



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Godshill Walk

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Weather: Sunny but cold  
Walk Leader: John Gurney  
Attendees: 13

We met at the car park adjacent to Godshill Inclosure, first enclosed in 1810 and planted with oak and beech some of which still exist. In the 1900s it was underplanted with other broadleaves, predominantly Sweet Chestnut and also with Scots Pine and Larch being introduced along the eastern fringes. More extensive areas were cleared and planted with conifers in the 1950s and 1960s on the higher ground in the core of the wood. We walked through the Inclosure for a circular walk stopping halfway round at the Horse and Groom pub at Woodgreen for lunch. The whole parish of Woodgreen is within the western escarpment conservation area, set up in 2008 and Woodgreen Common has been designated as a site of special scientific interest. Two thirds of the parish is an area of woodland, heathland, acid grassland, scrub and valley bog, supporting a richness and diversity of wildlife. After lunch we returned via Woodgreen Common to the hill top escarpment of Castle Hill where there are earthwork remains of the Castle Hill, a Ringwork and Bailey Castle, a type that appeared in England a little prior to the Norman Conquest and continued to be built during the late-11th and 12th centuries. This type of castle had an absence of a motte or the keep and was sited within a usually oval or circular-shaped ringwork, sometimes referred to as an Inner Bailey. This area was enclosed by an earthen rampart sometimes topped by a timber palisade, and protected by a substantial ditch. We enjoyed the view over the Avon River valley, Castle Hill has always been seen as a strategic, and picturesque viewpoint. Then passing through Godshill Wood we returned back to our cars.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Fungi</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Blackbird	Hairy Curtain Crust	Bramble
Robin	Glistening Inkcap	Hairy Bittercress
Mute Swans	Candlesnuff Fungus	Dandelion
Buzzard		
Red Kite		
Wood Pigeon		
Goldcrest		
Little Egret		
Black-headed Gull		
Rook		



*Godshill by Lyn Traves*