



## Ringwood Natural History Society Duncliffe Wood Walk

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
 Walk Leaders: Pat & Malcolm Cox  
 Weather: Overcast  
 Temperature: 12 degrees  
 Attendees: 16 on walk and 2 around the car park area

Duncliffe Wood is an ancient woodland on the summit of Duncliffe Hill, a few miles west of Shaftesbury. The area of the site is 92.16 hectares, making it one of the largest ancient woodlands in North Dorset and one of the best places to see Bluebells in spring. A designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), the wood has a rich mix of woodland species including a scattering of small-leaved lime coppice stools which are reported to be the oldest living things in Dorset. Once an oak, ash and hazel woodland, the site had been traditionally coppiced but was clear-felled and replanted in the fifties and sixties with a mix of Norway spruce, oak, larch and beech. The wood is now under the management of the Woodland Trust and the conifer plantation is gradually being felled to make way for the regeneration of its natural vegetation. There is a notable range of plant species, butterflies, birds and bats. Our walk led us through the winding paths, where bluebells could be seen at every turn, leading towards the summit of the hill where there are fine views to be had looking south to the Dorset Downs and Bulbarrow Hill and north to Gillingham, and beyond to Alfred's Tower at Stourhead in Wiltshire.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont.	Birds	Butterflies (seen on recce)
Bluebells	Ground Ivy	Swallow	Brimstone
Cow Parsley	Blackberry	Chiffchaff	Orange Tip
Dandelion	Wood Dog Violet	Buzzard	Peacock
Pendulous Sedge	Wavy Bittercress	Blue Tit	Comma
Lesser Celandine	Yellow Archangel	Great Tit	Red Admiral
Red Campion	Woodruff	Mistle Thrush	Speckled Wood
Greater Stitchwort	Germander Speedwell	Blackbird	
Cowslip	Wild Strawberry	Song Thrush	
Goldilocks Buttercup	Brooklime	Blackcap	<b>Others</b>
Primrose	Yellow Pimpernel	Chaffinch	St Mark's Fly
Lady's Smock	Wood Speedwell	Wren	Green Longhorn (micro moth)
Ribwort Plantain	Wood Spurge	Dunnock	- <i>Adela reaumurella</i>
Bugle	Common Dog Violet	Raven	King Alfred's Cakes (fungi)
Dog's Mercury	Wood Sorrel		The False Puffball (slime
Herb Robert	Heath Speedwell		mould)- <i>Reticularia lycoperdon</i>
Wood Anemone			
Moschatel	<b>Ferns</b>		
Pignut	Broad Buckler Fern		
Early Purple Orchid	Hartstongue		



*Bluebells at Duncliffe Wood by Lyn Traves*



*Slime Mould at Duncliffe Wood by Gerry Traves*