



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

July to September 2026

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	4th	July	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	11th	July	Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow	Margaret Norton	Lacken, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	18th	July	Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow	Alexis FitzGerald	Luggala, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	1st	August	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	8th	August	Stormanstown Bog – Raised Bog Flora	Ciarán Flynn	Ardee, Co. Louth
Saturday	15th	August	Flora of North Bull Island	Melinda Lyons	North Bull Island, Dublin
Saturday	22nd	August	Solar Farm on Timahoe North Bog	Charles Shier	Timahoe, Co. Kildare
Saturday	5th	Sept.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	12th	Sept	Herbs, Follies and Woodlands	Darina O'Sullivan	St. Anne's Park, Dublin
Saturday	19th	Sept.	Howth Castle and Environs	Renee Malone	Howth, Co. Dublin

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 thorough the active support and permission of the Director, Dr. Noeleen Smyth, and staff members.

Saturday 4th July 2026

Plant Identification Workshop
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Coastal Grasses - Margaret Norton

This indoor session on sand dune grasses will take a closer look at some of the taxa recently encountered during the 27 June 2026 field outing. Lens required. Recommended

guides: Hubbard, C.E. (1980) 'Grasses'. Penguin books, Middlesex [or any of the several editions.]; Cope, T. and Gray, A. (2009) 'Grasses of the British Isles'. BSBI Handbook No. 13.

Umbellifers - Declan Doogue

This session will continue the preliminary introduction to Umbellifers from our previous programme. Members are requested to bring in material, fresh or pressed, for examination. Fruiting material is particularly useful. The BSBI Handbook No. 2 'Umbellifers of the British Isles' by T. G. Tutin is a most useful guide and is very well illustrated.

Please be aware that parts of a number of Umbellifer species are poisonous or can irritate skin. In particular, *Conium maculatum*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Cicuta virosa* and *Heracleum mantegazzianum* should not be collected.

Saturday 11th July 2026

Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow Risk Level 2

We will explore the flora in the vicinity of Lacken (Lackan) village including the shore of Blessington Lake. Plant records will be contributed to the DNFC Wicklow Supplement project.

Leader: Margaret Norton

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

Directions: From the M50, take the N81 to Blessington, turn left and cross the lake at Blessington Bridge and then right to follow the lakeshore as far as Lacken. The signpost for the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Lacken National School is just as you enter the village (grid ref. O 01 10).

Saturday 18th July 2026

Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow Risk Level 3

The flora within the private Luggala Estate will be recorded, with permission from the landowner. We hope to explore Lough Tay, Cloghoge Brook and surrounding slopes, as well as perhaps the Luggala Lodge grounds. We will aim to re-find a good range of montane, heath and upland lough shore species as part of this outing, some not seen since Brunner's time or even earlier. Plant records will be contributed to the DNFC Wicklow Supplement project. Brunner records from the area include *Dryopteris aemula*, *Euphrasia micrantha*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Isoetes lacustris*, *Callitriche hamulata*, *Hammarbya paludosa* and *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*.

Leaders: Alexis FitzGerald

Bring: Identification books, field lens, walking boots, raingear and lunch/snack. Copies of Brunner's 'Flora of County Wicklow' would be welcome. It is also 'midge season', so please bring insect repellent.

Directions: From Dublin, take the M11 south to the Kilmacanogue exit; from this village follow

the R755 south for c. 11 km towards Roundwood Reservoir and then take a right turn on to R759; follow this road for c. 3 km until you see a large car park on your right - this is the JB Malone Hiking Trail Carpark (grid ref. = O 17238 06435). Google maps GPS location: 53.095772, -6.250304.

Saturday 1st August 2026

Plant Identification Workshop National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Bramble Identification Part 1 – Alexis FitzGerald

We will continue our explorations of the various bramble series, with Sections **Mucronati**, **Radulae** and **Micantes** being considered in this session. Mostly common/widespread species will be discussed. Please bring along any expertly identified specimens and/or fresh specimens of the above sections to augment our material for display. 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. Edees and A. Newton.

Bramble Identification Part 2 - Declan Doogue

The second session will examine some members of Section **Corylifolii**, a small group of brambles believed to have arisen through past hybridisation with *Rubus caesius*. These brambles are ecologically unusual, in that many of the included taxa exhibit an ecological preference for base-rich soils, unlike most other *Rubi*.

Saturday 8th August 2026

Stormanstown Bog, Ardee Co. Louth - Risk Level 2

Stormanstown Bog was included in Frank Mitchell and Breeda Tuite's comprehensive paper, ‘*The Great Bog of Ardee*’. Although much of the area has been damaged by peat extraction, Stormanstown retains an interesting flora. We will look at species typical of Raised Bogs including *Drosera anglica*, *Andromeda polifolia*, and the sedge *Rhynchospora alba*. We will also examine a range of bryophytes found on the site, focusing on *Sphagnum* mosses.

Leader: Ciarán Flynn

Bring: Identification guides, hand lens, wellies, raingear, suncream and hat, lunch.

Directions: From Dublin, follow the M1 north. Exit at Junction 14 and take the N33 for Ardee. After 7 km, go through the 1st roundabout and at the 2nd roundabout take the 1st exit for Mullingar/Ardee/Dublin N52. After the mini-roundabout, take the 1st right turn beside the park. After 2.5 km, turn right at the ‘Ardee Coach Trim’ sign.

Saturday 15th August 2026

Flora of North Bull Island, Dublin Risk Level 1

We will visit the northern half of Bull Island. Several rare and ecologically significant species are likely to be in flower and worth searching for at this time of year, including Lesser Centaury *Centaureum pulchellum*, Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella* and Rock Sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum* agg., as well as Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. The north end of the island has suffered from severe erosion over the past few years and we will examine the effect this has had on habitats. The event will conclude at approx. 3.00 p.m.

Leader: Melinda Lyons

Bring: Identification books, hand lens, raingear and lunch.

Directions: 'North Bull Island Interpretive Centre' is shown on Google Maps. Travel onto the island via the Causeway (not the Wooden Bridge). Access to the Causeway is from James Larkin Road (R807) or Watermill Road (R809), both of which skirt St Anne's Park, Raheny. Parking is available along the Causeway. The nearest public transport is the No. 6 bus route which stops on Watermill Road.

Saturday 22nd August 2026

Solar Farm on Timahoe North Bog, Co. Kildare – Risk Level 1

A 70 MW solar farm, occupying 280 ha, has been installed on Timahoe North Bog by BnM and ESB. It commenced operation in April 2025. Some areas of the bog have been rehabilitated by raising the water table, forming shallow lakes. The development includes an access road which can be used for amenity purposes. We will visit the site and examine how well the solar installation has integrated with the developing cutover peatland habitats.

Leader: Charles Shier

Bring: Identification books, hand lens, raingear and lunch.

Directions: From Dublin take the N4/M4 west and exit at Junction 9 onto the R402 for Edenderry. Continue on the R402 for 6 km and then turn left onto the L5025 (signposted for Ardkill Cemetry). The car park is on the left after 4 km.
{ GPS: 53.342003, -6.874411 }

Saturday 5th September 2026

Plant Identification Workshop National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

A Palaeo-history of Coniferous Species in the British Isles – Charles Shier.

The presentation will consider the distribution of coniferous species in this region, based on palynological evidence from previous interglacial periods. Frank Mitchell's '*Reading the Irish Landscape*' provides useful background information on this topic; as does '*The History of the British Vegetation*' by Winifred Pennington (Mrs. T. G. Tutin).

Ferns and Horsetails - Introduced by Rosaleen Fitzgerald

We will illustrate these themes using a selection of recent BSBI video presentations, including those featuring **Polypodium** and **Equisetum**. These will be accompanied by preserved or fresh examples of many of the species and hybrids featured in these presentations.

Saturday 12th September 2026

Herbs, Follies and Woodlands, St. Anne's Park, Dublin - Risk Level 1

St. Anne's Park contains an interesting mixture of elements, some created when it was the home of Sir Arthur Edward Guinness and his wife, and others added in more recent times. We will complete a looped walk, starting at the Red Stables and including the Physic Garden, the Holy Well, the Roman Tower and other follies and also areas of woodland within the park.

Leader: Darina O'Sullivan

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, walking boots, raingear and a snack – the outing should finish by 2.00 p.m.

Directions: From the city centre, take the Clontarf Road (R807) north along the coast. Turn left into Mount Prospect Avenue and the entrance to the car park at the Red Stables is the first on the right. If the car park is full, additional parking is usually available along Mount Prospect Avenue

Public Transport: the 130 bus travels from Talbot St. along the Clontarf Road and up Mount Prospect Avenue.

Saturday 19th September 2026

Howth Castle and Environs Co. Dublin - Risk Level 2

The 472-acre Howth Castle Demesne, ancestral home of the St. Lawrence family, features a diverse and dynamic topography characterised by Woodland and Heath, elevated vistas, Scrubland and open rocky areas. The site features a mix of Medieval, Gothic, Georgian, and Arts and Crafts style as well as an early Neolithic portal tomb.

Leader: Renee Malone

Bring: Identification books, hand lens, walking boots, raingear and lunch.

Directions: Public Transport: Northbound DART train bound for Howth (**not** Malahide) H3 bus operated by Dublin Bus departs from Lower Abbey St. in City Centre.

By Car: Paid on-street parking rules recently went into effect along Harbour Road.

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.