

Southeast Worcestershire Local Group

Spring newsletter 2025



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

There are over 50 species of orchid in Britain, ranging from the abundant common spotted orchid to the rare ghost orchid, a species that was seen in 2024 for the first time since 2009. Orchids can pop up unexpectedly almost anywhere. They can be found on roadside verges or appear suddenly in suburban gardens. In 2022 a single pyramidal orchid was found for the first time on Avon Meadows at Pershore but hasn't been seen since then.

Orchids can be seen from April (early purple) to September (autumn lady's-tresses) but the best time to spot them is in May or June. It is in June that we will be visiting the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust (VLHT) nature reserve of Hipton Hill Orchards near Evesham. The walk will be led by VLHT's Gary Farmer.



Greater butterfly orchid
© John Boon



Pyramidal orchid
© John Boon



Bee orchid
© Julia Saunders

At Hipton Hill there are usually good numbers of common spotted and pyramidal orchids, plus a small number of bee orchids, but perhaps the star species is the greater butterfly orchid. In a good season an impressive 300 plants can produce up to 3000 flower spikes; numbers vary from year to year depending on the weather. Ideal conditions are lots of sunshine in the growing season, as well as cold temperatures in the winter and not too much rain. Basically, like the rest of the UK's wildlife, this species needs proper seasons, which do seem to be getting rarer. With our weather patterns changing, conservation organisations, including Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and VLHT, face increasing landscape management challenges.

For more information on Hipton Hill Orchards visit <https://valetrust.weebly.com/hipton-hill-orchards>

John Boon

Spring - summer programme

Talks take place at the Friends Meeting House, Cowl Street, Evesham WR11 4PN, starting at 7.30pm and cost £3. All are welcome, please do bring along friends and family.

Wednesday 9th April 2025

Wendy Carter - Spotting wildlife near you (*talk*)

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Wendy Carter will take a closer look at some of our most common wildlife and explore why it's important to record, how easy it is to do so and what to spot in our gardens and while we're out and about across our beautiful county.

Tuesday 15th April

Midweek Ramble - River Avon, Evesham

10am at the far end of the upper car park of The Valley Shopping Centre, Twyford WR11 4DS

We will follow the Avon to the Worcestershire County Council-owned New Farm Nature Reserve. For more details of the site visit Roots in Time - Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service (explorethepast.co.uk)

Friday 16th May 2025

Photographing Wildlife

with Dr Kevin Williams

7pm Avon Meadows, Pershore

Meet in the free car park adjacent to Avon Meadows. If coming by car, the ASDA car park is recommended as it is free after 6 pm.

You don't need expensive cameras and big lenses to photograph nature. It is possible to take outstanding pictures on a phone or basic camera and this event is open to all who want to learn about photographing wildlife. There will be experienced photographers on hand to give advice and help.

Thursday 5th June 2025

Midweek Ramble - Windmill Hill nature reserve, North Littleton

10am in lay-by opposite the reserve, WR11 8QS, on the B4510 Evesham to the Littletons Road

There is limited parking so booking is essential john.boon13@gmail.com

Tuesday 17th June 2025

Midweek Ramble - Orchids at Hipton Hill Orchards, Lenchwick with Gary Farmer

10am grid reference SP013484 / (nearest) postcode WR11 4UA

There is limited parking so booking essential john.boon13@gmail.com

Saturday 21st June 2025

An evening walk by the Avon at Pershore

7.30pm Pershore Bridges car park WR10 1AT

We will follow part of the Pershore Bridges Circular Walk returning for 9pm www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/pershore_bridges_circular_walk_leaflet.pdf

Tuesday 23rd July 2025

Midweek Ramble - Monkwood and Green Farm, Sinton Green with Dominique Cragg

10am reserve car park at SO804607 WR2 6NX (nearest)

There is limited parking so booking essential john.boon13@gmail.com

The committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support for our events both indoor and out during the past year. We are still only a small committee so we would welcome anyone who would like to join us in planning and organising future meetings. If you would like to know more please contact either

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