



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

July to September 2025

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	5th	July	Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow	Catriona Brady	Arklow Head, Co. Wicklow
Thurs. – Fri Sat - Sun	10-11th- 12-13th	July	<i>Rubus</i> Recording Long Weekend	Alexis FitzGerald & David Earl etc	Co. Wicklow etc
Saturday	12th	July	Farm Visit	Anthony Mooney	Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Saturday	19th	July	Riverside Walk and Woodlands	Charles Shier & Tom Miniter	Ballymore Eustace, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	2nd	August	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	9th	August	Woodland Invertebrates	Nessa Darcy	Rathcoole, Co. Dublin
Saturday	16th	August	Raised Bog Boardwalk & Cranberry Plantation	Fiona Devery	Ferbane, Co. Offaly
Saturday	6th	Sept.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	13th	Sept	Sessile Oak Woodland	Katharine Duff	Clara Vale, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	20th	Sept.	Autumn Fungus Foray	Andrew Smith	Donadea, Co. Kildare
Saturday	27th	Sept.	Montane Blanket Bog	Mark McCorry	Glenbarrow, Co. Laois

DNFC Plant Identification Workshops

The DNFC workshop sessions are held in the National Botanic Gardens, usually on the first Saturday of each month. The Field Club is very fortunate in having access to this facility through the active support and permission of the Director, Matthew Jebb and staff members. Some members meet for coffee beforehand. Please bring a lunch, the recommended texts and lenses with measuring graticules.

Note: There will be no plant identification workshop on Sat. 5th July, owing to the visit by the BSBI *Rubus* expert, David Earl, over the following weekend.

Saturday 5th July 2025

Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow, Arklow Head - Risk Level 2

On this outing we will visit Arklow Head and Quarry. The trackways are rough, so good walking footwear is essential. Plants previously recorded and not seen recently include: *Vicia sylvatica*, *Crithmum maritimum* and *Asplenium obovatum*.

Leader: Catriona Brady

Meet: at the Railway Station in Arklow (Eircode: Y14 YD89)

Bring: Sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens and lunch.

Directions: From Dublin take the N11/M11 for Wexford and exit at Junction 20 for Arklow. Follow the R772 into Arklow, across the bridge over the Avoca River and turn right at the T-Junction. After 350 m turn left into St. Mary's Road, which leads to the station. Park along the road outside the station.

Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th July 2025

***Rubus* Recording Long Weekend (Various locations) – Risk Level 2**

DNFC is very fortunate to be visited for an extended weekend by the current Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Referee for *Rubus* in Northern England and Wales, and Vice-County Recorder for Lancashire, David Earl. David will guide and educate our members on the *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Brambles) species of various counties in Leinster and east Munster, namely Wicklow, Meath and Tipperary. He will also be willing to identify some collected materials from Field Club members (fresh or pressed/dry). The proper collection methods for brambles will be showcased during the outings, and many species will be identified to Section and species level. A wide variety of habitats and locations will be sampled.

The meetings on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July are part of the official Field Club programme. However members are most welcome to attend, *in a personal capacity*, on the Saturday and Sunday and should contact either Rosaleen or Margaret (see below) if they wish to participate.

For general queries, please contact the President, Alexis FitzGerald.

Thursday 10th July

***Rubus* sites in North Wicklow**

Leader: Alexis FitzGerald & David Earl

Bring: Bramble identification books, hand lens, sturdy walking boots and lunch.

Friday 11th July

***Rubus* sites in South Wicklow**

Leader: Alexis FitzGerald & David Earl

Meet: in the centre of Laragh Village

Bring: Bramble identification books, hand lens, sturdy walking boots and lunch.

Sat 12th & Sun 13th July: There will also be unofficial *Rubus* recording outings on Sat 12th and Sun 13th July. For details of the outing to Co. Tipperary on Saturday 12th, please contact Rosaleen Fitzgerald. For details of the outing to Co. Meath on Sunday 13th July, please contact Margaret Norton..

Saturday 12th July 2025

Visit to a Working Farm, Maynooth Risk Level 1

Anthony manages his farmland in an extensive manner, allowing the growth of host species for butterflies and other insects. In recent years he has also installed a farm pond and wet depressions to encourage more wetland species. We will take a look at the natural history that can be found on this working farm. This will be a joint outing with the Kildare Branch of Birdwatch Ireland.

Leader: Anthony Mooney

Bring: Identification books, hand lens and lunch.

Saturday 19th July 2025

Riverside Walk – Ballymore Eustace Co. Kildare - Risk Level 2

From the centre of Ballymore Eustace we will follow a walking trail upstream along the River Liffey as far the Golden Falls Hydro Station; and then complete a looped walk back to the town. There are a few steepish parts along the way. We will examine both wetland and woodland habitats.

Leaders: Charles Shier & Tom Miniter

Bring: Sturdy footwear, plant identification books and lunch.

Directions: From the M50, take the N81 through Blessington; after 4 km turn right onto the L2025 for Ballymore Eustace.

Saturday 2nd August 2025

Plant Identification Workshop National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Sedges and their relatives - Declan Doogue and other DNFC members

The morning session will include a follow-up session to continue our engagement with *Carex* and other members of the Cyperaceae, in both their identification and ecology. Particular attention will be devoted to some of the more difficult groups – e.g. the *Carex divulsa/muricata/spicata* complex and the *Carex flava* aggregate. Members should bring copies of BSBI Handbook No. 1 (the third, 2007 edition) '**Sedges of the British Isles**' by Jeremy, Simpson, Foley and Porter.

An Arboricultural Excursion to Ireland in 1897 - Charles Shier

The Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society travelled over to Ireland in August 1897, and members of the Society visited some of the premier gardens and great estates in Dublin and in the surrounding counties. They then travelled south to examine others near Killarney, Co. Kerry. The report of the excursion contains details on the height, girth and crown spread for notable specimen trees on the estates – which may be the first printed record of tree sizes in Ireland.

Afternoon Session

Bramble Identification - Alexis FitzGerald

A discussion and viewing of a range of exhibits, following on from the recent visit by the *Rubus* expert David Earl. Members should bring their copies of '**Brambles of Scotland**' by Angus Hannah - BSBI Handbook No. 25; as well as the earlier work, '**Brambles of the British Isles**', by E.S. Eedes and A. Newton.

Saturday 9th August 2025

Woodland Invertebrates – Rathcoole, Co. Dublin - Risk Level 2

Rathcoole Woodlands are an area of naturally recolonized woods lying southwest of the public park at Rathcoole. The wide range of habitats there should yield an interesting mix of insects for us to examine. This will be a general invertebrates outing which is also suitable for children,

Leader: Nessa Darcy

Bring: Insect identification books, hand lens, nets, clear plastic containers, walking boots and raingear.

Directions: From the M50, take the N7/M7 and exit at Junction 4 for Rathcoole.

Saturday 16th August 2025

Ferbane Bog Boardwalk & Cranberries Co. Offaly - Risk Level 1

In the morning we will take a walk along the Ballylin Bog Boardwalk, which was created by the NPWS, and which allows access to both bog woodland and open Raised Bog habitats. Then after lunch we will visit a Cranberry Plantation that was established on a cutaway bog over 30 years ago. We will see how well the North American Cranberries have survived; and also examine what else has colonised the plantation over the years.

Leader: Fiona Devery

Bring: Floras and hand lens, walking boots, raingear and lunch.

Directions: From Dublin take the N4/M4 west and then join the M6 at Kinnegad; exit the M6 at Junction 8 and follow the N62 for Birr, which passes through Ferbane.

Saturday 6th September 2025

Plant Identification Workshop National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Water Plants - Declan Doogue and other DNFC members.

We will deal with a number of genera of water plants, including *Potamogeton*, *Elodea* and *Myriophyllum*, some of the aquatic members of the *Cyperaceae* and possibly *Callitriche*.

Suggested reference works include '**Water-Starworts (*Callitriche*) of Europe**' BSBI Handbook No. 11 by R. V. Lansdown (2008); and '**Pondweeds of Great Britain and Ireland**', BSBI Handbook No. 8 by C. D. Preston (1995).

Afternoon Session

A continuation of the study of Water Plants

Saturday 13th September 2025

Sessile Oak Woodland – Clara Vale, Co. Wicklow - Risk Level 2

The Woods in Clara Vale are a Nature Reserve and include fine examples of old sessile oak woodland along the Avonmore River valley where there is a long history of woodland cover. We will check for acorns and the seeds of other trees in fruit. We will look at the ongoing management for the conservation of this woodland. We will also look at a nearby oak woodland which is being managed under the Forest Service Native Woodland Conservation Scheme.

Leader: Katharine Duff

Bring: Dress for weather, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch.

Directions: From Dublin, take the N11 heading towards Wexford and exit at Kilmacanogue to take the R755. Follow the R755 through Roundwood, Annamoe and into Laragh. From Laragh continue on this road towards Rathdrum for c.5 km. Turn

left onto the L6120, signposted to Clara Church. Go downhill and cross over Clara Bridge, past the church on the lefthand side and up the hill for c.300 m. The entrance to Clara Woods is on the right hand side. If the parking area is full, park at Clara Church.

Saturday 20th September 2025

Autumn Fungus Foray - Donadea, Co. Kildare - Risk Level 1

Donadea Forest Park, which is an old estate now managed by Coillte, has a wide variety of woodland habitats that should provide some rich pickings for this outing. Andrew will lead us on a fungal foray and we will examine the interesting fruiting bodies we find under the trees. If you are coming by car, please note that there is a €5 parking fee at Donadea, payable on entry by (credit) card.

Leader: Andrew Smith

Bring: Identification books, warm clothes, waterproof boots and lunch.

Directions: From the M50, take the N4/M4 west and exit at Junction 8 for Kilcock. At the roundabout, follow the R407 for Clane. After 5 km, turn right at the crossroads onto the L1010 for Donadea. The entrance to the Forest Park is on the left after 2.5 km.

Saturday 27th September 2025

Glenbarrow Valley, Slieve Blooms Co. Laois - Risk Level 3

Starting at the Ridge of Capard Car Park, the outing will involve a walk down along a way-marked track into the Glenbarrow Valley and then a walk back up to along tracks through Coillte forest plantations. Along the way we will examine the Montane Blanket Bog flora and other interesting features. It will be mildly strenuous, as there are some steep sections.

Leader: Mark McCorry

Bring: Identification books, field lens, walking boots, raingear and lunch/snack.

Directions: From Dublin take the N7/M7 and exit at Junction 15 for Mountmellick. Take the R422 through Emo to Mountmellick; and then continue on the R422 towards Rosenalish and Birr. After 2.5 km, turn left at a crossroads onto the L2095 for Ballyfin; then after 400 m turn right onto the L2014 (signposted for Cathole Falls). Continue on this road for 5 km, until you reach a T-Junction. Turn right at the junction up to the Ridge of Capard car park (signposted Slieve Bloom Mountains).

Risk Level	Expected Conditions
1.	Walking on unpaved but generally firm surfaces, although there may be loose stones or potholes. There may be some medium gradients.
2.	Walking on uneven terrain or on grassy surfaces where tripping or slipping could be a hazard. Medium to steep gradients or steps. Not suitable for people who normally rely on a walking aid.
3.	Walking or climbing on rough ground or over rocks or up steep gradients. Only suitable for reasonably fit and mobile people.
4.	Climbing to higher ground such as a mountain side, walking in very marshy ground, or close to cliff edges. Only suitable for those used to strenuous outdoor activity.
