



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Birds at Keyhaven Walk

Date: 14th September 2023
 Weather: Sunny
 Walk Leader: Pete Wellstead
 Attendees: 20

Lymington and Keyhaven Marshes lies between Hurst Spit and the mouth of the Lymington River on the Hampshire coast. The area was bought by Hampshire County Council in 1984 and is managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, who lease the offshore coastal marsh and mudflats in order to help protect this unique and historical coastal habitat.

Although there is no access into the coastal marshes themselves, gravel paths maintained by Hampshire County Council allow visitors to walk along the sea wall and admire the stunning vistas across the Solent to Hurst Castle and the Isle of Wight.

Today the area covering nearly 740 hectares incorporates mudflats, salt marshes, shingle banks, coastal grazing marshes, and saline lagoons supports important populations of birds and rare and specialist plants and invertebrates. The internationally important coastal marshes and mudflats are teeming with fish and, as a result, thousands of sea birds and waders flock here.

We started from Keyhaven car park and followed the coastal path passing by Keyhaven Harbour wall and Avon Water, through a gate to take the Solent Way footpath with views towards the saltmarsh, Hurst Spit, Castle and Lighthouse. We continued passing Keyhaven Marshes and Fishtail Lagoon to reach the Jetty and pipeline where we turned left taking the wide gravel path inland to reach Lower Pennington Lane. We turned left again to follow the lane back to Keyhaven village.

| Birds | Birds | Flowering Plants | Butterflies |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mute Swan | Wood Pigeon | Common Ragwort | Red Admiral |
| Canada Goose | Collard Dove | Daisy | Small White |
| Shelduck | Kingfisher | Common Mallow | Small Copper |
| Wigeon | Magpie | Large Bindweed | Meadow Brown |
| Gadwall | Jackdaw | Sea Carrot | Small Heath |
| Teal | Carrion Crow | Bramble | Speckled Wood |
| Mallard | Blue Tit | Rock Samphire | Holly Blue |
| Pintail | Great Tit | Sea Mayweed | |
| Shoveller | Bearded Tit | Bristly Oxtongue | Dragonflies |
| Eider | Swallow | Red Clover | Common Darter |
| Cormorant | Cetti's Warbler | Golden Samphire | Golden-ringed |
| Little Egret | Wren | Annual Seabligh | |
| Grey Heron | Starling | Greater Plantain | Fruits |
| Little Grebe | Blackbird | Ribwort Plantain | Haws |
| Great Crested Grebe | Robin | Sea Astor | Sloes |
| Marsh Harrier | Stonechat | Marsh Sow-thistle | Blackberries |
| Moorhen | Wheatear | Common Teasel | Rose Hips |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Coot | Dunnock | Marram Grass | |
| Oystercatcher | House Sparrow | Lesser Stitchwort | |
| Avocet | Rook | Honeysuckle | |
| Ringed Plover | Yellow Wagtail | Common Gorse | |
| Lapwing | Pied Wagtail | Common Toadflax | |
| Knot | White Wagtail | Creeping Thistle | |
| Curlew Sandpiper | Meadow Pipit | Thrift | |
| Dunlin | Greenfinch | Dwarf Gorse | |
| Ruff | Linnet | Great Lettuce | |
| Black-tailed Godwit | | QE2 | |
| Curlew | | Common Centuary | |
| Greenshank | | Birdsfoot Trefoil | |
| Spotted Redshank | | Yarrow | |
| Redshank | | Japanese Rose | |
| Turnstone | | Dandelion | |
| Black-headed Gull | | Spear Thistle | |
| Herring Gull | | Scarlet Pimpernel | |
| Great Black-backed Gull | | Hedgerow Bindweed | |
| Stock Dove | | Field Bindweed | |



New Forest Ponies relaxing by the sea by Lyn Traves



Keyhaven Saltmarshes & the Isle of Wight by Lyn Traves