



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Fordingbridge and Bickton Walk

Date: 3rd July 2023
 Weather: Cloudy with sunny spells
 Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas
 Attendees: 12

Fordingbridge is a town and civil parish on the River Avon in the New Forest District of Hampshire, near the Dorset and Wiltshire borders and famed for its late medieval seven-arch bridge, its known as the northern gateway to the New Forest. From the main car park we set off down the High Street, turning left into Provost Street which leads into Church Street. At the junction called the Quadrant there is a quarter circle of Almshouses. Walking on we came to the parish church of St Mary where we turned off to follow the Avon Valley footpath to Bickton, a small hamlet still within the parish of Fordingbridge. Along the way we passed a sewage works and a disused fish farm. The heronry we saw on our last visit seems to have gone, probably because the fish farm has closed since then. After crossing a bridge over the River Avon we reached Bickton Mill. A mill has existed at Bickton since the time of the Domesday Book. The current mill was built in the 18th century and has now been converted into apartments. We followed the lane north eastwards to meet the A338, the main road which runs between Fordingbridge and Ringwood. After we crossed this road we turned off to pass by Redbrook Farm, then walked across fields to reach Fordingbridge Cemetery on Stuckton Road where we then returned back to our cars.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	Butterflies
Yarrow	Corn Marigold	Mallard	Red Admiral
Catsear	Rough Chervil	Common Buzzard	Gatekeeper
Smooth Sow-thistle	Lesser Burdock	House Martin	Comma
Wood Forget-me-not	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Mute Swan	Brimstone
Herb Robert	Great Willowherb	Chaffinch	Marbled White
Hogweed	Meadow Vetchling	Carrion Crow	Painted Lady
Nipplewort	Red Campion	Pied Wagtail	
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	Common Comfrey	Black-headed Gull	Damselflies
Bramble	Mugwort	Chiffchaff	Common Blue Damselfly
Stinging Nettle	Common Reed	Red Kite	Beautiful Demoiselle
Hedge Mustard	Yellow Water-lily	Dunnock	
Hoary Plantain	Common Mallow	Wren	Others
Herb Bennet	Oxeye Daisy	Robin	Brown-lipped Snail
Common Ragwort	Ribwort Plantain	Rook	Soldier Beetles
Spear Thistle	Hemp Agrimony	Blackbird	Carder Bumblebee
Field Bindweed	Hedge Bedstraw	Jackdaw	
Curled Dock	Watercress	Wood Pigeon	
Creeping Thistle	Self Heal		
Marsh Cudweed	Dovesfoot Cranesbill		

Cleavers	Marsh Woundwort		
Common Sorrel	Honeysuckle		
Bittersweet	Dark Mullein		
Silverweed	Prickly Lettuce		
Water Forget-me-not	Hemlock Water Dropwort		
Meadowsweet	Field Scabious		
Hedge Bindweed	Cinquefoil		
White Clover	Ribwort Plantain		
Red Clover			



Pink Hogweed at Bickton by Lyn Traves