



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

An Afternoon Seaside Walk

Date: 24th January 2024
Weather: Sunny
Walk Leaders: Audrey Walker and Hal Jones

Southbourne is the most easterly suburb of Bournemouth, Dorset, situated between Boscombe and Christchurch. Fisherman's Walk beach is located between Southbourne and Boscombe. Mostly sand, with some shingle, the beach has safe swimming, deckchair hire, beach huts and a cafe. Due to its distance from central Bournemouth, this beach is usually less crowded and less hectic than the main beaches and possesses a coveted Blue Flag. Accessed from Southbourne Overcliff Drive, the Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lift was opened in 1935 and is still operational in the summer season offering a direct route from the cliff top to the beach. It is owned and managed by BCP (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch) Council.

Our walk started by Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lift at Cafe Riva, following the cliff top footpath westwards passing through Boscombe Cliff Gardens and descending down to Boscombe Pier. The pier was built in 1888/9, the pier head was added in 1926, it was partially demolished during WWII to combat the threat of invasion. The pier remained derelict for a number of years and was only fully reopened in 1962.

We returned walking along Boscombe Promenade where we saw Goats grazing the cliffs near Honeycombe Chine, a developed area of what was the seafront car park. They are used to control the non-native plants such as Holm Oak, Japanese Knotweed and Bamboo which no longer dominate this area. This has improved the habitat for native plants and animals to thrive (including rare species such as Dartford warblers and sand lizards). The cliffs within the bay are designated SSSI and have been subject to cliff falls due to erosion. After walking along the seafront which was covered with a deep layer of sand blown up due to the recent storms, we ascended Fisherman's Walk Zigzag back to our start point, finishing with afternoon tea at Cafe Riva.

Flowering Plants	Birds
Daisy	Starling
Common Gorse	Magpie
Sweet Violet	Herring Gull
Sweet Alison	Black-headed Gull
Seaside Daisy	Wood Pigeon
Lesser Celandine	Feral Pigeon
Groundsel	Carrion Crow
	Robin
Other Flowering Plants	Chaffinch
Hebe	
Viburnum Tinus	



Goats on Boscombe Cliffs by Lyn Traves