



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Acres Down Walk

Date: 27th June 2024
 Weather: Hot and sunny
 Walk Leaders : Pat Holder and Jean Crawford
 Attendees: 13

Acres Down Car park is situated off Forest Road which runs between the A35 at Emery Down, just west of Lyndhurst towards Stoney Cross on the A31, near the village of Minstead. The lane to Acres Down car park is narrow and has a ford over the Mill Stream, which can get deep after heavy rain. After leaving the car park a path takes you to up to a viewpoint over Highland Water and Acres Down Inclosures, along with views to the Isle of Wight to the south. It is a popular spot with birdwatchers looking for birds of prey soaring on the thermals. Following the path to the left took us past Acres Down pond, then led us to Pilmore Gate Heath and then Broom Hill where we had a picnic lunch in the woods. Afterwards we managed to take the wrong turning which meant we had to find our way back across the boggy plateau of Pilmore Gate Heath, with quaking Sphagnum Mosses and standing water, thankfully it had dried up enough to navigate ourselves across it with the help of Gerry and his mobile map. After our bog hopping we retraced our steps back to the start where we had much needed refreshments at Acres Down Farm Tea Rooms. Teas have been served there for over 40 years by the same owners.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Mammals
Foxglove	Enchanter's Nightshade	Chiffchaff	Red Deer
Germander Speedwell	Common Field Speedwell	Firecrest	Fallow Deer
Heath Speedwell	Herb Bennet	Song Thrush	
Catsear	Bog Pimpernel	Blackbird	Others
White Clover	Cow Wheat	Long Tailed Tit	Southern Bracket Fungus
Common Sorrel	Bog Myrtle (fruits)	Pied Wagtail	Brown Silver Line Moth
Bell Heather	Heath Spotted Orchid	Swallow	Sliver-studded Blue
Tormentil	Marsh St. John's Wort	Buzzard	Common Green Grasshopper
Heath Bedstraw	Water Forget me Not	Great-spotted Woodpecker	Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly
Cross-leaved Heath	Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil		Common Frogs (lots)
Round-leaved Sundew	Marsh Willowherb		Adder
Oblong-leaved Sundew	Water Pepper		Red Admiral Butterfly
Bog Asphodel			Wasp Beetle
Self Heal			
Lesser Spearwort			
Heath Milkwort			
Round-leaved Crowfoot			
Water Purslane	Grasses etc.		
Water-lilies white & pink	Cotton Grass		
Reedmace	Wavy Hair-grass		
Marsh Cudweed	White Beak-sedge		
Bramble	Annual Meadow Grass		
Daisy	Remote Sedge		
Scarlet Pimpernel	Heath Grass		
Honeysuckle	Heath Rush		
Herb Robert			



The pond at Acres Down by Lyn Traves