



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Hyde and Gorley Commons Walk

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
 Weather: Sunny with light cloud  
 Walk Leaders: Theresa Holden and Martin King  
 Attendees: 16

Our walk started from Abbots Well car park where there is one of the finest views across the New Forest. From there we walked across Hyde Common, the largest of the four commons of the Western New Forest Commons near Fordingbridge, covering 149 acres (61Ha) of open grassland and heathland scrub, grazed by animals owned by the local commoners. The common doubles as a shared village green between Hyde and Frogham, and the local primary school uses the common as their playing fields. Just half a mile south of Hyde Common is the slightly smaller Gorley Common (100 acres). The majority of the site is a former gravel pit which now supports a mosaic of scrub and seasonally flooded acid grassland. There are several botanically rich seepage mires around the edge of the common. These are formed where springs emerge from the hillside. Our walk then bordered the edge of Ogdens returning back across Hyde Common to the car park.

| <b>Flowering Plants</b> | <b>Flowering Plants cont</b> | <b>Birds</b>     | <b>Others</b>                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gorse                   | Wood Speedwell               | Great Tit        | Ground Beetle-Metallic Lebia       |
| Catsear                 | Hawthorn                     | Wren             |                                    |
| Foxglove                | Ivy-leaved Speedwell         | Crow             | <b>Butterflies</b>                 |
| Climbing Corydalis      | Dovesfoot Cranesbill         | Chaffinch        | Speckled Wood                      |
| White Clover            | Dandelion                    | House Sparrow    | Brimstone                          |
| Buckthorn Plantain      | Elder                        | Blue Tit         | Red Admiral                        |
| Germander Speedwell     | Columbine                    | Long-tailed Tit  |                                    |
| Daisy                   | Mossy Stonecrop              | Greylag Geese    | <b>Dragonflies and Damselflies</b> |
| Lesser Stitchwort       | Procumbent Pearlwort         | Song Thrush      | Beautiful Demoiselle               |
| Shepherd's Purse        | Sand Spurrey                 | Greenfinch       | Emperor                            |
| Heath Bedstraw          | Lesser Spearwort             | Blackcap         | Broad-bodied Chaser                |
| Birdsfoot               | Purple Spurge                | Bullfinch        |                                    |
| Heath Speedwell         | Scarlet Pimpernel            | Siskin           | <b>Ferns</b>                       |
| Thyme-leaved Speedwell  | Dog Rose                     | Blackbird        | Hard Fern                          |
| Common Mouse-ear        | Bell Heather                 | Linnet           |                                    |
| Tormentil               | Common Dog Violet            | Buzzard          | <b>Grasses</b>                     |
| Mouse-ear Hawkweed      | Bramble                      | Green Woodpecker | Heath Grass                        |
| Honeysuckle             | Herb Bennet                  | Starling         | Sweet Vernal Grass                 |
| Lesser Trefoil          | Wild Strawberry              | Robin            | Crested Dogstail                   |
| Creeping Buttercup      | Three-nerved Sandwort        | Chiffchaff       | Heath Wood-rush                    |
| Meadow Buttercup        | Rhododendron                 | Magpie           |                                    |
| Bulbous Buttercup       | Bugle                        | Collard Dove     |                                    |
| Common Chickweed        | Stinging Nettle              | Rook             |                                    |
| Herb Robert             | Water Forget-me-not          | Jackdaw          |                                    |

|                    |                  |             |  |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Greater Stitchwort | Yellow Pimpernel | Wood Pigeon |  |
| Red Campion        | Cuckoo Flower    |             |  |
| Cleavers           | Silver Birch     |             |  |



Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) at Hyde Common