

**DRAFT BSBI GUIDANCE
for
PARTICIPANTS AT FIELD MEETINGS**



Picture

BSBI field meeting

BSBI GUIDANCE FOR PARTICIPANTS AT FIELD MEETINGS

One of the delights of membership of the Society is to be introduced to new areas of the country and new species. An important consideration for the BSBI is that this is done well and with thought for the people attending.

Needless to say people will come along with different background knowledge, expectations and abilities, but we hope that we will provide an outing which everyone enjoys. This guidance gives you some suggestions on how to make the most of the meeting. We welcome feedback on how to make improvements.

1. **Booking**

Most meetings are now booked by email. The organiser may make further information available on a web page. Guests may be invited on application to the leader.

2. **Attendance**

Meetings are often over-subscribed, so Members who have booked places **must** inform the leader if they cannot attend. This may allow another Member to take your place. You will need to arrange your own transport and accommodation (if necessary) which you will have to cancel if you are unable to attend the meeting or if the meeting itself is cancelled.

3. **Charges**

There is usually no charge for BSBI day field meetings, though there may be an entry charge at some sites. This will usually be made clear in the Field Meetings Programme published in the Yearbook.

4. **Insurance**

BSBI members attending excursions, and their guests, do so at their own risk. Individuals may wish to organise their own insurance cover, and this is advised for overseas excursions.

5. **Medical**

It is in your interests to inform the leader of any relevant medical condition which may require special consideration.

6. **Equipment**

Items that may be useful at a field meeting include: maps, compass, ruler, GPS, identification guides, record card, hand lens, penknife, sample bag, first aid or medical supplies and mobile phone.

7. Arrival

Arrive promptly, so as not to inconvenience other members of the party. We recommend aiming to arrive about 10 minutes early. Introduce yourself to the leader who will check you off on the sign in sheet.

8. Responsibility to other members of the party

Some meetings are suitable for slow progress over level ground. At others there may be steep terrain or boggy conditions. If you are not able to keep up with other members of the party you will be a liability to them. We ask all participants to consider whether the meeting is appropriate for them. [The wording needs improving ?]

9. Code of Conduct

Please follow the [Code of Conduct](#) for the conservation and enjoyment of wild plants. No specimens should be picked except at the discretion of the leader. You should also be aware of the advice given in [Safety in the Field](#). Members are expected to follow the [Countryside Code](#), or the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#), avoiding damage to property and ensuring that livestock does not escape.

10. Safety

At the start of all meetings, the leader will give a short safety briefing, in which members are given information about the major hazards and how to deal with them. You can assume that the usual hazards of a day in the field are present. If it is your first field trip let the leader know. Please pay attention to the briefing and follow the advice of the leader.

Leaders do have the right to exclude participants who are not adequately shod or clothed, particularly on rough or mountainous terrain. Vehicles and their contents are parked at their owners' risk.

11. Dogs

Because many field meetings are held in nature reserves or where there are grazing animals, dogs are not normally allowed.

Registered guide dogs are exempt from this requirement, unless they are prohibited by the landowners. In exceptional circumstances a dog may be brought to a meeting, provided that there is explicit advance agreement with the leader and all other party members.