

Bedfordshire Flora Group

Members of the group range in botanical skills from beginners to those with many years of experience. Field meetings are arranged, often to sites which are not normally accessible, in order to survey and to improve botanical identification. All are welcome. Meetings start at 10.00, unless otherwise indicated, and normally finish at lunchtime. Numbers may be limited so please book with John Wakely vetjw@btinternet.com 07769938567.

Flora Group Visits 2022

Sun May 15 **Sharnbrook Summit** – a WT reserve consisting of calcareous grassland and scrub. We will look particularly for *Arabis hirsuta* (Hairy Rock-cress) and *Cerastium brachypetalum* (Grey Mouse-ear) only known at 1 other site in the country. If time allows we will check the population of *Anacamptis morio* (Green-winged Orchid) at nearby Wymington Meadow NR.

Sat May 28 **Bromham Hall** (with Beds Invertebrate Group) – we will be surveying water meadows beside the River Ouse.

Sun June 5 **Waterloo Thorns** – a mosaic of neutral grassland and scrub containing a number of unusual plants including *Trifolium ochroleucon* (Sulphur Clover), *Genista tinctoria* (Dyers' Greenweed) and *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's Tongue Fern). We may also be lucky enough to hear Nightingale and Turtle Dove.

Sat June 11 **Marston Thrift** – an ancient semi-natural woodland on clay with wet rides. We hope to locate *Luzula forsteri* (Southern Wood-rush) at its only county site. *Ervum gracile* (Slender Tare) occurs just outside the wood.

Mon June 13 18.00 **Wadelows** (with BIG) – a small marshy reserve beside the Flit.

Mon June 20 **South Beds Golf Club** – many chalk plants occurring on the adjacent nature reserve are likely to be present. We will be surveying in order that the club can be more active in conservation.

Mon July 4 **Peter Smith's Fields** Eversholt (with BIG) an opportunity to survey private acid grassland.

Sun July 10 (full day) **Marston Vale** - Aquatic plant identification including indoor session at Marston Vale Visitor Centre 3-5. We will examine plants in the Ouse and elsewhere and in the afternoon look in more detail including microscopy. In particular we hope to cover *Potamogeton*, *Callitriche*, *Myriophyllum* and Stoneworts.

Sat July 17 **Fenlake Meadows** Bedford - revisiting water meadows beside the Ouse which we were unable to access in 2021. A number of unusual plants have been recorded from the site.

tbc

A Marston Vale Pit

Strawberry Hill Farm

Marston Vale Millennium Park