

The Dorset Flora Group Constitution (amended 2018)

1. The name of the group shall be The Dorset Flora Group (hereinafter referred to as the group).
2. The objects for which the group is established are:
 - a) To record and update records of plant species within vice county 9.
 - b) To provide a focus and point of contact for botanists working within the county.
 - c) To foster an interest in the flora of Dorset and to encourage and where possible train persons wishing to improve their knowledge of that flora.
 - d) To record species identified as of critical interest by the BSBI vice county recorder(s).
 - e) With agreed access to sites, to undertake species specific practical conservation tasks where threatened populations of rare species are not otherwise protected.
 - f) To encourage and aid, where possible, research into the ecology of rare species and threatened communities and to assist members wishing to undertake such studies.

For the purposes of the group 'flora' is defined as Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, Lichens, Marine Algae, Charaphytes and Fungi.

3. Funds

The group as initially founded shall have no income; donations from members and supporters will be sought where essential to allow the group to pursue its objectives.

4. Membership.

- a) Membership of the group is open to any individual.
- b) Members are required to complete and sign a membership form and return it to the Dorset Environmental Records Centre. The membership form includes an option to allow an individual's contact details to be available to other Dorset Flora Group members.
- c) Names, addresses and contact details of members are available to all members of the Committee (see 5 below). These will only be used in connection with the legitimate business of the Dorset Flora Group and will not be released to any other person or organisation for any reason without prior permission from the member or members.
- d) Members may be asked to leave the group if their conduct is considered to be detrimental to the objectives of the group by a clear majority of the Committee.
- e) Members, including committee members, have limited liability for events not publicised by the Group as "official" field trips.

5. Committee structure

- a) The affairs and policies of the group shall be administered and decided by the Committee.

b) The members of the Committee will be elected at the first Annual General Meeting and will include a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Thereafter the structure of the Committee and the nominated officers will be determined by the Committee in consultation with the membership.

6. Group meetings.

a) Group meetings shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Committee.

b) The Committee shall organise an Annual General meeting in order to determine the future activities of the group; members will be given at least 21 days notice of the date and venue of this meeting.

c) The group may hold joint meetings with other organisations (see 9 below) where this is deemed to be appropriate by the Committee.

7. Voting at meetings.

a) All voting at meetings shall be organised on the basis of one member, one vote.

b) In the event of an equality of votes the senior county recorder present, or, if absent, the chairman shall have the second casting vote.

8. Accounts:

a).The group as at present constituted has no regular income; the Treasurer will deal with occasional financial matters as they arise.

9. Administration:

a). The group is responsible for its own affairs as an independent body.

b). The group will maintain links with The Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society, The Dorset Wildlife Trust, The Bournemouth Natural Science Society, the Botanical Society of the British Isles, Dorset Environmental Records Centre, Plantlife, The Wild Flower Society, and other organisations with compatible aims and objectives where the link is to the benefit of both organisations.

c) The group shall be non party-political.

d) The primary aim of the group is the study of the flora of Dorset. The group shall be neutral in campaigns of a political nature or relating to planning issues.

10. Alterations to constitution, dissolution of the group.

a) Any alterations to the constitution will be put to the membership for adoption at the subsequent AGM.