



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Fordingbridge and Bickton Walk**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
 Weather: Overcast, 9 degrees  
 Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas  
 Attendees: 17

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 fish farm, this has attracted many Grey Herons who live in a heronry nearby, we saw at least twenty sitting together on a fence and surrounding field. After crossing over a bridge by the fish farm we reached Bickton Mill. A mill has existed at Bickton since the time of the Domesday Book. The current mill was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has now been converted into apartments. We followed the track 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 returned back to our cars.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Birds Cont.</b>	<b>Others</b>
Lesser Celandine	Chaffinch	Cormorant	Brown Rat
Daisy	Mute Swan	Rook	Buff-tailed Bumblebee
Hairy Bittercress	Carrion Crow	Robin	Nematode Eelworm
Groundsel	Pied Wagtail	Black-tailed Godwit	
Common Field Speedwell	Black-headed Gull	Goosander	<b>Fungi</b>
Green Alkanet	Buzzard	Cetti's Warbler	King Alfred's Cakes
Dandelion	Long-tailed Tit	Stonechat	Beefsteak Fungus
Ground Ivy	Grey Heron		Blushing Bracket
Grey Willow	Chiffchaff		
Sweet Violet	Mallard		
Snowdrop	Red Kite		
White Dead-nettle	Blue Tit		
Red Dead-nettle	Dunnock		
Wavy Bittercress	Wren		
Bullace	Wood Pigeon		
Thale Cress	Jackdaw		
Bay Willow	Blackbird		
Common Chickweed	Herring Gull		



*Blushing Bracket at Bickton by Lyn Traves*