

DRAFT PROGRAMME depending on weather

Friday 21st April 13:00-16:30 Worcester urban

Leaders: Philippa Thompson, Ann Hill & Mark Lawley

Meet at King St Car Park WR1 2NX near Worcester Cathedral (SO 8513 5441). This is a Pay and Display car park. £5.00 for 6 hours, £3.60 for 4 hours. Ring Go App location 7795, phone 01905 880055. Or Park in a small free car park by the play area at Cherry Orchard Nature Reserve, (SO 85219 53301) Waverly St Car Park WR5 3DH (a 10 minute walk away).

This is an opportunity to record in a variety of urban habitats, around the sandstone masonry of the medieval cathedral and the cathedral close, alongside the canal and down by the River Severn. Other specialities include green fanged spiders living in the walls down towards the river and a witty pear tree outside the cathedral. Black redstarts were seen when we visited in January. SO 8554 and SO 8454 Only *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Lunularia cruciata* and *Lophocolea bicuspidata* on the BBS records.

The Stables, Lower Smite Farm will be open from 18:00 for those who wish to set up their microscopes. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust headquarters at Lower Smite Farm, Hindlip, WR3 8SZ (NGR SO 889 591) is about 1 mile from junction 6 on the M5 and about 3 miles north-east of Worcester www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

19:30 Philippa Thompson - Welcome briefing at The Stables.

19:40 – 20:00 Graham Hill will give a short presentation as an introduction to Worcestershire.

Friday evening. Informal communal microscopy

Saturday 22nd April Dry Limestone Woodland or Riparian Habitat

Leaders:

Woodland Habitat - Philippa Thompson, Ann Hill & Mark Lawley
Riparian Habitat – Graham Hill

Meet at 09:00am at The Stables at Lower Smite Farm: arrange who is going on which habitat; car sharing and grouping.

Leave Lower Smite Farm at approximately 09:30.

Venue: Woodland Habitat: Drive to **Crews Hill Wood and Blackhouse Wood**, Nr Alfrick/Suckley, WR6 5HF. The site is 21 miles west of Worcester and should take less than 40 minutes to drive to.

Parking will be on forestry track inside the woodland. The gated entrance is on the west side of the woodland at SO 73152 52152

SO7351, SO7352, SO7353 **Crews Hill Wood and Blackhouse Wood** form a contiguous semi natural ancient woodland belonging to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. The woodlands are a mix of ancient semi-natural woodland and plantation on underlying limestone. The limestone quarries in both woods have a good selection of calcicole species. In total 85 bryophytes have been recorded from four visits to the habitat to date. Some of the woodland was felled and planted with conifers in the sixties. The mix of large leaved and small leaved limes, hornbeam and oak is unusual for Worcestershire. Ground flora include *Campanula trachelia*, *Helianthemum*, *Blackstonia prefoliata* and *Thymus drucei*. *Brachythecium glareosum*, *Campylophyllopsis calcarea*, *Bryum torquescens*, *Campylium protensum*, and *Flexitrichum gracile* have all been recorded here. 84 bryophyte species have been recorded in SO7352 and 60 records for SO7351.

15:00 Des Marshal and Rita Holmes will leave the woodland and return to Lower Smite Farm facilities for anyone who wants to return early to look at packets.

Additional Field Meeting Venue:

Leader Riparian Habitat – Graham Hill

Venue: Graham Hill will lead a group to survey riparian habitats along the banks of the Rivers Severn and Teme. A circular walk downstream following Monarch's Way south to confluence of the River Severn and River Teme. Then westwards towards the historic Powick Bridge. Numerous access points to the river and banks.

On road parking at the eastern end of Weir Lane, Worcester WR2 4AY (OS Grid Ref: SO 84610 53147).

Saturday evening. Microscope facilities at The Stables at Lower Smite Farm managed by Philippa. Possibly need to pack-up microscopes etc at the end of the evening.

Sunday, April 23rd Wet Woodland Valley and Wyre Forest NNR

Leaders: Rosemary Winnall, Philippa Thompson, Ann Hill & Mark Lawley

Either Meet at 09:00 at Lower Smite Farm SO889591 to arrange car sharing OR meet at Uncllys Farm in the Wyre Forrest DY12 2LR (SO76088 75362).

Parking: Uncllys Farm, Tanners Hill, Bewdley DY12 2LS. Uncllys Farm is located in the heart of the Wyre Forest. It is a small holding nestled in the Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve, just outside of Bewdley. John and Linda Iles manage the farm. From Bewdley, take the Cleobury Road and turn right at the Hop Pole Pub, then bear 1st left onto Tanners Hill. Continue down the lane and over the cattle grid, then at the fork in the road, bear left up to the farm and park in the farm yard. 01299 488083.

SO7675, SO7676, Wyre Forrest. The BBS recorded in the Wyre Forest in 2004 but it was not accessed from Uncllys Farm. There are several habitats to be explored. There is the farmyard itself. We have been granted access to the Ruskin Studio workspace and toilet facilities if the weather is not good. There is a stream with shale and mud banks, running to the north-east, Dowles Brook. The woodland is primarily oaks replacing what was coppice managed woodland until the 1940s. There is an area of derelict orchard with ant hill pasture near Lodge Hill Farm and there are heathy areas and track margins to be inspected. *Bryum bornholmense* and *Platygyrium repense* have been recorded as well as western species like *Bazzania trilobata*, *Heterocladium flaccidum* and *Saccogina viticulosa*.

Wellington boots advised.

VERY IMPORTANT It is necessary to clean boots before each field day, to minimise risk of spreading pathogens or invasive species.