



Ringwood Natural History Society Badbury Rings Walk

Date: 15th September 2017
 Walk Leaders: Lyn & Gerry Traves
 Weather: Sunny spells becoming cloudy and windy
 Temperature: 15 degrees
 Attendees: 13

Badbury Rings is situated between Wimborne and Blandford in East Dorset. It is a hill fort which dates from the Iron Age, (800BC to AD43), and is constructed on an earlier Bronze Age site (2200BC-800BC). It is believed to have belonged to an ancient Dorset tribe known as the 'Durotriges'. Until 1983 it was owned by the Bankes family as part of the Kingston Lacy Estate who discouraged investigation of the site. Now owned by The National Trust, a survey of the hill fort by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (now merged with English Heritage) was begun in 1993. The summit area was cleared of undergrowth by the National Trust in 1997 and the conifer plantation was thinned out. This allowed the RCHME to complete the survey in 1998, which recorded 28 potential hut sites within the ramparts the site. It has now been restored to light grazing land, Red Devon cattle were there on our visit. This has always played an important role in establishing centuries of wild herbs and flowers along with wild orchids and butterflies.

From the car park there is a network of footpaths. Our walk took us to the northern side of the rings where we walked through High Wood, an ancient woodland which has evidence of early Romano-British or possibly Neolithic activities, on the outside edge we found lots of newly emerged Comma butterflies. We then entered Heron Drove and dropped down passing King Down Farm and The Oaks which were planted in the 14th century and contain an important collection of veteran pollarded oaks. The arable field on the left, Batts Beds was historically the intersection of important Roman roads in the area. After lunch we walked round the inner rampart of the rings.

Flowering Plants, etc.	Flowering Plants cont.	Butterflies	Birds
Knotgrass	Red Campion	Meadow Brown	Kestrel
Pineappleweed	White Dead-nettle	Comma	Carrion Crow
Red Clover	Yarrow	Small White	Pheasant
White Clover	Marjoram	Large White	Jay
Scentless Mayweed	Field Bindweed	Speckled Wood	Robin
Wild Carrot	Redleg	Peacock	Chiffchaff
Red Bartsia	Mugwort	Red Admiral	
Agrimony	Common Mouse-ear		
Pignut	Common Field Speedwell	Insects	Fungi
Dandelion	White Dead-nettle	Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	Beechwood Sickener
Autumn Hawkbit	Fat Hen	Silver Y Moth	Turkeytail
Common Ragwort	Nipplewort	Fox Moth Caterpillar	
Self-heal	Smooth Sow-thistle		
Field Scabious	Rough Sow-thistle	Others	
Creeping Thistle	Hedge Bindweed	Robin's Pincushion Gall	
Harebell	Ribwort Plantain	Lipped Snails	
Eyebright	Broad-leaved Plantain		
Wild Basil	Lesser Knapweed		
Herb Robert	Fairy Flax		

Flowering Plants Cont.	Flowering Plants cont.	Fruits	
Creeping Buttercup	Common Fleabane	Blackberries	
Herb Bennet	Catsear	Sloes	
Black Medick	Hemp Agrimony	Rose Hips	
Traveller's Joy	Rosebay Willowherb	Crab Apples	
Enchanter's Nightshade	Honeysuckle	Haws	
Daisy	Lady's Bedstraw		
Ivy			



Comma Butterfly at Badbury Rings by Lyn Traves