



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Fishlake Meadows Walk

Date: 26th September 2023
 Weather: Early rain, later sunny spells
 Walk Leader: Theresa Holden
 Attendees: 15

Fishlake Meadows nature reserve is located to the north of Romsey and is managed by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council. The site covers over 60 hectares and is a spectacular wetland, home to ospreys, bitterns, migratory cuckoos, and murmuring starlings. It also supports other wildlife species, such as otters, water voles, over twenty types of dragonflies, and damselflies, plus an impressive variety of plants.

The unique habitats of Fishlake Meadows was originally drained farmland, when the pumps were switched off in the 1980s the site was swamped into a myriad of pools, ditches, reedbeds and wet grassland. The reserve now boasts a mix of floodplain habitats rarely seen in chalk river valleys. From the car park we walked northwards alongside the Andover Barge Canal, then turning left to walk along a path to viewing screens over the water meadows, returning back to the main footpath to reach the River Test and walking alongside it to reach a bridge over it. The footpath around the reserve ends there without doing some road walking to get back, so we retraced our steps back to the car park.

Flowering Plants	Fruits	Birds	Insects
Common Ragwort	Guilder Rose	Robin	Red Admiral Butterfly
Groundsel	Rose Hips	Blue Tit	Wasp
Hogweed	Blackberry	Wood Pigeon	Hornet
Stinging Nettle	Dogwood	Carrion Crow	Common Darter Dragonfly
Traveller's Joy	Haws	Magpie	Southern Hawker Dragonfly
White Dead-nettle	Spindle	Canada Goose	Whirligig Beetle
Greater Bindweed	Lesser Burdock	Mistle Thrush	14 spot Harlequin Ladybird
Hedge Bindweed	Alder	Cetti's Warbler	
Water Forget-me-not	Sycamore	Blackbird	Snails
Greater Plantain	Black Bryony	Cormorant	White-lipped Snail
Hemp Agrimony		Grey Heron	Brown-lipped Snail
Dogwood	Fungi	Grey Wagtail	
Mugwort	Willow Bracket	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Fish
Dandelion	Artist Bracket	Gadwall	Common Minnow
Bramble	Wolf's Milk (slime mould)	Mallard	Common Dace
Ivy		Little Egret	Gudgeon
Water Mint		Great White Egret	
Reedmace		Coot	
Orange Balsam		Moorhen	
Common Reed		Wren	
Common Comfrey		Goldcrest	

Herb Bennet		Kestrel	
Wild Teasel		Goldfinch	
Great Willowherb		Greenfinch	
Creeping Thistle		Chiffchaff	
Marsh Woundwort		Long-tailed Tit	
Lesser Stitchwort		Great Tit	
Meadowsweet		Mute Swan	
Common Fleabane		Greylag Goose	
Hop Trefoil		Nuthatch	
Creeping Buttercup		Treecreeper	
Common Vetch		Blackcap	
Tufted Vetch		Swallow	
Herb Robert		House Martin	
Mouse-ear Hawkweed		Snipe	
Lesser Skullcap		Teal	
		Buzzard	



Reedmace at Fishlake Meadows by Lyn Traves