



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Abbots Well Walk

Date: 30th May 2024
 Weather: Overcast with light rain showers.
 Walk Leaders: Audrey Walker and Hal Jones
 Attendees: 15

Frogham is a small village in the civil parish of Hyde, it is the second largest settlement in the parish after Hyde itself. It is situated on a plateau overlooking the heathland of the New Forest to the east. The village is situated around a crossroads leading to the nearby settlements of Hyde, Blissford and Stuckton. Its nearest town is Fordingbridge, which lies approximately 1.8 miles (2.5 KM) west of the village. The earliest records which mention Frogham date from the beginning of the 14th century. There are many legends which identify the Frogham area as being a centre for smuggling in the 18th century.

Our morning walk started from Abbots Well car park at Frogham. We turned right out of the car park to passing Rose Cottage, Well House, and the famous Abbots Well to walk along Hampton Ridge which offers views of Godshill Ridge and Pitts Wood Inclosure to the north and Latchmore Bottom and its brook along with Hasley Inclosure to the south. We followed the track to a junction of tracks at Ashley Cross where we saw a huge WW2 directional arrow head cast from concrete just south of the track which pointed to an illuminated target which lay in the valley below at Lay Bottom. Its one of the very few completely intact remains of the huge WW2 bombing range at Ashley Walk. Circling round we returned back to the car park, we then went to the Potting Shed cafe where we had lunch.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Others
Herb Robert	Heath Bedstraw	Chaffinch	Fallow Deer 20 plus
Foxglove	Creeping Buttercup	Greenfinch	Burnet Companion Moth
Lesser Spearwort	Round-leaved Sundew	Wren	
Hard Fern	Bell Heather	Jay	
Lousewort	Catsear	Blackbird	
White Clover	Lesser Trefoil	Starling	
Daisy	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Red Kite	
Bramble	Common Rock Rose	Buzzard	
Tormentil	Heath Spotted Orchid	Mistle Thrush	
Common Mouse-ear	Three-lobed Crowfoot	Kestrel	
Gorse	Water Forget Me Not	Meadow Pipit	
Sheep's Sorrel	Germander Speedwell	Linnet	
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Wood Dog Violet	Stonechat	
Heath Milkwort		Wood Pigeon	
Cotton Grass		Skylark	



Cotton Grass on Hampton Ridge by Lyn Traves



Cotton Grass