



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Corfe Common Walk

Date: 16th June 2023
 Weather: Sunny and warm
 Walk Leader: Derek Roberts
 Attendees: 6

We met at Houns-tout car par at Kingston, a small village situated about 2 miles south of Corfe Castle. It is notable for its elaborate St. James Church built in 1880 which resembles a miniature of an early English cathedral. Its tower dominates the surrounding landscape. There are some spectacular views northwards towards Corfe Common and Corfe Castle from the limestone ridge the village sits on. After a steep decent from the ridge, on a very eroded rough and uneven path with difficult styles we reached Corfe Common. It is Dorset's largest common covering 140 hectares, it is a SSSI for its wild flowers and insects. There are remains of Iron Age and medieval field boundaries together with Bronze Age round barrows along the way. Parts of the common were ploughed in the 1940's World War Two for the campaign 'Dig for Victory' to encourage people to grow their own food, its left a grassy area. Some villagers living in Corfe Castle still have Common Rights and can graze their cows and horses on the common for a small annual fee. We circled round crossing the road which runs between Corfe and Kingston to return back to the village by the old church, now a house via a less strenuous uphill route.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont.	Birds	Insects
Ramsons	Enchanter's Nightshade	Robin	Butterflies
Hedge Woundwort	Bulbous Buttercup	Blackbird	Red Admiral
Wood Avens	Creeping Cinquefoil	Swift	Speckled Wood
Goose-grass	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Wood Pigeon	Large Skipper
Elder	Heath Spotted Orchid	Chiffchaff	Small Heath
Tutsan	Tufted Vetch	Blackcap	Common Blue
Herb Robert	Water Speedwell	Wren	Meadow Brown
Dog Rose	Water Figwort	Carrion Crow	
Stinging Nettle	Bittersweet	Chaffinch	Moths
Corky-fruited Water Dropwort	Black Bryony	Pheasant	Straw Dot
Red Campion	Creeping Thistle	Meadow Pipit	Brimstone
Hogweed	Lesser Spearwort	Whitethroat	Chimney Sweep
Creeping Buttercup	Oxeye Daisy	Sky Lark	
Dogwood	Daisy	Jackdaw	Damselflies
White Clover	Field Bindweed	Starling	Beautiful Demoiselle
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Slender Thistle	Stonechat	
Common Mallow	Pineappleweed	Goldfinch	Other Insects
Bush Vetch	Great Bindweed	Yellowhammer	Dock Leaf Beetle
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Bramble	Bullfinch	Robins Pin Cushion
Marsh Thistle	Silverweed	Lesser Whitethroat	
Meadow Buttercup	Tormentil	Kestrel	
Lesser Stitchwort	Catsear	House Sparrow	
Japanese Rose	Common Spotted Orchid found expertly by Maz	Linnet	



Corfe Common view from Kingston by Maz Russell