



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Alners Gorse Field Study

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
 Weather: Sunny with light cloud  
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves  
 Attendees: 9

Alners Gorse lies between Kings Stag and Hazelbury Bryan in North Dorset. Butterfly Conservation purchased the land (14 hectares or 32 acres) as a reserve in 2005 which was funded by a legacy from Pamela Lewis, enabling them to preserve this fantastic site for butterflies. The land was bought from a local charitable trust, The William Williams Charity. It is an important site for wildlife because it is one of the few relics of the heavily wooded landscape that used to make up the Blackmore Vale, much of the land has been ploughed and drained and has lost the rich diversity of animals and plants that it must have once had. Their aim is to restore habitats after many years of neglect, through scrub control, removal of unwanted trees and grazing with four Dartmoor ponies, improving the habitats for butterflies such as the Marsh Fritillary, moths and other wildlife. It supports flourishing populations of Nightingales and Brown Hairstreak butterflies, which are both dependent on the blackthorn and gorse thickets, and a very rich moth fauna including several nationally scarce species.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Butterflies</b>
Creeping Thistle	Meadow Vetchling	Buzzard	Large White
Hogweed	Hoary Willowherb	Wren	Meadow Brown
Bramble	Lesser Spearwort	Blackbird	Red Admiral
Great Willowherb	Lesser Knapweed	Wood Pigeon	Speckled Wood
Hedge Woundwort	Alder Buckthorn		Gatekeeper
White Dead Nettle	Tormentil	<b>Reptiles</b>	Small White
Pineappleweed	Common Ragwort	Common Lizard	Ringlet
White Clover	Betony		Comma
Hoary Plantain	Wild Carrot	<b>Insects</b>	Peacock
Bittersweet	Marsh Thistle	Hornet	Brown Hairstreak
Agrimony	Stinging Nettle	Dark Bush-cricket	Purple Hairstreak
Tufted Vetch	Greater Plantain	Grey Bush-cricket	White-letter Hairstreak
Perforated St. Johns Wort	Stone Parsley	Soldier Beetle	Silver-washed Fritillary
Common Fleabane	Creeping Buttercup		Small Skipper
Greater Knapweed	Hedge Parsley	<b>Odonata</b>	
Silverweed	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Emperor	<b>Moths</b>
Broad-leaved Dock	Hoary Ragwort	Southern Hawker	Silver-ground Carpet
Sneezewort	Saw-wort	Common Hawker	
Self-heal	Honeysuckle	Azure Damselfly	<b>Gastropods</b>
Marsh Bedstraw	Corn Sow-thistle		Brown-lipped Snail
Common Rock-rose	Square-stalked St John's Wort		



*Brown Hairstreak by Gerry Traves*



*White Letter Hairstreak by Gerry Traves*





*Purple Hairstreak by Gerry Traves*



*Southern Hawker by Gerry Traves*