



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

LEARNING ABOUT PLANTS

This factsheet has been produced to help those living within the Wildlife Trust area with an interest in vascular plants to learn more by registering for courses, joining societies & groups, attending field meetings and/or by teaching themselves.

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

The following organisations run courses and workshops in plant identification, plant habitat studies and plant recording:

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough

Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton, NN3 8BE Tel: 01604 405285 Fax: 01604 784835

E-mail: trainingworkshops@wildlifebcnp.org www.wildlifebcnp.org

Newton Field Centre

Newton, Kettering, NN14 1BW

Tel/Fax: 01536 741643 E-mail: enquiries@newtonfieldcentre.org.uk www.newtonfieldcentre.org.uk

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

The Education Office, Cambridge University Botanic Garden, Cory Lodge, Bateman Street, Cambridge,

CB2 1JF Tel: 01223 331875/6 Fax: 01223 336278 E-mail: education@botanic.cam.ac.uk

<http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/educvisits.htm>

University of Leicester, Institute of Lifelong Learning

Vaughan College, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 4LB

Tel: 0116 252 5908 (main number 0116 251 7368) Fax: 0116 252 5128 E-mail: gem@le.ac.uk

Field Studies Council

Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1HW

Tel: 0845 3454074, 01743 852160 Fax: 01743 850178 E-mail: fscee@hotmail.com enquiries@field-studies-council.org These courses are residential and based at centres around the country.

www.field-studies-council.org

There are a number of other centres and organisations round the country who run courses on similar subjects.

SOCIETIES/GROUPS

The following organisations arrange field meetings and/or occasional indoor lectures about British plants which are open to members and visitors/non-members and where informal learning can take place.

Bedfordshire Natural History Society

Hon. Membership Secretary Mary Sheridan, 28 Chestnut Hill, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7TR Tel: 01525 378245 www.bnhs.org.uk

Huntingdonshire Fauna & Flora Society

Hon. Membership Secretary Mr Stuart Irons, 69 Glinton Road, Helpston, Peterborough, PE2 9EA Tel: 01733 252261

Cambridge Natural History Society

Membership Secretary, Dr Henry Tribe, 198 Gilbert Road, Cambridge, CB4 3PB membership@cnhs.org.uk
www.cnhs.org.uk

Kettering and District Natural History Society

c/o Gill Gent, 3 Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1NL Tel: 01933 277966

Northampton Natural History Society and Field Club

The Humfrey Rooms, 10 Castilian Terrace, Northampton, NN1 1LD Tel: 01604 604529
www.hamal.demon.co.uk/nnhs.htm

The Wild Flower Society

General Secretary and Acting Meetings Secretary for 2007 Mr S. Parker wfsgensec@yahoo.co.uk
 Membership and postal enquiries: 82a High Street, Sawston, Cambridge, CB2 4HJ Tel: 01223 830665
 E-mail: wfs@grantais.demon.co.uk www.thewildflowersociety.com

Friends of Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Cory Lodge, Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1JF Tel/Fax: 01223 336271 E-mail:
friends@botanic.cam.ac.uk

University of the Third Age in Cambridge - Botany Group

The Old Warehouse, 33 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UW Tel: 01223 321587
 Queries to: Beti Evans 01223 314394 or Peter Payne 01284 850502
 E-mail: admin@u3acambridge.freemove.co.uk www.u3ac.freemove.co.uk
 (indoor meetings held at Cambridge University Botanic Garden)

Cambridgeshire Flora Group

An informal group actively recording the flora of the old county of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. Monthly excursions on Saturdays, starting in spring, to record plants in parishes all over old Cambs; also many other opportunities and ways to contribute to the production of the new county flora. Organised by the BSBI vice-county recorders, Nick Millar and Alan Leslie (contact details below).

Northamptonshire Flora Group

This group is being revived and will contribute to the planned update to the published flora. Organised by the BSBI vice-county recorders, Gill Gent and Rob Wilson (contact details below).

PLANT RECORDING**The Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) www.bsbi.org.uk**

Membership is open to all with an interest in the British and Irish vascular plant and stonewort floras. Members receive a newsletter journal three times a year and a learned journal twice a year. The Society organises a programme of excursions every year. The Society's website provides a wide range of resources, including: up-to-date national atlas maps; downloadable ID documents such as the Plant Crib; national & vice-county checklists; details of FSC botany courses; list of county recorders etc. The Society also provides a network of referees to deal with members' queries regarding identification of difficult plant groups and other subjects such as scientific & popular names, herbaria, British botanists, etc. Members of the society benefit from substantial discounts on many botanical books, esp. at pre-publication stage.

The vice-county recorders receive, verify and collate plant records for their respective areas; submit records to national recording schemes; and endeavour to stimulate and co-ordinate plant recording in their area. If you would like to help with recording or in other ways please get in touch with the appropriate person named below:

Bedfordshire vc. 30: Chris Boon, 68 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Bedford, MK45 5DF
 E-mail: chris.boon45@btinternet.com

Cambridgeshire (excl'd Hunts) vc. 29: Nick Millar, 16 Gainsborough Drive, St Ives, PE27 3HH
 E-mail: nmillar1@ntlworld.com Alan Leslie is co-recorder (all correspondence to Nick Millar).

Huntingdonshire vc. 31: David Broughton, 55 Star Road, Peterborough, PE1 5HT
 E-mail: d_broughton@tiscali.co.uk

Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough vc. 32: Gill Gent, 3 Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1NL and Rob Wilson, Northamptonshire Flora Group, 23 Cecil Street, Rothwell, Kettering, NN14 6EZ E-mail: robwilsondesigns@hotmail.com

INFORMATION RESOURCES - BOOKS, JOURNALS, INTERACTIVE MEDIA

National identification guides (a very small selection of the many currently available)

Illustrated floras:

The Wild Flower Key. Francis Rose & Clare O'Reilly. Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd, London. First published 1981, ISBN 0 7232 2418 8. Revised edition 2006. [c.£20]. A well illustrated guide with keys to most groups, helpful descriptions and summaries of which features to look for in many groups. In the first edition some of the keys were difficult to use or relied on features which are variable but most aspects of this book have been improved for the second edition. Includes only a few common grasses, sedges and rushes.

NB. The first print run of this revised edition contained a large number of printing and other errors; you are advised to purchase the corrected version when it appears.

Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. Marjorie Blamey, Richard Fitter, Alastair Fitter. London: A&C Black. 2003. A colour illustrated book, which by covering only Britain and Ireland can be very comprehensive, including grasses, ferns etc.

Largely unillustrated floras:

New Flora of the British Isles, 2nd Edn. Clive Stace. Cambridge University Press, 1997 [c.£30]

Flora of the British Isles. A.R. Clapham, T.G. Tutin & D.M. Moore. (1987). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (earlier editions: A.R. Clapham, T.G. Tutin & E.F. Warburg. 1952, 1962).

For native vascular plants, each has its strengths and weaknesses. Both have detailed keys, neither has any colour pictures, and few black and white drawings (both) or photographs (Stace only). Stace is more up-to-date (indeed, it has become the standard source for plant names), and he tackles certain 'difficult' groups better than any previous book, often with new illustrations; he is never afraid to use small features (even requiring a microscope) if these are the most reliable. 'CTM' (alias 'CTW') provide much more thorough descriptions, which can be very handy if parts of a plant (e.g. flowers, fruits) are missing. Their keys often use easier characters, and are more comfortably laid out. For non-native plants, Stace has to be used, because he includes over a thousand extra species, mainly casuals from food, gardens etc., and is far more reliable and up-to-date on the distribution and origins of aliens.

Field Flora of the British Isles. Clive Stace. Cambridge University Press, 1999. ISBN 0 521 65315 0 [about £20]

Excursion Flora of the British Isles 3rd Edn. A.R. Clapham, T.G. Tutin, E.F. Warburg. Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition first published 1981. ISBN 0 521 23290 2 [about £35]

Pocket versions of the above.

The BSBI publishes a range of more specialised books for the botanist, notably the Handbook Series which currently covers Sedges, Umbellifers, Docks & Knotweeds, Willows & Poplars, Charophytes (Stoneworts), Crucifers, Roses, Pondweeds and Dandelions. BSBI also publishes the *Plant Crib* (reprinted 2006), a very useful book giving detailed guidance on identification of problem plant groups using descriptions, keys, tables and line drawings.

Interactive Flora of the British Isles C.A Stace (Eds.) R. van der Meijden, I. de Kort. ETI Information Services Ltd. 2004. This multimedia DVD combines a new and extended version of Stace's *New Flora of the British Isles* 2nd ed., detailed distribution data from *New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora* and some 8500 illustrations, amongst other items. [about £30]

National distribution and ecology

New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora. C.D. Preston, D.A. Pearman, T.D. Dines. Oxford University Press, 2002 National distribution plotted at 10km square resolution; together with potted descriptions of the status of each species, their habitats, distribution/range, trends, etc. Accompanying CD allows data to be queried in a variety of ways, including comparison of species distribution with geophysical and climatic factors. [about £100]

Local distribution floras

The most recent flora of Bedfordshire is: *Bedfordshire Plant Atlas*. J.G. Dony. Luton Museum & Art Gallery, 1976. Out of print. Mainly comprising tetrad distribution maps. The last full flora is *Flora of Bedfordshire*. J.G. Dony. Luton Museum & Art Gallery, 1953. Out of print. A new flora is being worked on by Chris Boon.

The most recent full flora of Cambridgeshire vc 29 is: *A Flora of Cambridgeshire* F.H.Perring, P.D.Sell & S.M.Walters. Cambridge University Press, 1964. Out of print.

A Checklist of the Flora of Cambridgeshire. G.Crompton & H.L.K.Whitehouse. Privately printed, 1983. Out of print. With distribution lists at 10km square resolution. A new flora is being worked on by Alan Leslie and Nick Millar.

Cambridgeshire Flora Records since 1538. Gigi Crompton. Comprehensive web-based catalogue of vascular plant records in Cambridge and the Isle of Ely (vc 29): *Part 1* Nationally Rare, Nationally Scarce, Locally Rare species. *Part 2* Alien species. *Part 3* Other species. www.cambridgeshireflora.com

The Flora of Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough. Gill Gent, Rob Wilson et al. Robert Wilson Designs, 1995. ISBN 0907381 03 0 Mainly comprising 5km square distribution maps with short species accounts. The authors are intending to produce an update to this volume.

The Flora of Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough. Terry C.E.Wells. Published by Huntingdonshire Fauna & Flora Society and T.C.E.Wells, 2003. ISBN 0-9514427-2-4. Mainly comprising tetrad distribution maps with short species accounts.

Local journals on natural history

Nature in Cambridgeshire. An annual journal devoted to the natural history of the former county of Cambridgeshire. Contains a digest of the year's most interesting and important plant records. Copies and back copies may be obtained by writing to Nature in Cambridgeshire, c/o Museum of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EJ. Website www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk

Huntingdonshire Fauna & Flora Society Annual Report. An annual journal containing reports from the society's recorders and articles on the natural history of the former county of Huntingdonshire together with Peterborough. Copies and back copies may be obtained from Hon. Membership Secretary Mr Stuart Irons, 69 Glington Road, Helpston, Peterborough, PE2 9EA E-mail: stuirons@aol.com

Bedfordshire Naturalist. An annual journal produced by Bedfordshire Natural History Society. Part 1 covers plants and fauna other than birds. The current issue may be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary, Mary Sheridan, 28 Chestnut Hill, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7TR Tel: 01525 378245

Ecology Groups volunteer training and development has been supported by the Wildlife Travel Franklyn Perring Fund. Franklyn started Wildlife Travel in 1988 and since then the company has organised hundreds of holidays worldwide, with all profits being donated to The Wildlife Trusts. The aims of the company are to support conservation in both the UK and abroad, to provide conservation based wildlife holidays and to encourage good practice in ecotourism. The Fund was set up in Franklyn's memory and contributions have been received from many of his fellow travellers, who benefited from his enthusiasm and skills in sharing his extensive botanical and general natural history knowledge with others. For more information or to contribute to the Fund, please contact wildlifetravel@wildlifebcnp.org or 01954 713575.



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