

Field meetings take place on mid-week evenings as well as Saturdays and Sundays. The Wednesday morning walks, which are a steady 4 - 5 miles in length, are of general interest, with the option of a pub drink/snack afterwards.

All meetings start at the Grid Reference at the time stated. Please bring your own refreshments for all-day outings. For further information, or if you need a lift, please telephone the contact number given against the excursion.

All persons attending excursions do so at their own risk. No responsibility for any mishaps occurring during the walks is accepted by the Society or by the walk leaders.

No dogs are allowed on Nature Reserves, and in other places must be kept on short leads.

## VISITORS WELCOME

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**13<sup>th</sup> April (Saturday) 14.30 at SU639574**  
**MORGASTON WOOD, HAMPSHIRE**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 986 2149)

Park in the National Trust car park of the Vyne, near Bramley, for a spring flower walk. (N.B. Non-National Trust members have to pay an admission fee to go into the woods)

**17<sup>th</sup> April (Wednesday) 10.15 at SU325788**  
**LAMBOURN**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 961 4277 / 0776 603 6797)

Park at village centre public car park, on west side of High Street (B4000). Visit Lynch Wood and BBOWT's Watts Bank Nature Reserve for woodland and chalk downland. About 5 miles, some fairly steep slopes but no stiles.

**28<sup>th</sup> April (Sunday) 14.30 at SU663788**  
**BOTTOM WOOD, MAPLEDURHAM**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 972 2137)

Park at the roadside in Goring Heath at the SW corner of Gutteridge's Wood (site of the former King Charles Head pub) for a walk to Bottom Wood for spring flowers in ancient woodland on chalk. Limited parking, so share cars if possible. Some steep hills and the paths may be muddy in places.

**1<sup>st</sup> May (Wednesday) 19.00 at SU694717**  
**KENNET MEADOWS AND FOBNEY ISLAND**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 957 3419)

Meet at the south end of Circuit Lane, Southcote, walk to the Holy Brook and the Kennet & Avon Canal, along the canal to the new nature reserve at Fobney Island. Return by more or less the same route. There will be spring flowers, possibly nightingales and whatever birds have adopted the new reserve.

**11<sup>th</sup> May (Saturday) 10.30 at SU506653**  
**BOWDOWN WOODS**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 966 9420)

A gentle walk through BBOWT's largest woodland reserve in Berkshire, looking for reptiles, late spring flowers and woodland birds. Meet at the reserve's Bomb Site car park, along the track off the north-east side of Bury's Bank Road. Some steep paths and it may be muddy in places.

**15<sup>th</sup> May (Wednesday) 10.15 at SU556691**  
**BUCKLEBURY COMMON**

Leader: (Tel: 0118 947 1170)

Meet in the car park at the NE corner of the crossroads in the middle of the common. A walk of about 3 miles in a mix of heathland and woodland, looking out for Tree Pipit, Stonechat, Climbing Corydalis and other specialities of the area.

**25<sup>th</sup> May (Saturday) 10.30 at SP898090**  
**DANCERSEND**

Leader: (Tel: 01296 748 932)

Turn south off B4009 Wendover - Tring road near the Forestry Commission Office, towards St Leonards for 1.7 miles. 150 yards beyond Chesham Fencing Supplies take track on left signed to BBOWT car park. For Greater Butterfly and Fly Orchids, Wood Vetch, Slender Bedstraw and Meadow Clary, Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak butterflies. Bring a packed lunch.

**1<sup>st</sup> June (Saturday) 14.30 at SU892853**  
**COOKHAM AND COCK MARSH**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 957 3419)

Meet at the National Trust car park in Cookham. A gentle generally level walk to Cock Marsh, then a gentle incline up chalk grassland towards Winter Hill, return along the Thames towpath. Spring flowers, possibly orchids, various birds. There are usually parakeets at Cookham.

**16<sup>th</sup> June (Sunday) 14.30 at SU813850**  
**KINGS BARN FARM, MEDMENHAM (private property)**

Leader: (Tel. 01491 578 633)

Take minor road opposite the entrance to Danesfield (Hotel). Keep right through gates for Kings Barn Manor and park by the green agricultural buildings and pond. A general interest walk through farmland and woods where various conservation initiatives are being tried. Some short steepish slopes.

**19<sup>th</sup> June (Wednesday) 10.15 at SU823861**  
**MARLOW**

Leader: (Tel: 0118 972 3520 / 07780 600 740)

Park at the 'road triangle' in Pullingshill Wood, west of Marlow, for a walk of about 4 miles through Hollowhill, Hog, Homefield and Pullingshill Woods. Some short steep ascents and descents; can be muddy in places.

**29<sup>th</sup> June (Saturday)**  
**DUNGENESS, KENT**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 941 4750)

See enclosed letter for details of the annual coach trip.

**4<sup>th</sup> July (Thursday) 19.00 at SU602793**  
**LOWER BASILDON AND HOOK END**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 957 3419)

Meet in the lay-by on the north side of the A329. Walk up Hook End Lane then up gently into chalk grassland. Some years ago numbers of pyramidal orchids, vervain and other chalk grassland species were seen in quantity. Since then new chalk surfaces have been exposed which may host new species.

**13<sup>th</sup> July (Saturday) 10.30 at SU516565**  
**COTTINGTON'S HILL NEAR KINGSCLERE**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 970 0805)

Proceed on the B3061 uphill from Kingsclere village. The car park is at the top of the hill on the left. The chalk grassland escarpment nearby has wonderful distant views on a good day. By contrast, there is a wooded area to explore nearby. Some steep hills.

**17<sup>th</sup> July (Wednesday) 10.15 at SU610785**  
**BASILDON PARK**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 957 3419)

Meet in the car park of Basildon Park, a National Trust property on the A 329 north-west of Pangbourne. A walk of about 4 miles around the periphery of the park, with some gentle ascents and descents and very varied habitats. We should see various orchids and the very unusual yellow birds nest. The National Trust has kindly waived the entry charge to the park.

**28<sup>th</sup> July (Sunday) 14.30 at SU617621**  
**PAMBER FOREST AND SILCHESTER COMMON**

Leader: (Tel: 0118 962 0622)

Meet at Impstone Road, Pamber Heath. Ancient woodland, wood pasture and heathland, for Wood Horsetail, Lily-of-the-Valley, Sundews and Petty Whin, plus Silver-washed Fritillary and perhaps Purple Emperor butterflies.

**3<sup>rd</sup> August (Saturday) 21.30 at SU649698**  
**4<sup>th</sup> August (Sunday) 09.00**

**MOTHING AT HOSEHILL NEAR THEALE**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 975 1499)

Park inside the local nature reserve at Hosehill. The entrance gate is across the road from the Fox & Hounds pub at Sheffield Bottom. Bring torches and wear warm clothing for our annual mothing night. Be prepared to stay up late – or come along next morning to view the contents of the traps.

**10<sup>th</sup> August (Saturday) 14.30 at SU531842**  
**OVEN BOTTOM**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 941 4750 / 07971 476 144)

Meet at Woodway, 1 mile south of Blewbury. Limited parking, so share cars if possible. This open access site is an interesting area of chalk grassland which the Society has not visited before. Last summer there were many Chalkhill Blue butterflies + Frog Orchids here.

**21<sup>st</sup> August (Wednesday) 10.15 at SU703868**  
**NETTLEBED COMMON**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 947 5441 / 07780 600 740)

Park and meet near wooden bus shelter on green for a walk through Nettlebed Common and Catslip, following a brief explanation of the environment plan and achievement thus far. For additional interest, at the conclusion, we will compare our species list with that recorded in August 4 years ago.

**24<sup>th</sup> August (Saturday) 14.30 at SU674808**  
**NIPPERS GROVE NEAR HOOK END**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 972 2137)

Meet on the west side of Nippers Grove at Park Lane (which runs from Cane End to Hook End) for a woodland circuit of general interest.

**7<sup>th</sup> September (Saturday) 14.30 at SU726957**  
**ASTON ROWANT**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 947 1170)

Meet at Cowleaze Wood car park for a walk round the southern part of Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve. We should see Autumn and Chiltern Gentians and the Silver-spotted Skipper butterflies may still be flying.

**18<sup>th</sup> September (Wednesday) 10.15 at SU721879**  
**WARBURG RESERVE IN AUTUMN**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 966 9420)

Meet at the car park of BBOWT's Bix Bottom Reserve. We will spend the morning exploring the reserve, with its woodland and chalk grassland habitat.

**21<sup>st</sup> September (Saturday) 14.30 at SU875621**  
**OLDDEAN COMMON, SANDHURST**

Leader: (Tel. 0118 9862149)

Roadside parking at the top of King's Ride, Sandhurst. On a previous visit, we saw Dartford Warbler, Bog Asphodel, Crested Buckler-fern, Small Cudweed and a variety of toadstools.

**1<sup>st</sup> October (Tuesday) Dr Owen Mountford**

19.45 at Pangbourne Village Hall

**From Wilderness to Cabbage Patch to New Waterland**

The history of the Fenland basin and planned habitat restoration.

The Society records observations made within a 20 mile radius of Reading. It would be appreciated if members' observations from any site within our area, with a grid reference, were sent to the appropriate recorder as soon as it is practical.

Withymead, a nature reserve situated between Goring and South Stoke (Grid Reference SU 601828) has been adopted as a monitoring site by the Society. Members wishing to assist in monitoring flora/fauna there should contact warden Keith Tomey on 07553 112447.

RDNHS members lead nature walks of about 3 miles at Basildon Park on Fridays. Meet at the National Trust ticket office at 11:00.

## READING AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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