

British Lichen Society Field Meetings & Workshops Programme 2012

note: All members of whatever level of experience are welcomed on all BLS Field Meetings. No member should feel inhibited from attending by the fact that some meetings are associated with BLS Council meetings or the AGM. Workshops, on the other hand, may be aimed at members who have some level of experience. If so this fact will be specified in the meeting notice.



SOUTH WALES (day meeting)

Sunday 5 February 2012

This is a field visit is associated with the BLS AGM being held in Cardiff. Full details will be given during the AGM. Those wishing to attend the field trip without going to the AGM meetings (an option not to be encouraged!) should inform the Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price (lichenrecords@sorby.org.uk) Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 9UP, and they will be sent details of the meeting place and time.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP - Splits and Look-alikes

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th February 2012

Tutors: Dr Brian Coppins and Dr David Hill

Course fee: £50.00

A number of species, some common such as *Hypotrachyna revoluta*, *Lecidea fuscoatra*, *Degelia plumbea* and *Placopsis gelida*, have been split giving rise to *H. afrorevoluta*, *L. grisella*, *D. cyanoloma* and *P. lambii* respectively. There are others where completely unrelated species can look very similar in the field in the same habitat such as *Amandinea punctata* and *Catillaria nigroclavata* (and *Rinodina biloculata*!). These splits and look-alikes lead to the under-recording of the less common species and the over-recording of the better known names.

This course will give lichenologists greater precision and confidence in fieldwork, identification and recording. Please bring specimens for identification including any that could in a split or look-alike group and, of course, pyrenocarps and *Caloplacas*! Selected herbarium material will be provided. We will be working on both morphological characters (as well as ecology and distribution) as well as microscopical examination.

If you are interested in attending this course please email David Hill (d.j.hill@bris.ac.uk) or phone 01761 221587 for further information.

BLS SPRING WORKSHOP 2012 - The genus *Caloplaca*

Sunday 22 - Friday 27 April 2012

Location: Kingcombe, Dorset

Workshop leader : Bryan Edwards

The objective of this workshop is to give participants the knowledge and confidence to identify species in this potentially confusing genera. The latest revisions of the species concepts will be explained, keys provided, and there will be ample opportunity to examine specimens collected during the week and also those brought along by participants.

So that all attendees will have the opportunity to benefit the number of participants will be limited to 25.

Meeting Base & Accommodation

The Kingcombe Environmental Centre, Toller Porcorum, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 0EQ

Email: office@kingcombecentre.org.uk

Telephone: 01300 320684

Website: www.kingcombe.org

Costs at Kingcombe

All inclusive (about!) £76 per person per night; B&B (about!) £38 per person per night; Day rates for food are yet to be determined but should be about £25 per person per night for dinner, £20 for lunch and two lots of refreshments per person per day.

Booking Arrangements

Please book with the BLS Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price, and confirm it by sending him a £30 deposit. Cheques to be made out to 'The British Lichen Society' (not to 'BLS' please).

Contact: Steve Price, Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 9UP
email: lichenrecords@sorby.org.uk

Balances for accommodation and meal costs will be payable directly to Kingcombe Centre.

Travel

See the website: www.kingcombe.org for details of getting to Kingcombe. If attendees are travelling by train (either to Dorchester or Maiden Newton) could they let Bryan Edwards (email : b.edwards@dorsetcc.gov.uk) or the Centre know the times and pick-ups and dropping-off can be arranged.

Workshop start

Sunday 22 April

15.00 -17.00	Arrival
17.30	Welcome & Introductory meeting
19.00	Dinner

Workshop finish

Friday 27 April

09.00	Vacate accommodation
12.00	Vacate workshop room

The workshop will be a mix of field visits, tutorials and laboratory sessions. Sites it is planned to visit include:
Montacute Park, South Somerset; ST4988 1693;
Valley of Stones NNR, Little Bredy; SY5990 8755;
Penn's Weare, Isle of Portland; SY6949 7118;
Cattistock & Sydling St Nicholas churchyards; SY5912 9954 and SY6300 9929.

BLS SUMMER MEETING 2012 - The Isle of Muck **Saturday 23 - Saturday 30 June 2012**

This is an opportunity to participate in a thorough survey of the lichens of a moderately small, family owned, island off the west coast of Scotland. The recording challenge is made greater by the four 10k grid squares that overlay the island. Muck, along with Rum and Eigg, make up the 'Small Isles'. The 559 hectare island is composed mostly of sheet basalt with dolerite intrusions and an area of jurasic sediments. The island is low lying with a high point of 137m.

Accommodation

The family-run Port Mor Hotel (grid ref NM 42 79) and the island bunkhouse have been reserved for our group. Camping is also possible at the bunkhouse. The bunkhouse has a double and two twin rooms, shower & bathroom, kitchen and lounge.

The cost of full board at the hotel is £60 per person per day in 2011.

The cost of staying in the bunkhouse is £12 per person per night in 2011, although we may get a group discount on this rate. The hotel are willing to provide breakfast and dinner for those of our group staying in the bunkhouse or camping. The costs of these meals will be approximately £5 for breakfast and £20 for a three-course dinner.

Please note there are no food shops on the island so if you are planning to self-cater you have to take all your food for the duration of your stay.

Places are limited. The maximum number that can be accommodated is 15 in the hotel and 6 in the bunkhouse, and this number depends on double occupancy of double beds. A few cottages are also available for rent on the island but because of the limited dining capacity at the hotel there is no guarantee that they will be able to cater for people using these.

For more information on the island visit www.isleofmuck.com

Microscope work

A room in the island community hall has been reserved for our use as a laboratory. This facility is 2 minutes walk from the bunkhouse and 5 minutes from the hotel.

Transport

Caledonian MacBrayne ferries run from Mallaig. In 2011 the 14.25 Saturday ferry arrives on Muck at 16.25 and on the return journey the 11.50 ferry arrives at Mallaig at 14.05. Trains from Glasgow and Fort William connect with the ferry and there is an overnight rail sleeper service from London to Fort William.

Contact: www.calmac.co.uk or phone 01687 462403.

Cars are not allowed onto the island without a special permit so we will all need to travel as foot passengers. The ferry fare from Mallaig, in 2011, is £9.50 single.

Arisaig Marine also visit the island but not on a Saturday.

Booking

Reserve your place on this island adventure with the Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price. Please state your preferred style of accommodation (i.e. hotel; bunkhouse; camping) and confirm the booking by sending him a £30 deposit. Cheques to be made out to 'The British Lichen Society' (not to 'BLS' please). Contact: Steve Price, Woodlands, Combs Road, Combs, High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 9UP email: lichenrecords@sorby.org.uk
The payment of final balances will be made at the end of the stay directly with the hotel.

The Midge

We have been assured that midges in these parts prefer to spend summer-time on Rum and Eigg. But they would say that wouldn't they?

BLS AUTUMN 2012 FIELD MEETING, Bedfordshire

Thursday 4th – Monday 8th October 2012

Local organiser-Mark Powell

The theme of this weekend is to raise awareness of the surprising diversity of lichens to be found in the southern part of the East Midlands. Although a field meeting here may not seem particularly adventurous, such areas of the lowlands are relatively unexplored territory. A careful survey of a randomly chosen Bedfordshire churchyard in February 2011 yielded a list of 121 lichens, twelve of which were new for the vice-county, one of them (*Micarea curvata*) was new for England. Beginners and improvers will have ample opportunity to learn while more experienced members will undoubtedly bring fresh insights.

Outline programme

Welcome & Introduction: 21.00 Thursday 4th (after an evening meal).

Field outings: Friday 5th, Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th and morning of Monday 8th. The sites that we will visit will include a churchyard, an ancient woodland, heathland and a disused sand quarry.

Meeting close: lunchtime Monday 8th.

Accommodation

The meeting will be based at The Park Inn, 2 St Mary's Street, Bedford, MK42 0AR, (www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-bedford, 01234 799988). This large hotel is situated beside The River Ouse at the south end of Town Bridge (grid ref TL051495). Double rooms are available at £60 B&B per night if mention is made of the BLS meeting when booking. An internet search will reveal a range of alternative hotels and B&Bs in and around Bedford. The local organiser can be contacted for local knowledge.

Microscope work

A function room has been booked for the duration of our stay. This will provide space for approximately ten work stations while leaving room for others to socialise. The two BLS microscopes will be available for communal use.

Transport

The Park Inn is about ten minutes walk from the Bedford train and bus stations (taxis always on hand). The hotel has its own car parking.

Booking

Accommodation is to be arranged individually by the participants. Please let the Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price, (lichenrecords@sorby.org.uk) and the local organiser, Mark Powell, (markpowell222@btinternet.com) know if you plan to attend. More detailed information about the sites will be sent out to attendees as plans develop.

BLS SPRING 2013 MEETING, Kinlochewe, Wester Ross - ADVANCED NOTICE

Saturday 27 April to Saturday 4 May 2013

Local organiser - Oliver Moore

This is a chance to explore unrecorded pockets of the Beinn Eighe NNR and Letterewe Estate SSSI (to assist with local recording effort) as well as other sites of interest in the vicinity of Loch Maree in the North West Highlands. Local geology is dominated by Lewisian gneiss, Torridonian sandstone, quartzite and hornblende schist. Habitats include fabulous Scots pine woodland, some of the northern-most Atlantic oak/birch woodland, moorland, loch edge rocks, acidic rock communities, wooded ravines with *Lobarion*, riverine habitats and mountain summits for the more energetic. The coast is not far away either. More details nearer the time.

Meeting base & accommodation

The base for the meeting will be at Anancaun (the SNH Field Centre at NH024630) where there is space for setting up microscopes and limited accommodation in a recently refurbished self-catering, bunkhouse (4 available bed spaces in each of the two dormitories) and a shared-cottage (3 rooms with 2 single beds in each). For those not staying at the SNH Centre the village of Kinlochewe is only 1km away and here there is the Kinlochewe Hotel, hostel, B&B and caravan accommodation available. The Kinlochewe Hotel is willing to organise evening meals for the whole group should that be required and there is a popular café in the village as well. There is a small village store in Kinlochewe that is reasonably well stocked for those self-catering. There is also a free campsite (at NH013637) approx 2km NW of Kinlochewe with toilet block and drinking water (and no midges at this time of year). The Ledgowan hotel at Achnasheen (15-minute drive) also serves food and Gairloch is about a 35-minute drive away for alternative eating venues.

Travel

Nearest train station is at Achnasheen, on the Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh line, where a pick-up could be arranged. Kinlochewe is about an hours drive from Inverness (where there is an airport and from where cars may also be hired).

Registering an interest

Expressions of interest to the local organiser Oliver Moore and the BLS Field Meetings Secretary, Steve Price (o.moore10@imperial.ac.uk & lichenrecords@sorby.co.uk) stating if you are interested in staying at Anancaun or if you plan to arrange your own accommodation. Oliver apologises in advance for slow responses to emails, due to temperamental internet access.

Steve Price, BLS Field Meetings Secretary, 26 September 2011