

Shropshire Invertebrate Group: Programme 2019

Weekend Field Meetings

All meetings take place on Sundays with an **11.00am** meeting time.

- April 7th** **Dudmaston Estate – Comer Wood**
An early season visit to this National Trust Estate. Habitats include woodland, scrub grassland and a series of large pools, providing us with variety of habitats for early season interest.
Meet at **11:00**. Turn east off the A442 south of Bridgnorth, directly opposite the main entrance to Dudmaston Hall, Gardens and Park. Continue for 250 m and park on the right in the Old Sawmill Car Park
- May 5th** **Bettisfield Moss NNR**
This outstanding site boasts a huge range of scarce invertebrate species, with the potential remaining for new species for the county to be discovered.
Meet at **11:00** at the car park at **SJ 480 348**, which is along Moss Lane.
- June 2nd** **Church Stretton**
We will plan to visit two small sites around the town of Church Stretton, starting at Ley Gardens where there is an interesting wetland site.
Meet at **11.00** at the entrance to the Wetland site by Ley Gardens at **SO 459 941**. There is on road parking available on some of nearby streets (eg Lutwyche Road and Essex Road).
- June 30th** **Black Hill, Clun**
A Forestry Commission site in the Clun Hills, offering fabulous views across the south of the county. Although there is much plantation forestry here, there is also deciduous scrub and grassland habitats. Meet at **11.00** at the start of the gated forestry track at **SO 319 786**. There is parking at the start of the forestry track, or in the large layby opposite. Note that the roads in this area are narrow.
- July 21st** **Private site or Haughmond Hill**
*We are waiting to hear if we have access to a private site for this meeting. If we do not secure access, then we will alternatively meet at **Haughmond Hill**, where we will aim to find the recently discovered population of the rare robberfly *Neomochtherus pallipes*. Meeting at **11.00** in the Forestry Commission car park (small charge), at **SJ 545 147**.*
If you want to join us on this meeting, please email mpshurmer@gmail.com by July 18th at the latest to confirm venue.
- August 11th** **Old Oswestry Racecourse**
Perched on the crest of the hills to the west of Oswestry, this 18th century racecourse is located on a high plateau between the north Shropshire plains and Welsh hills, providing extensive views of surrounding countryside. Consisting of a patchwork of scrub, scattered trees, bracken and wildflower rich grassland supporting a wide range of invertebrates.
Meet at **11.00** in the informal car park located at South Common **SJ 259 305**.

August 25th

Wyre Forest

A joint visit with Shropshire Spider Group to this outstanding woodland site on the Worcestershire County Boundary. Interest for arachnologists is provided by *Hyptiotes paradoxus*, but the site has plenty of other interest. Meet at **11.00**. There should be plenty of car parking available at the Earnwood Copse Forestry Commission car park at **SO 744 784**, which is along the B4194 just north-west of Buttonoak.

Sept 22rd

Earls Hill & Pontsbury Crag

Another joint meeting with Shropshire Spider Group, to this Shropshire Wildlife Trust site. We will target *Atypus affinis*, though the site offers much promise for autumn invertebrate fauna including leaf mining insects. Meet at **11:00**, the reserve is signed from the A488 in Pontesford, follow the lane for 700 m to the car park at **SJ 409 047**.

Oct 20th

Bury Ditches

This Forestry Commission site boasts a hill fort dating back to 500 BC and offers wonderful views across South Shropshire. This is also an excellent site for late season woodland, scrub and grassland invertebrates. Meet at **11:00** in the car park along the minor road between Clunton and Lydbury North, at **SO 333 839**. The wood is signposted from the B4368 and B4385.

Joy of Wildlife

Keith Fowler runs a regular series of mid-week meetings under the Joy of Wildlife programme. For details contact Keith on keith.c.fowler@bueyonder.co.uk

Shropshire Spider Group

The group runs a programme of field meetings at weekends and midweek. For details contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett on shropshire.spiders@gmail.com

Indoor Meetings

These are informal get-togethers for a chat and convivial company. We meet at the Riverside Inn, Cound, on the first Wednesday of each month from about 20:00 onwards. For 2018 the dates to put in your diary are as follows. Please note especially the dates for April, July and October as they fall in the first three days of the month:

January 10th

February 6th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 8th

June 5th

July 3rd

August 7th

September 4th

October 2nd

November 6th

December 4th

Contacts

SIG website and downloads of past Annual Reports via: <http://vc40insects.yolasite.com>

Facebook Group: search for **Shropshire Invertebrate Group**

SIG contact email (Mike Shurmer): mpshurmer@gmail.com

Joy of Wildlife contact email (Keith Fowler): keith.c.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk

Shropshire Spider contact email (Nigel Cane-Honeysett): shropshire.spiders@gmail.com