



EuCAN Community Interest Company

Surveying weekend at Wyke Farm & Chedington Woods Friday July 14th to Sunday July 16th 2023

Programme for the weekend

Chedington Woods and the surrounding farms are on the Dorset/Somerset border -see this [map](#).
Postcode: DT8 3HX. Please aim to arrive between 4 and 5pm, carparking will be in the camping field.

Background: a comprehensive survey of this land was carried out between 2006 and 2010 and we held our first weekend event in 2018. The owners are very keen to continue this on a regular basis to establish a public database of information about the site to inform the management of the woodland and the farmland. Altogether this is a very large area if Whitevine Farm and the several other adjacent farms are included (now under the same ownership), so we will be concentrating on certain compartments, particularly those not covered in previous years. For the results of this work and for records from previous EuCAN weekends, please see the EuCAN website: <https://eucan.org.uk/previous-years/2022-highlights/> (scroll down), where there is also a spreadsheet of species collated by the Dorset Environmental Records Centre.

Things to bring: Most of the group will be camping in the field beside the lake – we have a few tents and sleeping mats we can lend, but it is best if you bring your own. There is also parking for campervans in the field. The toilets are nearby. Some people are staying in local B&B's.

Bring a sleeping bag and a pillow + toilet things including a towel + night clothes, sun block and sunhat, insect repellent (preferably DEET-free, I find Smidge perfectly good). Please bring a small personal 1st Aid Kit – with plasters and a small roll of micropore tape, waspeeze, antiseptic wipes, a roll of bandage, a medium wound dressing and two prs of disposable gloves. We will be bringing a full 1st Aid Kit as well. Also bring a torch, phone charger, camera charger, bat detector, binoculars, handlens, butterfly net, moth trap, generator, cables, gps, and collecting pots, if you have them. We will provide plenty of id books but bring your own too.

Catering: we will provide the food for the Friday evening with a vegetarian option. On the Saturday evening, our hosts Rob and Alex Appleby, will be giving us one of their legendary BBQ's. There will be vegetarian options but please make sure you have told us if you have particular dietary needs. We will make breakfasts and lunches in the barn. Please bring your own drinks to share, alcoholic or otherwise, and your own cutlery, mug, bowl, plates etc. There is a kitchen with washing up facilities in the barn.

Provisional timings for the weekend

Friday 4.30pm Tea and arrivals, introductions, allocation of rooms and/or pitches for tents.

6pm introductory walk before

7.30pm supper.

After supper we will set up moth traps and go out looking for bats if the conditions are suitable. Colin Morris and Mariko Whyte will have been checking the batboxes on the Friday so we may know a bit more about what there is around. Please bring a bat detector if you have one. No doubt the bird ringers will be busy too.

Saturday

Before breakfast, we will begin the analysis of the moth traps and find out what the birdringers are up to..

8am Breakfast

After breakfast: continuation of the moth identification and birdringing. 10am – 4pm There will be a wildflower identification session with Miles King (<https://peopleneednature.org.uk/>). This is part of a season of one day events organised through the Dorset branch of Butterfly Conservation. The fee for the

session is £10 and needs to be booked in advance. The group involved in this will be having lunch and refreshments with us. There are three places left if anyone wants to book.

11am refreshments

11.30am Options:

1. Bees – if the weather is suitable there will be a walk through the meadows and garden to identify bees.
2. to be confirmed.

1pm lunch

2pm More options:

1. Butterfly Transect we will walk the route that we established last year and which has been used for monitoring numbers most weeks this year.
2. Insect id An excursion with Jack Oughton with nets, pots and lenses to find out more about the rich insect fauna of the estate.

6pm approx Barbecue supper laid on by our hosts, Rob and Alex Appleby.

Evening: bats, moth-trapping, bird ringing, etc...

Sunday

Moths and birdringing before (and after) breakfast.

10am Options:

Steve Brown of the Dorset branch of Butterfly Conservation will be organising some timed butterfly counts in certain areas of the estate. This is a useful way of getting a snapshot of butterfly numbers without using a transect route that has to be walked every week of the season.

After coffee break: Adrian Mylward the beetle recorder for Dorset will take out a group to help him look for beetles and bugs.

And Adam Gale will lead a bird walk.

12.30 lunch

1.30pm Optional wildflower walk to Whitevine Farm haymeadow (SSSI).

And: 1.30 – 3.30 Prof Tom Brereton will run a session on one of the grassland areas as an introduction to the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). Tom has been closely involved in the recording at Wyke Farm and is also advising the Rewilding Project at Maperton nearby.

3.30 final winding up session (maybe making plans for future survey work) and

4-4.30pm Final tea and departures.

The previous years' survey weekends have been really enjoyable events which have laid the foundations for further recording work. The estate is divided up into small parcels and we hope to survey as many of these as we can, concentrating particularly on those that have not been covered before. Looking forward to seeing you for what promises to be a busy and inspiring weekend!

For further information contact: tel 07981.776767 email nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk or visit:

www.eucan.org.uk

The aims of EuCAN CIC are

- to encourage and facilitate cultural exchange and the exchange of environmental ideas and skills between the UK and other countries (particularly within the European Union).
- to promote practical conservation volunteering both in the UK and abroad
- to promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment by promoting biodiversity.
- to encourage sustainable development in the rural economy through environmentally sensitive farming and food production.
- to promote the research and development of systems of conservation management and agriculture which are both economically viable and environmentally sustainable.
- to provide education and training related to these activities and to disseminate relevant information and guidance to the public at large.