



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Cranborne Estate Walk

Date: 1st September 2022
 Weather: Overcast with sunny spells
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves
 Attendees: 17

Cranborne is a village and parish in East Dorset 7 miles north of Wimborne, situated on chalk downland of Cranborne Chase. The Manor is the home of Viscount Cranborne, eldest son of the 7th Marquess of Salisbury who owns the estate. It is surrounded by extensive formal and informal gardens, lawns, a kitchen garden, walled gardens and an orchard. The gardens open to the public on Wednesdays, March to September. The estate has a 3,000 acre farm which is mostly arable with some pastureland and riverside meadows. Conservation policies are focused on providing habitats that support pollinating insects; winter food for farmland birds and spring nesting cover for ground nesting birds. They have growing populations of corn bunting, yellow hammer, lapwing, native grey partridge and also turtle dove. Soils are vital as a sink for sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and the minimum or no-till practices are designed to maximize the contribution to society's need to mitigate climate change. Crops end up as flour for biscuits and some bread-making and barley for beer brewing and animal feeds, oilseeds will end up variously as cooking oil for frying or bio-fuel to be blended with diesel.

Our walk took us from Cranborne Manor Garden Centre, through the village passing the Close, the Valley and Cranborne Farm, Jacks Corner then walking towards Boveridge Farm. Turning right to Park Row, right again to pass the converted St Aldhem's Chapel, then along Waddeys Drove and through Burwood. After a storm in 1990, this wood has been planted with a mixture of broadleaf and conifer trees to provide a more uneven aged structure known as continuous age forestry. This has the aim of improving biodiversity of the woodlands and protecting against disease. We returned back to the village via Potterne Hill with views across to the Church and Manor arriving back at the Garden Centre where we had tea and cake in the cafe.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Insects
Dandelion	Ivy	Wood Pigeon	Ivy Bee
Daisy	Bramble	House Sparrow	Honey Bee
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Prickly Sow-thistle	Carrion Crow	Common Wasp
Common Evening Primrose	Field Poppy	Buzzard	Robin's Pincushion
Creeping Thistle	Wild Mignonette	Red Kite	Large White
Red Valerian	Common Hemp Nettle	Goshawk	Small White
Pineappleweed	Red Bartsia	Goldfinch	Speckled Wood
Knotgrass	Creeping Buttercup	Robin	Meadow Brown
Great Willowherb	Red Clover	Chiffchaff	Holly Blue
Hogweed	Sun Spurge	Stonechat	<i>Pyrausta despicata</i> - Straw-barred Pearl Moth
Field Bindweed	Shepherd's Purse	Dunnock	
Hedge Bindweed	Common Comfrey	Meadow Pipit	
Mugwort	Herb Robert	Jackdaw	
Travellers Joy	Enchanter's Nightshade	Nuthatch	
Common Mallow	Catmint	Bullfinch	
Field Scabious	Red Campion	Long-tailed Tit	
Yarrow	Scarlet Pimpernel	Blue Tit	
Creeping Cinquefoil	Fat Hen	Marsh Tit	
Lady's Bedstraw	Green Field Speedwell		
Pignut	Self-heal		

Hemp Agrimony	Greater Plantain		
Chicory	Ribwort Plantain		
Agrimony	Petty Spurge		
Greater Knapweed	Groundsel		
Wild Parsnip	Catsear		
Common Toadflax	Fruits		
Spear Thistle	Rose Hip		
Vervain	Haws		
Scentless Mayweed	Blackberry		
Purple Toadflax	Lords and Ladies		
Lesser Burdock	Guelder-rose		
Common Ragwort	Red Osier Dogwood		
Nipplewort	Spindle		
Dwarf Mallow	White Bryony		
Stinging Nettle			



Cranborne Walk - Lords and Ladies Berries by Lyn Traves