

**EuCAN Community Interest Company**

**Surveying weekend at Chedington Woods Friday June 28th – Sunday June 30th 2019**

**Programme for the weekend**

We are looking for a team of experts and trainees, amateurs and professionals, to join us for our second weekend of surveying and recording in this beautiful but under-recorded area of Dorset. This will include a wide range of animals and plants - moth trapping, bird ringing, bat detecting, butterfly counts, pond work and surveys of wildflowers and lower plants. Exactly which taxa we aim to cover will depend on the expertise and interest of the participants.

Chedington Woods and the surrounding farms are on the Dorset/Somerset border -see this [map](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&mid=1WG6nhKNs6D3_cT7caznhecFEtPg--kNK&ll=50.86827011399153%2C-2.707019634021435&z=14).

Postcode: DT8 3HX

A comprehensive survey of this land was carried out between 2006 and 2010 and we held our first weekend event last year. The owners and the forester responsible for Chedington Woods 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 2018.

Accommodation: 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 a barn available which will sleep 4, but all in one room. There are B&B’s close to Chedington for people who prefer not to camp – a list of these can be produced on request.

Also 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.

Catering: we will provide the food for the weekend with a goulash or casserole of some kind with salad etc on Friday evening and a BBQ provided by the hosts on the Saturday (all with vegetarian options), and the wherewithal for DIY breakfasts and lunches based in the barn. Please bring your own drinks to share, alcoholic or otherwise, and your own cutlery, mug, bowl, plates etc.

Equipment: we will provide a range of id books, nets, pots, lenses etc but bring your own too if you have them. Binoculars and camera will be useful. Please bring a bat detector, gps, moth trap if available.

Times:

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

5.30pm Brief introduction to the weekend and to the recording work on the estate given by Oli Frost the Forester.

6pm introductory walk before

7.30pm supper.

After supper we will set up moth traps and go out looking for bats and newts if the conditions are suitable.

Saturday

Before breakfast, we will begin the analysis of the moth traps and spend more time recording bird territories.

8am Breakfast

11am refreshments

1pm lunch

5pm/5.30pm Barbecue supper laid on by our hosts, Rob and Alex Appleby.

Evening: bats, moth-trapping, bird territories, possibly newts…

Sunday

Morning as for Saturday.

12.30 lunch

1.45pm optional walk across to the neighbouring farm. We will be joined for this by members of the Dorset branch of Butterfly Conservation.

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

4-4.30pm Final tea and departures.

Survey work

Some of the results of previous survey work here are shown on the EuCAN website: <http://www.eucan.org.uk/previous-years/2018-2/> (scroll down), including the spreadsheet of records from last year’s weekend.

Depending on time and availability of the experts, we are hoping to divide up to carry out the following surveys over the weekend:

Birds: mapping bird territories from the positions of singing males (possibly getting too late in the season for this), recording occupancy of the nestboxes, bird ringing if conditions permit.

Bats: evening walks with detectors.

Moths: we will put out moth traps as widely as we can on both nights and analyse the catch each day after breakfast. One of the target species will be the Cloaked Pug – this weekend the moon is new so conditions should be good for mothing.

Newts and other pondlife. If you bring any equipment please ensure it is sterilised first to avoid spreading disease or invasive species.

Butterflies: we hope to set up a transect here for this season but we will also try to cover the area as widely as possible.

Wildflowers and other plants.

Other invertebrates – dependent on people’s expertise.

Cost of the weekend**:** booking is essential for this weekend. To cover the costs we are asking for a contribution of £30 (or £15 camping for half the weekend, and £10 per day for day visitors to include one lunch and one tea). To register for the weekend, please complete a booking form and return it by email.

Last year’s survey weekend was a really enjoyable event which 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 were not covered last year. Looking forward to seeing you for what promises to be a busy and inspiring weekend!

**Nigel Spring**

**For further information** contact: tel 07981.776767 email [nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk) or visit:[**www.eucan.org.uk**](http://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.

**www.eucan.org.uk**

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