



Ringwood Natural History Society Avon Beach Amble

Date: 5th January 2017
Walk Leaders: Lyn & Gerry Traves
Weather: Sunny. Temperature: 6 degrees
Attendees: 21

A fantastic start to the New Year, a beautiful afternoons walk from Avon Beach to Highcliffe Castle. This walk was planned as a social event and 21 of us were able to sit outside in the sun to enjoy refreshments at the Castle Tea Rooms. There was not much to report in the way of sightings.

Avon beach is a small family orientated beach near Mundeford Quay, the main beach for Christchurch. The beach has grown significantly in the last 30 years and now boasts a small lagoon near the cafe and bizarrely out-of-place end of groyne markers that pop up in the middle of the beach. There are views of the Needles and the Isle of Wight in the distance

Walking further on passing Friars Cliff Beach and the cliff top nature reserve at Steamer Point, we reached Highcliffe Castle situated on the cliffs at Highcliffe. This magnificent Grade 1 Listed Cliff top mansion was built by Lord Stuart de Rothesay in the early 1830's. Derelict for over two decades, the Castle was bought by Christchurch Borough Council in 1977 and is now externally fully restored. The former staterooms are still undergoing restoration with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which are ongoing and now house a Heritage Centre.

Birds	Flowering Plants
Cormorant	Gorse
Black-headed Gull	Ivy Berries
Herring Gull	Teasel (dead stems)
Turnstone	Groundsel
Pied Wagtail	Others
Oystercatcher	Squirrel
Wood Pigeon	
Blackbird	
Carrion Crow	
Great Tit	
Robin	



Highcliffe Castle by Gerry Traves