

Summer Programme 2021

18 June 18.30-21.00

Checkley Common

Join us for a leisurely evening stroll over the common. Lovely spot as those who visited previously will testify.

Leader: Bob Hall

Location: Meeting place here at Woodbines HR1 4ND on Checkley Common. Satnav will misdirect you to Woodbine Cottage. Extra parking either on common or on Forestry pull in ~200 m east of Woodbines on common.

Conditions: Level ground easy walking.

23 June 19.00-21.00

Midsummer Walk: Colwall Village Orchards

An evening stroll round the two orchard sites that the Colwall Orchard Group have developed to preserve the orchard heritage in the village and encourage wildlife to thrive. This is a charming corner of the village and full of great ideas and shows what enthusiastic volunteers can achieve.

Leader: Janet Parry and Orchard group volunteers.

Location: The entrance to the orchard and grass parking is along a track off Old Church Road Colwall opposite Orlin Rd.

Conditions: Easy walking on flat paths. Toilet on site.

03 July 22.00

Glow-worm foray in Queenswood Kempley Dymock Woods

The walk will start at 22.00 and will finish around 23.30.

Leader: Kate Wollen

Location: Meet in the Forestry England car park in Dymock Woods at SO678284 just outside of Kempley village.

Conditions: We will be walking on good paths and forest roads, but it will be dark so bring a torch and wear sturdy footwear.

06 July Meet at 10.00 This is an all day visit

Cleeve Hill

Cleeve Common is a large area of limestone grassland, with some patches of more acidic soils. There is a typical limestone flora, and birdlife of open

grassland. The route we will follow takes in the areas associated with the orchids found on the common, the more bird rich areas, a butterfly conservation reserve, and some sites of geological interest. At the time we are going, we expect to see pyramidal, bee, musk, and frog orchids. red kites are being see more regularly, and there will be plenty of skylarks and meadow pipits.

Leader: Mervyn Greening

Location: Quarry car park next to the first tee of the golf course. SO 989272 shown as a carpark on OS Explorer map 179. Leave the B4632 at the highest point of the road (Same no matter what direction you are coming from), go along small lane past golf club carpark, over the cattle grid on to the common, bear left into quarry car park.

Lunch: Bring a packed lunch to be taken on the walk.

Post-walk partaking: Rising Sun on B4623 towards Cheltenham, approx 0.5 mile. Large car park at rear.

Conditions: The terrain is hilly, but we will follow footpaths that avoid the worst of the hills. The distance walked can be changed on the day to suit circumstances, and at most will be approximately five miles.

24 July 14.00-16.00

Ripple Gravel Pits Uckinghall

We will explore the bank of the River Severn and the area around the large gravel pits either side of the M50 bridge over the River Severn. Binoculars will be a great help. It is not an area on the normal natural history circuit but proved interesting on our previous visit.

Leaders: Eden & Wendy Tanner

Location: OS190 864 376. Leave the M50 at junction 1 and head north up the A38 towards Worcester. After 0.4 of a mile take the first turn left towards Ripple. Keep left in the village and head towards Ukinghall. Ignore the next left turn to Bow and as you come into Ukinghall take the turn to the left, signposted 'To The River'. Follow this lane and you will pass the flood defences and come onto an unmade-up track with some monster pot holes. After a few hundred yards you will come to the car park on the left. Fisherman's car park.

Conditions: 2.5miles circular route, short-cut if too far. Flat easy walking.

http://www.worcesterbirding.co.uk/ripple_gravel_pits_worcestershire_57.html

07 August 14.00-16.00

Mixed woodland at Whitney-on-Wye

The wood is roughly 50 acres, but adjoins more extensive woodland. It was mostly, but not all, clear felled of mature oak in 1987, and then purchased by Will Bullough who replanted with hardwoods to grow quality hardwoods whilst encouraging biodiversity and making it pay for itself. Will says: "I don't see any contradiction in these goals and am doing my best to prove it."

Leaders: Nick Smith (Forestry England) & Will Bullough

Location: Meeting point will be announced near the time.

Conditions: The wood is on a hillside, steepish in parts, clay soil and therefore potentially slippery when wet but should be alright in August.

19 August

Frith Wood Details later

Leader: Anne Crane

Location: TBA

11 or 18 September 14.00-16.00

Hartpury Orchard Centre

Leader: Stephen French (Trustee)

Location: <https://www.nationalperrypearcentre.org.uk> Map on website

Conditions: Easy walking on flat paths. Toilet on site.

25 September meet at 10.00 This is an all day trip

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Gilfach Reserve

Gilfach is a traditional hill farm with un-enclosed moorland. The variety of wildlife to be found here is what makes Gilfach different. Over a quarter of the lichens in Wales can be found growing here. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary & Forester moth are present plus a lot of interesting grassland fungi especially in the autumn.

Over seventy species of bird have been recorded, with over two thirds choosing to breed here. Well-known for its pied flycatchers, dippers, redstarts and many others.

There are several way-marked walks including along the River Marteg.

There is a small visitor centre at the farm with a toilet and self-service tea/coffee.

Rhayader is not far if people want more facilities, and the Elan Valley complex with visitor centre and walks around the reservoirs, woodlands etc. is a short trip up the road from Rhayader.

<https://www.rwtwales.org/nature-reserves/gilfach>

Leader: We are expecting to be able to have a RWT member to lead a walk but if not will wander around unaccompanied.

Location: Welcome Gateway entrance to car park off the A470 Rhayader to Llangurig road Sat Nav: LD6 5LF. OS: SN 962718. It is a 1.5 h drive from Ledbury, 65 miles, so car-sharing would be a good option.

Conditions: Good paths, but as this is an autumn visit clothing and footwear appropriate to the season is advised.

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