at short notice in the event of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances. No dogs please (except for assistance dogs)

APRIL

Saturday 13th

Peartree Green – Spring Insects and Flowers.

Start Time: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Join Phil Budd for this guided walk to learn about the wide variety of spring flora on the green and if the weather is pleasant find pollinators and other spring insects. We will also look over the burnt areas to see if any morel fungi appear. Bring waterproofs if there are any April showers about.

Meet point: Childrens play area on Peartree Green
Grid ref: SU 438116

What3Words: spits.faster.cups

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

Saturday 20th

Milleyford Bridge, New Forest – Spring Birds.

Start Time: 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

A ramble through deciduous enclosures at a promising time of year with one stream to cross before arriving back at the car park by about 1:00pm.

Max group size of 20 – so please let the leader know if you wish to attend.

Meet point: meet in the car park

Grid ref: SU 268078

What3words: neck.moss.handlebar

Leader: Julian Moseley – 02380 779850 for general enquiries only | Mobile: 0790 038 1051 for contact on the walk date only

Sunday 28th

Testwood, Nursling & Lower Test – Spring Birds.

Start Time: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

The walk should last 6 hours and cover around 5 miles. Habitats include lakes, river marsh, grassland, and woodland. Including some bird hides. Moderate walk – medium distance but on flat land.

Meet point: Testwood Lake car park – the lower one by Testwood Lake. Please note: not the Testwood Centre car park.

Grid ref: SU 346 152

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

MAY

Sunday 5th

Turf Hill – Dawn Chorus Start Time:

4.00 am – 9.00 am

Listen and try to ID species by call and song before seeing whether you were right! The route takes us across heath and into woodland before arriving back at the car park by about 8:30/9:00am

Max group size of 20 – so please let the leader know if you wish to attend.

Meet point: meet in the car park

Grid ref: SU 212 176

What3Words: lookout.imagined.hiring

Leader: Julian Moseley – 02380 779850 for general enquiries only | Mobile No. 0790 038 1051 for contact on the walk date only

Monday 6th

Peartree Green – Dawn Chorus. Start Time:

4.00 am – 6.00 am

Get yourself out of bed to enjoy early morning wildlife at Peartree Green. We will listen for bird song and identify the species that we hear. Later we should be able to see many of them too.

Expect whitethroat, blackcap, wren, greenfinch, great tit and many more. We have seen foxes and hedgehogs too in the past.

Meet point: Childrens play area on Peartree Green

Grid ref: SU 438116

What3Words: spits.faster.cups

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

Sunday 12th

Great Fontley – Elms for the Future. Start Time:

10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Andrew Brookes of Butterfly Conservation has kindly offered to show us around the Elm trials at Great Fontley Farm. This field trip can be seen

as a precursor to Andrew's anticipated indoor talk for the Society in October on Elms and their regeneration and replanting.

Meet Point: Great Fontley Farm.

The farm is not signposted or visible off Titchfield Lane so there will be two red and white ranging poles at the two farmyard entrances to guide you on the day.

Grid Ref: SU 553 090

Postcode: PO15 6EA

What3Words: circulate.conclude.comedians

Leader: Mark Trigwell (mobile: 0781 445 4593)

Saturday 18th

Worth Matravers (Isle of Purbeck) – Coastal & Downland Birds. Start Time: 10.30 am – 3.30 pm

A walk along the Dorset coastal path for seabirds and downland species returning after lunch along farm tracks to the village. We pass the ice cream shop before climbing back up to the car park!

No max group size on this one.

Donations requested for car park which also has public toilets

Meet Point: meet in the car park Grid Ref: SY 974

776 What3Words: sedative.duty.dime

Leader: Julian Moseley – 02380 779850 for general enquiries only | Mobile No. 0790 038 1051 for contact on the walk date only

Sunday 26th

Martin Down – Chalkland Flora & General Wildlife Interest. Start Time: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Should be plenty to see and enjoy. We will be predominately exploring the tracks and downland around Bokerley Dyke

Meet point: car park on Sillens Lane – car park is approx 1 km along the lane, situated close to a fork in the lane.

Grid ref: SU 057 191

What3Words: saucepan.providing.shark

Post Code: closest SP6 3IB

Leader: Mark Trigwell (mobile: 0781 445 4593)

JUNE

Sunday 9th

Southampton Common – Birds & General Wildlife Interest. Start Time: 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Length approx 3 miles and 4 hours meandering around parkland, cemetery, woodland and the lakes. Easy walking. Should see plenty of other wildlife as well as birds

Meet point: at the entrance to Southampton Old Cemetery at the end of Cemetery Road

Grid ref: SU 412 136

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

Saturday 15th

Anson Grove and Portchester

Common – Chalkland Flora & Butterflies. Start Time: 10.30 am – 2.00 pm

Join us for a leisurely walk to look at the flora which grows on this important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Owing to the topography there are some relatively steep slopes to negotiate, so please bear this in mind before attending.

We may move to another part of Portsdown Hill should there be time

Meet point: entrance steps to Anson Grove open space (opposite the Anson Grove T junction) side street parking is available on Anson Grove

Grid ref: SU 6200 0650

Post Code: PO16 8JG

Leader: Mark Trigwell (mobile: 0781 445 4593)

Sunday 16th

Peartree Green – Bug Walk. Start Time:

1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Join Phil Budd for a bug hunt in grasslands, bushy areas, and woodland edge of Peartree Green.

We will search for anything with 6 or more legs.

We hope to add to the list of over 600 species of insect known to live on the green. Be prepared for hot weather.

Meet point: Childrens play area on Peartree Green

Grid ref: SU 438116

What3Words: spits.faster.cups

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

Sunday 23rd

Farley Mount Country Park – Summer Insects & Flora. Start Time: 10.00 am – 2.30 pm

We will assemble in the car park and will wander off in what seems to be the most promising direction!

Meet Point: Forest View Car Park

Grid Ref: SU 416 291

What3Words: cuddling.master.overused

Leader: Julian Moseley – 02380 779850 for general enquiries only | Mobile No. 0790 038 1051 for contact on the walk date only

Saturday 29th

St Giles Cemetery – Moth Evening. Start Time: 9.00 pm – 12.00 pm

We will return to a popular moth watching venue by the kind invite of members Dave and Anna Stewart. We will climb over their garden wall to look at the moths and other nocturnal insects in St Giles Cemetery. We might be able to detect some bat activity too.

Meet point: 'Fieldfare' Palm Hall Close Winchester SO23 0JL (Note: Parking here is limited – please car share if possible) Grid ref: SU 490 294

What3Words: kebab.sprinting.greeting

Leader: Phil Budd (0784 918 5896) – please book with Phil – if intending to join us.

JULY

Sunday 7th

Whiteley Pastures and Botley Wood – Woodland Flora & Butterflies. Start Time:

9.30 am – 13.30 pm

It is a couple of years since we last visited this superb complex of deciduous and plantation woodland. Please bring a pack lunch and stout footwear as some of the tracks and trails can be uneven.

Meet Point: park at the far end of Parkway, Whiteley, opposite the NATS entrance

Grid Ref: SU 5346 0951

Nearest Postcode: PO15 7FL

What3Words: romantics.forgiven.alley

Leader: Mark Trigwell (mobile: 0781 445 4593)

Sunday 13th

Weston Park – Moth Evening. Start Time:

9.00 pm – 12.00pm

A second moth night event will be held in a private garden, either by kind invite of Cath Corney or in another garden nearby. We hope to see many moths and some other interesting insects. Venue yet to be decided but we can meet at Cath's first in any event – see meeting details below.

Meet Point: 24 Newtown Road, Weston Park. SO19 9HQ

Grid Ref: SU 452 106 What3Words: craft.parts.settle Leader: Phil Budd (0784 918 5896)

Sunday 14th

Peartree Green – Summer Flora Walk. Start Time:

10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Join Phil Budd on a flower foray at Peartree Green. Over 300 flowering plants have been seen on the green and many species reappeared in large numbers after the fires in 2022. Be prepared for hot weather.

Meet point: Childrens play area on Peartree Green
Grid ref: SU 438116

What3Words: spits.faster.cups

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

Sunday 21st

Southampton Old Cemetery – Summer Tree Identification. Start Time: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

The old cemetery was originally set up as an arboretum and there are many interesting trees there. In July exotics such as silver-pendant lime, Indian bean tree and the low, shrubby bottlebrush buckeye should be in bloom. Many other deciduous trees will be identified including native and non-native species and some will be in fruit. We might look at some of the more interesting conifers too.

Please contact Phil if you intend to come along to this field event.

Meet point: at the main cemetery gates off Cemetery Road

Grid ref: SU 412136

Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

August

Sunday 4th

Itchen Navigation – General Wildlife Interest. Start Time: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Join us for a walk along this section of the River Itchen. Our circular walk will cover approx 5-6 miles through a range of habitats.

Bring lunch, walking boots or wellingtons (subject to weather conditions)

Meet Point: The Hub car park, Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh

Postcode: SO50 6LA

Grid Ref: SU 463 192

Leader: Cath Corney & Mark Trigwell (0784 918 5896)

Saturday 24th

Swanwick Lakes – General Wildlife Interest. Start Time: 10.00 am – 13.00 pm

Join us on walk through Swanwick Lakes which is managed by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. There is a variety of habitats – woodland, meadows and lakes in former clay pits.

Bring refreshments and suitable footwear on the day

Meet Point: Reserve car park, off Sopwith Way, Swanwick

Postcode: SO31 7AY

Grid Ref: SU 507 099

Leader: Cath Corney (please contact Cath on 0774 867 1807 if you wish to attend)

Monday 26th

Netley Common and Dumbleton's

**Copse – General Wildlife Interest. Start Time:
10.30 am – 1.00 pm**

A circular walk around a familiar area. We explore the cool shadiness of Dumbleton's Copse, look at the rapidly improving valley mire in the wood and look for insects on the flowering heather at Netley Common.

Meet Point: Lydgate Green, Thornhill – plenty of street parking in the area and easy to reach by bus
Grid Ref: SU 469 117 What3Words: takes.bind.
calls Leader: Phil Budd (0784 918 5896)

September

Saturday 7th

Southampton Old Cemetery – Late

**Summer Flowers and Insects. Start Time:
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

Usually, the weather is still bright and balmy in early September but hopefully any summer heat will be past. The floral displays in the cemetery continue into late summer but most of the flowers are then found in the open grassland and heathlands of the old cemetery. There will be an array of yellow dandelion types to get to grips with as well as heathers, devil's-bit scabious, late summer umbellifers, and many others. We will be searching for the rare long-tailed blue butterfly around the everlasting peas and several commoner butterflies, including brown argus. Many pollinating hoverflies, Tachinid flies, solitary bees, ichneumon wasps, and a few beetle species should be still around.

Please contact Phil if you intend to come along to this field event.

Meet point: at the main cemetery gates off Cemetery Road
Grid ref: SU 412136
Leader: Phil Budd (mobile: 0784 918 5896)

Sunday 15th

**Bramdean Common – Lichen Walk. Start Time:
10.30 am – 12.30 pm**

We will have a very gentle walk around Bramdean Common to point out a number of lichens including the three main structures. A number of hand lens and Field Studies Council fold-out charts

will be available to borrow. Most of the lichens will be widespread but, hopefully, we'll see at least a couple of more unusual ones. We will have a couple of chemicals and a UV torch with us to show various reactions.

Meet Point: There is a small, but adequate parking area, off Old Park Road.

Grid ref: SU 627 295 What3Words: notch.moguls.theory Nearest Postcode: SO24 OBA

Leader: Duncan Wright & Peter Bissett (07831 531360)

Next listing update October 2024

Please note that neither the Society nor any Leader shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage, however caused, sustained by any member or visitor whilst taking part in any of the Society's activities.

Check out our website www.sotonnhhs.org for updates and additional events.