

NPMS - list of useful books and websites

Note that all the guidance booklets for the NPMS are available as PDFs at <http://www.npms.org.uk/content/resources>.

We don't expect volunteers to buy any reference books but you may find some of the following books and websites useful.

FIELD GUIDES

“The Wild Flower Key” *How to identify wild flowers trees and shrubs in Britain and Ireland* (Francis Rose, revised by Clare O'Reilly) Warne, 2006

- Excellent reference combining good illustrations and descriptions together with comprehensive keys. List of words used in the keys is the at the back.

“Collins Flower Guide” (David Streater) Collins, 2009

- Useful combination of descriptions, illustrations and keys (from family level downwards). Also includes grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns.

“Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland” (Marjorie Blamey, Richard Fitter and Alistair Fitter) Bloomsbury, 2013

- Lovely illustrations. Has mini distribution maps.

OTHER USEFUL REFERENCE BOOKS

“Flowers in the Field” *How to find, identify and enjoy wild flowers* (Faith Anstey) Whittet Books, 2010

- Recommended as a good general introduction, illustrated with colour photos. It's not a field guide as such.

“Plants and habitats” *An introduction to common plants and their habitats in Britain and Ireland* (Ben Averis) 2013

- Recommended for its information about habitats - it takes a different approach from standard field guides, with photos/descriptions of different habitats and plants (including grasses and ferns).

If I was buying just one field guide it would be “The Wild Flower Key” by Rose/O’Reilly. But Streeter is very useful as well, because it covers grasses etc as well as flowering plants.

WEBSITES

<http://wtp2recorder.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm> - useful for viewing an aerial photo of your area alongside the Ordnance survey map. You can zoom in on either of them, and the blue box shows the position of the map on the aerial photo (or vice versa). Use the “binocular” icon to search for a place or grid reference.

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/> - if you zoom in on Streetmap.co.uk you come to Ordnance Survey maps (smaller and then larger scale). You can print from Streetmap.co.uk - see print icon near the bottom of the page.

To find out where your survey map is in relation to nearby places, type the grid reference (printed on your survey map) into the search box on Where’s the Path or streetmap.co.uk, then (having checked the map looks like yours!) zoom out until nearby places appear around your square.

You can also print from Bing maps <https://www.bing.com/maps/> - make sure you select Ordnance Survey map at the top right of the map.

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland have various useful resources - see <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/resources.html> and <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/identification.html> (links down righthand side of the latter page - the plant cribs are fairly technical!).

Jill Williams
9 June 2015