## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Ballard Water Meadows with Bob Lord

Date:4th June 2024Weather:Sunny SpellsWalk Leader:Bob Lord Chairman of the Friends of Ballard Water MeadowsAttendees:7

Following the talk given by Bob Lord at our November meeting, Bob agreed to give NATS a guided walk around Ballard Water Meadows. The meadows are probably at their best in June and Bob explained the management plans, conservation and the flora and fauna of the meadows. Ballard Meadow and Woodland is located a few hundred metres north of the busy town centre of New Milton, to the west of Ballard Lake. The meadow, together with Woar Copse is classified as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and maintained on a day-to-day basis by the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow. They follow a Management Plan, written by the FBWM and agreed with New Milton Town Council as the landholder.

**Butterflies** Birds **Flowering Plants Flowering Plants** Bittersweet Mallard **Stinging Nettle** Speckled Wood Moorhen **Common Blue** Persicaria sp. Foxglove **Common Sorrel Ribwort Plantain** Grey Heron Broad-leaved Dock Elder Black-headed Gull Lesser Stitchwort Honeysuckle Lesser Black-headed Gull Robin **Red Campion** Daisy Blackbird **Ragged Robin** Ox-eye Daisy Meadow Buttercup Dandelion Blackcap Marsh Thistle Chiffchaff **Creeping Buttercup** Dog Rose Hawkweed sp. Chaffinch Bramble Bluebell Dunnock Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil Yellow Iris Iackdaw Water Avens Common Spotted Orchid Wren **Red Clover** Smooth Sow-thistle Nuthatch Herb Robert Blue Tit Broad-leaved Willowherb Grasses etc Great Spotted Woodpecker **Cow Parsley** Drooping Sedge Swift Wood Melick Pignut Wood Pigeon Hogweed Wood Sedge Starling Hemlock Water Dropwort Meadow Foxtail Stock Dove Corky-fruited Water Dropwort **Common Cleavers** Green Alkanet Hedge Woundwort Brooklime

Many thanks to Bob for his interesting and informative walk.

