



## Ringwood Natural History Society Avon Country Park Walk

Date: 14th February 2017  
Walk Leaders: Lyn & Gerry Traves  
Weather: Overcast with light drizzle rain  
Temperature: 7 degrees  
Attendees: 12

Avon Country Park is situated in St Leonards just into the Dorset border on the A31 and two miles from Ringwood and is managed by Dorset County Council. It is divided into North Park, South Park and Matchams View, we visited North Park. The miles of tracks offer an opportunity to explore some of Dorset's internationally important heathland and its rare wildlife. The park is dominated by lowland and wet heath, acid grassland and heather, which is broken only by clumps of birch and pine. There is a Heathland Discovery centre and a wildlife centre situated next to it which is surrounded by established woodland and is home to a large pond, bee hives, wood piles, bird feeders, bird and bat boxes. The viewing hide provides an opportunity to keep an eye on any wildlife activity. Next to the wildlife area is the vivarium, which presently houses 2 male sand lizards and 4 females and is part of an important breeding programme.

There are a range of colour coded walking routes through woods and heathland, we followed the red route. Unfortunately due to the weather conditions not much in the way of wildlife was seen.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Fungi</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Robin	Yellowing Curtain Crust	Gorse
Wood Pigeon	Birch Polypore	
Pied Wagtail	Turkeytail	
Green Woodpecker	Root Rot	
Long-tailed Tit		



*Pond at Avon Country Park by Lyn Traves*