



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Burbush to Dur Hill Walk

Date: 12th December 2024
 Weather: Overcast
 Walk Leaders: Peter Sparkes and Christine Storey
 Attendees: 9

Burley is a village and a civil parish, it is located towards the western edge of the New Forest, 5 miles (8.0 km) south-east of Ringwood. The village is surrounded heathland along with a mix of woodland, acid grassland, shrub and valley bog, supporting a richness and diversity of wildlife. Our walk started from Burbush car park on Burley Road which leads to Brangsgore, crossing this road we walked across open heathland passing by Long Pond and circling around to Brown Loaf, a plantation of Scots Pine trees, wondering around listening for birds we did see some Crossbills there. We then crossed the footbridge over the disused Castleman Railway line which is inaccessible at this point. The railway was part of the former Southampton and Dorchester Railway line which ran from Brockenhurst to Hamworthy Junction via Ringwood. We reached the gate into Bisterne Common, entering through it to walk to a further gate where we hoped to see some raptors but unfortunately, due to the low cloud cover and cool temperature none were seen. From there we retraced our steps back to the gate and then onto Dur Hill Inclosure, most of the pine trees have been cut down, there are a lot of self seeded saplings growing to take their place along with some birch trees. Our path was undulating and there was lots of standing water to negotiate, it was a good job we wore wellies. After our picnic lunch we walked almost up to the boundary with Avon Tyrrell, then took the footpath across the heathland of Dur Hill Down to return back to Burbush car park. We had hoped to see more birds but due to the cold and overcast weather we were out of luck.

Birds	Fungi
Wren	Cortinarius/Webcap sp.
Long-tailed Tit	Deer Shield
Siskin	Birch Polypore
Buzzard	Rustgill sp.
Coal Tit	Mosses/Lichens
Crossbill	Swans-neck Thyme Moss
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	Pixie Cup Lichen growing out of it
Raven	
Chaffinch	Flowering Plants
Carrion Crow	Common Gorse
Robin	Bell Heather
Pied Wagtail	Wall Rue



Swans Neck Thyme Moss & Cup Lichen by Gerry Traves