

Herts Flora Group – Field meetings 2018

(all meetings commence at 10:30am)

Saturday 5th May: Great Hornead village to Great Hornead Park Wood (TL42E), targeting oxlip, *Primula* hybrids, Herb Paris, arable weeds, ruderals. There are former records for Greater Butterfly orchid. Meet in Great Hornead village at TL401299, parking with care in the High Street.

Sunday 10th June: Sites near Hemel Hempstead, focusing on Roughdown Common (TL00M) and Boxmoor (TL00N). Targeting woodland and chalk downland flora, ruderals, and an attempt to re-find Flat Sedge (*Blysmus compressus*) at Boxmoor. The most convenient parking is at Hemel Hempstead railway station, which at the time of writing charges £4.40 per day at the weekend. You are welcome to seek free car parking nearby but the meeting place will be directly outside the entrance to the station building

Saturday 7th July: The Commons and adjacent nature reserve south of Welwyn Garden City (TL21K) with a range of habitats including woodland, spring-fed mires (wellies needed) and calcareous grassland. A good range of locally scarce species in need of re-recording. Meet at the Commons roadside at TL258112, parking opportunistically at roadsides close by.

Saturday, 18th August: King's Meads Nature Reserve (TL31L) with emphasis on aquatic plants, and nearby slopes below Chadwell Springs for remnant chalk downland flora. Bring a grapnel if you have one to fish for pondweeds. Several good records from this area to chase including Tubular Water-dropwort, Adder's-tongue fern and Yellow Sedge. Introduced plants on the canal-side. Street-side parking at Chadwell (off Ware Road: TL351138) and meet at the start of the footpath to the reserve at Chadwell Banks (TL350136).

Saturday 1st September: Croxley Green/Croxley Common Moor (TQ09S/X) for floodplain meadows and grassland, heathland (with both species of *Genista*), a disused railway line plus ruderals in built-up areas. This is a joint meeting with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Meeting place and recommendations for parking to be supplied in due course.

Sunday 7th October: Berkhamsted area (TL90Y/Z) for late flowering natives and aliens, taking in Berkhamsted Castle (walls and moat), adjacent stretches of the Grand Union Canal, and railway station grounds. The most convenient parking is at Berkhamsted railway station, which at the time of writing charges £4.40 per day at the weekend. You are welcome to seek free parking elsewhere but the meeting place will directly outside the entrance to the station building. If time permits there will a chance to pay a brief visit to nearby Northchurch Common.