

Ledbury Naturalists' Field Club

Spring and Summer field visits and excursions 2017

Please car share if possible

Date	Time	Details of meeting
Fri 7th April	19.00 h Public lecture	Johnny Birks will speak on <i>Look who's back! Can we restore our native carnivores to southern Britain?</i> This talk will explore our troubled relationships with mammalian predators in Britain, starting with the historical extermination of the wolf, brown bear and lynx, and the near-extinction 100 years ago of the wildcat, pine marten and polecat. We will consider the ecological and socio-economic consequences of these bouts of predator removal, and will ask how these might affect the recovery of carnivores like the polecat and pine marten. We shall also cast our eyes enviously across the English Channel to celebrate the recovery across national borders of much more challenging carnivores, such as the wolf.
22 April	Time 10.00 Morning walk	Walk around Eastnor Park A gentle ascent through the Park to the Ridgeway to find the ancient 'mistletoe oak', for some the holy grail. It will be a circular walk looking for migrant birds especially redstarts, spring flowers and butterflies - sun willing! Cherry Greenway who will lead this walk for Worcester Naturalists Club and we are cordially invited join them. Location: OS 189 734374 Park opposite the Castle gates.
Sat 6th May	14.00 h	Spring Walk on Midsummer Hill, Malvern Hills A walk along Midsummer Hill to Eastnor Obelisk for bluebells and other spring flowers. c. 2 miles walk which includes a climb, but mostly along tracks. Park in the car park on the A438 Tewkesbury road near the brow of the hill at Hollybush. Location: OS190 758368.
Weds 10 May & Fri 19 May	11.00 h Survey	Haugh Woods SSSI, Butterfly and Moth Hunt Some rare moths and butterflies survive in Haugh Woods and Forestry Commission are repeating a 'whole' wood survey for the Pearl Bordered Fritillary and Wood white butterflies and the Drab Looper moth. You do not have to be an expert as ID charts will be supplied. Meet in Haugh Woods Car park on the unclassified road between Mordiford and Woolhope. Bring lunch if you can stay into the afternoon. Location: OS189 593365. Surveys weather dependent, if in doubt call Kate Wollen Tel. 07786 526280

Sat 27 May	14.00 h	Great Doward Botanically very rich. Local resident and naturalist, Ian Draycott will show us some of the riches here. At Whitchurch on the A40 dual carriageway follow the lane and head to Great Doward and Biblins campsite. Location: OS OL14 547156. Park in the King Arthurs Cave Forestry Commission car park. Details and car sharing Kate Wollen Tel. 07786 526280
Thurs 22 June	19.00 h Evening walk	Meadow tour at Woodbines, Checkley An evening wander around Mr and Mrs Bob Halls lovely flower rich meadow. Meet at the last house on LHS of common, reached up a short drive. House signs by side of road. Parking for 6 cars, otherwise park on common. Location: OS189 596385 PC HR1 4ND Details contact Kate Wollen 07786 526280
Sat 24 June	13.00 h	Siege Wood & Picnic Come and celebrate our 50th anniversary with other members. Details of location to follow. Optional walk. Location: OS189 605343
Sat 8 July	11.00 h All day excursion	Orchids Galore Kenfig Burrows National Nature Reserve. An extensive dune system on South Wales coast with a buried village and castle. Lots of specialized coastal flora, small blue & other butterflies, dragonflies & damselflies, reptiles and an amazing number of different orchid species including (if we are lucky) the rare fen orchid. The walk to the coast and back from the Visitors Centre (now closed) is about 2.5 miles. Location: OS SS 8012810 Sat Nav CF33 4PT Distance via A447 & M4 is about 84 miles and takes about 1.5 h.
Fri 14 July	19.00 h Evening walk	Rushall for Spreading Bellflower A short evening stroll to search for the very rare Spreading Bellflower (<i>Campanula patula</i>). Meet by Rushall Social Club on the unclassified lane between Putley and Much Marcle. If time permits we can have refreshments in the social club. Location: OS189 641349. Contact Kate Wollen Tel. 07786 526280 Leader: Paul Rutter, Plantlife.

Sat 15 July	14.30 h	<p>Farm visit to The Leen, Pembridge</p> <p>Moseley Common SSSI:-About 15 acres of boggy marsh surrounded by low intensity grass meadows in HLS Environmental scheme. Moseley Common lies alongside the Curl Brook in West Herefordshire. It is one of the few areas of marshland in the county to have survived the effects of modern agricultural improvements and drainage. The botanical interest of the site has been known since the 19th C. Over 250 plants have been found on the site, including a number of species now rare or uncommon in Herefordshire.</p> <p>Location: OS 383590 Postcode HR6 9HN Leader: Tony Norman</p>
Sat 16 Sept	14.00 h	<p>Ast Wood Discovery visit for families</p> <p>Ast Wood is a wonderful survivor of Herefordshire's ancient woodland and has over 20 years been brought back to traditional, multi-purpose management. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of walking exploration of as many 'woody things' as we can manage. All combinations of family groups welcome. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. The walk will be approx. 1.5 miles, along un-even, possibly wet rides and will take about 2 hours. No dogs.</p> <p>On arrival, drive/cycle into the wood - there will be a finger board in the verge. You will be shown where to park. Low vehicles take care. You are welcome to bring a picnic tea - only if you share it with me!</p> <p><i>Location:</i> 3 miles W of Ledbury off Baregains Lane.</p> <p>Location: OS189 674379. Sat Nav HR8 2JY. Leader: Steve Betts</p>
Sat 14 Oct	14.00 h	<p>Moccas Park</p> <p>Moccas Park is one of the largest and most diverse examples of wood pasture remaining in Britain. We will have a brief orientation by the Warden and then be left to wander at will. We hope this will be our fungus foray too.</p> <p>Location: OS OL13 Off the B4352 Details later.</p>