

# Somerset Rare Plants Group: Summer Meetings 2024

## Booking is Essential for all meetings

**Please email or ring the leader** before each meeting to say you are coming. This helps with planning and can be useful if there are changes to the programme. Parking is sometimes limited so **please lift share where possible**. Please bring your GPS/Mobile phone if you have one.

**Meet from 10.30am for an 11am start** unless stated otherwise.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

**Brean Down (VC6)**

A recording meeting to search for early spring annuals, for example Dwarf Mouse-ear (*Cerastium pumilum*) and Little Mouse-ear (*C. semidecandrum*). Other specialities of the site include White Rock-rose (*Helianthemum apenninum*) and Somerset Hair-grass (*Koeleria vallesiana*). We will particularly explore the east end of the peninsula.

**Meet:** National Trust car park, free to NT members, £6 for non-members (ST29685844)

**What3Words:** equity.spades.finely (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/oYcEggqUEnDKqVp39>)

**Leaders:** Helena Crouch [helenacrouch@sky.com](mailto:helenacrouch@sky.com) or 07773 037001 & Margaret Webster

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

**Park Wood, Chaffcombe (VC5)**

Recording in privately owned and managed species-rich ancient woodland. The woodland has a large population of Toothwort (*Larthraea squamaria*) and a good range of ancient woodland indicators, including Herb Paris. SRPG members last visited in 2011. **Numbers limited to 10**

**Meet:** details available on booking. Limited parking. Car sharing if possible.

**Leader:** Steve Parker [stephenjparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 4pm**

**Babcary Meadows (VC6)**

A weekday late afternoon/evening meeting timed to enjoy the impressive display of Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) and to hunt for Adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), followed by a convivial drink in the pub.

**Meet:** Car park of the Red Lion, Babcary (ST56462859) by kind permission of the owner

**What3Words:** huddling.loving.headed (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EDVHrRQjWmQyFUfz9>)

**Leader:** Fred Rumsey [rumsey2021@outlook.com](mailto:rumsey2021@outlook.com)

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**Dandelion Day at Shapwick/Canada Farm (VC6)**

An introduction to *Taraxacum*. How to collect, photograph, press and record a good specimen, the sorts of features needing to be recorded in the field, etc. We will visit a variety of habitats close to the Avalon Marshes Centre. **Numbers limited to 8**

**Meet:** Avalon Marshes Centre (ST42624150)

**What3Words:** mistress.lizard.motivator (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QjWtqybHzj8SpCjC9>)

**Leader:** Simon Leach [simonleach@phoncoop.coop](mailto:simonleach@phoncoop.coop)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

**Ash Priors Common (VC5)**

A chance to practice field recording against a gold standard recorder, helping to prepare for the FISC field tests. This is a species rich common with excellent grassland with woodland and wetland habitats.

**Meet:** small car park on Ash Priors Common (ST156288)

**What3Words:** unsightly.certainly.guarded (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZcVtU8XJRMQ4sBBh8>)

**Leader:** Steve Parker [stephenjparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Blackmore Farm nr Crewkerne (VC5)**

A recording meeting in ancient woodland with damp fields and a tufa spring.

**Meet:** At Blackmore Farm, Woolminstone (ST403083)

**What3Words:** frail.rigs.chill (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/fa1zjbbzzAFyZ2BJA>)

**Leaders:** Val Graham [grahamval57@gmail.com](mailto:grahamval57@gmail.com) or 07749 056788 & Fred Rumsey

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Grasses Workshop at Heal Somerset (VC6)**

An introduction to grass identification and the use of keys. We will start with an indoor training session then go out in the field to practice identification of common grasses and other grassland species. This is also a chance to learn about and explore this rewilding site. Coffee and cake etc provided – a small donation towards costs would be appreciated. **Numbers limited to 20**

**Meet:** Lower West Barn Farm, Bindon Lane, Witham Friary (ST73654006)

**What3Words:** sectors.obviously.giggled (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/69awqBg4sVBV5PJe8>)

Parking is in the Day Visitor/Tour parking (large barns), not the farmhouse itself. Once parked, walk back out to the road and turn right: the event space is in the farmhouse on the right.

**Leaders:** Liz Biron & Helena Crouch, bookings [helenacrouch@sky.com](mailto:helenacrouch@sky.com) or 07773 037001

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Pitney (VC6)**

A meeting to explore green lanes, old pasture, damp meadows and woodland around the village. We hope to see Round-fruited Rush (*Juncus compressus*), Marsh Arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*), Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*) and Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*). Pitney is the only Somerset site for Berry Catchfly (*Silene baccifera*).

**Meet:** recreation ground car park at south end of Leazemoor Lane (ST44302853)

**What3Words:** engineers.discouraged.holidays (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Shrx2tQffahD7x67>)

**Leaders:** John Poingdestre & Helena Crouch [helenacrouch@sky.com](mailto:helenacrouch@sky.com) or 07773 037001

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**Robber's Bridge (VC5)**

Recording Large-flowered Butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*) along Weir Water. The site has a rich flora including mires and other wetland areas.

**Meet:** Robber's Bridge car park (SS82124647)

**What3Words:** whirlpool.zoos.selling (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/PyePVpuijF43jdyM7>)

**Leader:** Steve Parker [stephenjparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30pm Ashton Court Estate (VC6)**

An evening walk to explore the species-rich grassland, woodland and ponds of the estate.

**Meet:** Mansion House car park (£3 for up to 5 hrs) car park closes at 9.15pm (ST55827194)

**What3Words:** pass.once.noises (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/b3rwh74dBgfRsHHH8>)

**Leaders:** Helena Crouch [helenacrouch@sky.com](mailto:helenacrouch@sky.com) or 07773 037001 & Aisa Irvine

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July Britty Common (VC5)**

A re-survey of the Blackdown mire complex at Britty Common. This will be a repeat visit to the site, the last SRPG recording meeting was 2013. Grazing and woodland management had just been introduced at that time.

**Meet:** Staple Hill car park (ST246159)

**What3Words:** snail.pumpkin.headstone (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/GWhsc5pUkj4YgAsU9>)

**Leaders:** Steve Parker [stepheniparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stepheniparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712, co-leaders Linda Everton & Karen Turvey

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July Collard Hill (VC6)**

A visit to admire a range of limestone grassland species flowering in late summer. The mortal remains of Nit Grass (*Gastridium ventricosum*), may still be apparent.

**Meet:** at the Chalet Youth Hostel Car Park (ST48023453)

**What3Words:** keener.scoots.mailboxes (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Gf49iR35Vj8RZ1bw5>)

**Leader:** Fred Rumsey [rumsey2021@outlook.com](mailto:rumsey2021@outlook.com)

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August (to be confirmed) Sedges Workshop at Avalon Marshes Centre (VC6)**

Sedges are often considered difficult to identify but may be of ecological importance and act as indicators; many are of conservation concern. We will study our more frequent local species, looking at different growth forms, distinguishing vegetative features, and floral characters. While the focus will be on Somerset's sedges a slide show of the other British species will be given.

Attendees are welcome to bring material for identification.

**Meet:** Avalon Marshes Centre (ST42624150)

**What3Words:** mistress.lizard.motivator (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QjWtqybHzj8SpCjC9>)

**Leader:** Fred Rumsey [rumsey2021@outlook.com](mailto:rumsey2021@outlook.com)

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August Pawlett Hams (VC6)**

This year we will focus on estuarine habitats around the south edge of Pawlett Hams. We should see Sea Wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*), Slender Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*), Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*) and a range of saltmarsh species.

**Meet:** start of White House Road (ST28294290). Parking limited, car-share where possible

**What3Words:** laying.trainer.ruling (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dUJTL5enrr7XT364u6>)

**Leaders:** John Poingdestre & Helena Crouch [helenacrouch@sky.com](mailto:helenacrouch@sky.com) or 07773 037001

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Hawkrigde Reservoir (VC5)**

Recording around the edge of the water body, searching for Round-fruited Rush (*Juncus compressus*) and Orange Foxtail (*Alopecurus aequalis*).

**Meet:** roadside parking on Lawyer's Hill (ST206359)

**What3Words:** question.takeovers.headset (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/cu88Sqy8Q3RrxXzcA>)

**Leaders:** Steve Parker [stephenjparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712 & Ellen McDouall

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**King's Wood Warren (VC6)**

A meeting to record in plantation woodland on Lower Greensand, with a good variety of sedges, ferns and species of acidic soils. This is one of the few sites for Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*) in VC6.

**Meet:** Alfred's Tower car park, on N side of Tower Road (ST74883532)

**What3Words:** flopping.arming.hardly (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9xL1VsT3ZEYhXv957>)

**Leader:** Helena Crouch [helenacrouch@sky.com](mailto:helenacrouch@sky.com) or 07773 037001

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Wincanton (VC5 & VC6)**

Urban botany, recording wild and naturalised plants in the streets of Wincanton, covering both VC5 and VC6.

**Meet:** Churchfields free car park, Wincanton BA9 9AJ (ST71182847)

**What3Words:** cabbies.brave.crows (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9UmCRNXMqiBPXYA8A>)

**Leaders:** Steve Parker [stephenjparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712 & Fred Rumsey

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

**Autumn Wild Flower Hunt, Taunton (VC5)**

An annual event to see how many species we can find still flowering in the last week of October. Timed to coincide with the Wild Flower Society's 'Autumn Hunt'. Quite a long walk, but we will aim to include a café en route.

**Meet:** Silk Mills Park & Ride car park (ST20862554)

**What3Words:** packet.pines.melon (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/bjtaUqdJ1NzNzxDV7>)

**Leader:** Simon Leach [simonleach@phonecoop.coop](mailto:simonleach@phonecoop.coop)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

**Vivary Park Taunton (VC5)**

Winter tree recording in town park, with a wide range of native and introduced tree species.

**Meet:** Park entrance gates (ST22712419)

**What3Words:** such.chill.yarn (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tTnFjFXWQAdB3nmh6>)

**Leaders:** Steve Parker [stephenjparker1710@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjparker1710@gmail.com) or 07450 691712 & Simon Leach