

North Western Naturalists' Union: Bryophyte and Lichen Section Field Meetings 2016

Section Secretary: Norman Bamforth 1 Corporation Road, Audenshaw, Manchester. M34 5LY (0161 336 3914)

All meetings are on Saturdays starting at 10:30 and will commence whatever the weather.

Please bring food and clothing adequate for a full day in the field and check with the leader or Section Secretary a day or so before the meeting in case of venue changes. Beginners are welcome at ANY meeting and there will always be a more experienced field bryologist present who will be more than happy to name and talk through the identification features of species encountered. There will not always be a Lichenologist present.

Saturday 13th February

Handforth and River Dean. Meet at far end of Sagers Road Handforth (SJ85208350). Leader John Lowell.
Wooded Clough and Riverside - quite a small area but suitable for a short day in February.

Saturday 12th March

Ladybower Woods. Meet at Heatherdene Car Park, Ladybower. (Fee) (SK202858) Leader Joan Egan

Saturday 16th April

Mid Lathkil Dale. Roadside parking at Haddon Grove between Monyash and Over Haddon. (SK180662) Leader Martha Newton

Saturday 14th May

Porter Valley bryophytes. Meet at Forge Dam Café Parking available near Fulwood Old Chapel around (SK302851) Joint Sorby NHS and NW Naturalists meeting. Leaders Joan Egan and Ambroise Baker.

The aim of the day is to bring together people who enjoy field bryology and record species present in the Porter Valley as a contribution to the Porter Valley moss micro-Flora. All levels of expertise are welcome throughout the day, including first time beginners. However, the focus of the morning will be training with no other objective than to learn from each other identification tips, while the focus of the afternoon will be recording bryophyte diversity. Ambroise has been recording bryophytes in the Valley since 2013 and is now working on compiling all these records into a micro-Flora. However there are still many habitats not surveyed, older records to be checked and many species he doesn't identify routinely with confidence, so any contribution is welcome!

The Porter Valley is one of Sheffield's major valleys and an exceptional nature corridor in the city. Following early industrial development with extensive water management including a series of dams, nature recolonised. Today the Porter Valley is a favourite green space for recreational activities. There is a wide range of habitats for bryophytes, including old masonry work, heathy grounds, acid grassland, alder carr, ancient and coniferous woodlands, swamps, wells, streams and river, etc. The lithology tends to be acidic but there are also many shale outcrops exposed by the river.

Saturday 11th June

Dove Stone Reservoir. Meet at Binn Green Car park Fee or bring RSPB Card. (SE018043) On A635 Greenfield to Holmfirth Road. Leader Ken Gartside.

Saturday 9th July

Slei Gill, Arkengarthdale. Meet car park (with a paypoint but no toilets) is just south of the village of Langthwaite, (NZ00530238) The nearest Sat Nav is based on the Red Lion Pub in Langthwaite and is DL11 6RE. Both car park and pub are within walking distance of each other. Leader Sue Knight.

Saturday 13th August

Scutchers Acres, near Burscough. We have permission to park on the neighbour's hardstanding turning in the drive to Forest View, to east off Flax Lane north of bridge over river. Post code L40 5TD; GR SD 44961075. Easiest approach from east is along A5209 through Parbold and Newburgh, turning left short of Ring O'Bells and again to right onto Hobcross Lane, then onto Flax Lane by Qualco kennels. (Privy on site.) Leader John Watt.

Scutchers Acres is 13 ha in extent, and has been a Local Nature Site since being owned from 1997. The river Eller Brook has many indicators of ancient Woodland but the site comprises a wide range of habitats from semi-natural woodland, recently planted woodland, broadleaves and conifers, meadows and stony artefacts.

Saturday 3rd September

Upper Goyt Valley. Meet at Pyms Chair Car park, beside road at SJ99457677 Leader Des. Callaghan.
We will explore the peaks of Cheshire and search for the county's highest species.

Saturday 1st October

Macclesfield Forest Park beside eastern end of reservoir at SJ95817136. Leader Des Callaghan.
We will explore Ridgegate Reservoir, Trentabank Reservoir and neighbouring woodland.

Saturday 15th October

Barrow Bridge, near Bolton. Meeting in car park at Barrow Bridge. (SD687118) Access from Bolton ring-road (A58) through Moss Bank Park. Leader Martha Newton.

Saturday 12th November

Ilkley Moor. Meet in Ilkley at car park SE 11727 47162 (10mins walk from Ilkley railway station). Leader Gordon Haycock.

Heading west up onto Rombalds Moor where there is blanket bog in relatively good condition, then search the upper moor for *Ptilium crista-castrensis* (recorded in 2012 and only record in Wharfedale) and then onto Crawshaw Moss which is recovering from wildfire ten years ago. Back via base-rich flushes on the scarp slope. Hopefully a grand day out with plenty of variety!

Saturday 3rd December

Cowbury Dale, Carrbrook, Stalybridge Meet in Castle Clough Car Park, Carrbrook village. (SD988011) From Stalybridge take B6175 Huddersfield Road and turn right at the roundabout after Millbrook village and straight across the mini-roundabout entering on village the car-park is on the left just after a restriction in the road. Leader. Norman Bamforth.