

## Tisbury & District Natural History Society 2023 Field Trips

1. **Monday 1st May. 5.30 pm. Guided bird walk at Wallmead Farm** organised by Peter Shallcross with ecologist Nick Adams.

The focus will be on spring migrant birds. Bring binoculars if you have them. **No dogs.**

**Meet in the farmyard at Wallmead Farm, SP3 6RB at 5:30pm**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear** - approximately 2.5km / 1.5 miles in grass fields and meadows on uneven ground. There will be a couple of short steep slopes but mostly the walking will be on flat ground; muddy patches are possible. The pace will be very slow and there will be an opportunity to finish half way through the walk.

Stout footwear with good grip recommended, full leg covering is advised.

**TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE, THERE IS A LIMIT TO NUMBERS ON THIS WALK.** To reserve a place please email us via the Contact page.

2. **Thursday 25 May. Visit Swell Wood Heronry** organised by Peter Shallcross

A short walk to view the heronry as the birds roost for the night: there could be an option of a longer (approximately 1km) walk through the reserve after seeing the heronry, if there is sufficient daylight. **No dogs.**

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 6:30pm or at RSPB Swell Wood Reserve on the A378, Taunton TA3 6PX at approximately 7:30pm**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear** - less than 100 metres on a flat path through woodland. Stout shoes should suffice. Torches will be needed, as the return walk will be in twilight.

Further details on the heronry are available on the RSPB website at :-

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/swell-wood/>

3. **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. 10.30 am. Otters at West Hay National Nature Reserve, Westhay Moor Drove, Westhay, Glastonbury BA6 9TX.** Organised by Peter Shallcross

The focus will be on otters but there should be many other birds and other wildlife to see. Bring binoculars if you have them. **No dogs.**

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 10.30am or approximately 1 hour 15 minutes later at the Westhay Moor Reserve BA6 9TX.** The car park is at OS ST 456 437, just north of the junction between Westhay Moor Drove and Dagg's Lane Drove, between the villages of Westhay and Godney.

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear:** Approximately 5 km/3 miles on flat gravel paths which may be a bit muddy if there has been recent rain. Good stout shoes should suffice rather than wellingtons. Bring a packed lunch and refreshments.

4. **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. 10:30am to 1:00pm. Butterflies at Ryewater Nursery.** Organised by Peter Shallcross

The focus will be on butterflies but there will be ample opportunity to look at the varied habitats of this former nursery, now managed for conservation, with a butterfly house and gardens of around 20 acres. **No dogs.**

**Meet at Nadder Centre car park at 9:30am or at the Ryewater Nursery DT9 5PL, at roughly 10:30am.** Note, Ryewater Nursery is on the east side of Broke Lane, approximately 7km/4.5 miles south of Sherborne. The postcode is shared with Ryewater Farm that is on the other side of Broke Lane.

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear.** Approximately 4km/2.5 miles on flat, paths and tracks. Stout shoes should suffice unless wet. Bring a packed lunch and refreshments.

**There's a limit to the numbers that can be accommodated on this walk.** To reserve a place please do so via our Contact page.

5. **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. 11am/12 pm. Butterflies at Vernditch Woods and Martin Down National Nature Reserve.** Organised by Andrew Graham

If weather permits the focus will be on butterflies but there will be ample opportunity to look at the flora as well. **No dogs.**

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 11:00am or at the Martin Down car park, SP5 5RQ beside the A354, at roughly 12:00pm.**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear.** Approximately 4km/2.5 miles on flat, mainly grassed, paths and tracks. Stout shoes should suffice unless wet. Bring a packed lunch and refreshments.

6. **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Nightjars in the New Forest.** Organised by [Debbie Carter](#).

The aim is to walk from a convenient car park to hear Nightjars from about 10:00pm.  
**No dogs.**

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 7:45pm or at the Turf Hill car park (OS Grid reference SU 212 176) just west of the B3080 at Hale Purlieu, Fordingbridge SP6 2NT at approximately 8:30pm. [UPDATED]**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear:** we shall be walking from the car park for about ½ mile, 15 minutes or so. This is easy walking on a rough but level gravel track to where the Nightjars are in the trees near a row of pylons. As we shall be starting at dusk and returning to cars in the dark, a good torch is required.

7. **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August. Beavers on the River Frome** organised by [Debbie Carter](#).

We will be met by local wildlife expert Eve Tigwell who will guide us to the nearby nature reserve in the hope of seeing beavers. **No dogs.**

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 7:30pm or at the Asda Shopping Centre car park on Castle Road BA11 5LA just off the A362, roughly an hour later.**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear** - We have no knowledge of the distance we shall cover, nor the state of the paths, so stout footwear or boots are recommended. We shall start the walk at dusk and continue into darkness, so a good torch is advised.

**TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE, THERE IS A LIMIT TO NUMBERS ON THIS WALK.** To reserve a place please email us via the Contact page.

8. **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September Ancient and veteran trees at Savernake Forest,** organised by [Julia Willcock](#) and guided by Keith Lea. **No dogs.**

A walk through a quiet part of the forest with the focus on veteran trees and forest ponds, with plenty of other wildlife to see. Bring binoculars if you have them. Please note that the forest is grazed by cattle which may be near us at times on our outing.

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 9:00am or roughly one hour later at the Burbage petrol station, SN8 3AR at the junction of the A338/A346/B3087.**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear.** A maximum of 3 miles with plenty of stops before lunch and there will be a short (5 minutes) drive after lunch for the optional afternoon walk of maximum 2 miles. The terrain is generally flat with gravel or hard tracks. Some minor pathways can be muddy and slippery underfoot. There are a few inclines, but they are relatively short. Hiking boots should be fine, rather than wellies, although it is always worth packing them. Bring a packed lunch and refreshments.

9. **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October Migratory birds at Radipole Lake and Lodmoor RSPB reserves in Weymouth** organised by Andrew Graham.

The focus will be on resident and migrant birds. Bring binoculars if you have them. **No dogs.**

**Meet at the Nadder Centre car park at 09:00am or at the Beach car park at Lodmoor DT4 7SX, just to the west of the entrance to the Lodmoor reserve, at approximately 10:30am.**

**Distance, Difficulty and Footwear.** The combined distance at these two separate locations will amount to approximately 5 km/3 miles on flat gravel paths which may be a bit muddy after rain. Good stout shoes should suffice rather than wellingtons. Bring a packed lunch and refreshments.

Further details on the two sites are available on the RSPB website at:-

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/radipole-lake/> and

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/lodmoor/>