



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Ibsley Common Walk**

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
 Weather: Sunny spells with a cold wind  
 Walk Leader: Martin King  
 Attendees: 7 plus 3 on recces

This weeks walk started from Moyles Court School at Rockford, Ringwood where we parked in the lay by opposite. During WW2 the area including nearby Blashford Lakes became RAF Ibsley, it was constructed in the early stages of the war and officially opened in February 1941. Like many other wartime airfields in the Forest its operational life was relatively short lived and it ceased operations in 1946 before closing finally in 1952. We walked along the road with the school on our left to a gate to take the footpath uphill, which is part of the Avon Valley long distance footpath. It leads to Ibsley Common, owned and managed by the National Trust as part of the New Forest Northern Commons which was purchased from the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Normanton of Somerley Estate on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1999. At the top we turned right to take the footpath leading across Ibsley Common and walking towards Whitefield Plantation. On our left we passed a pond frequented by free roaming animals. Nearby, we found two hundred plus Greater Broomrape growing, a perennial parasitic plant growing off the roots of the Gorse bushes. After our picnic lunch we returned walking down Summerlug Hill where Royal Ferns were growing, then reaching the hamlet of Mockbaggarr and passing the RAF Ibsley War memorial detailing information of the former airfield and dedicated to the units stationed there during WW2. From Mockbaggarr we walked along the road to reach our cars.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Grasses etc.</b>	<b>Birds</b>
Daisy	Lousewort	Yorkshire Fog	Swallow
White Clover	Procumbent Pearlwort	Rough Meadow-grass	Song Thrush
Black Medick	Self-heal	Sweet Vernal Grass	Dunnock
Foxglove	Heath Speedwell	Meadow Fescue	Wheatear
Dog Rose	Heath Pearlwort	Cocksfoot	House Sparrow
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Lesser Trefoil	Perennial Ryegrass	Collard Dove
Dandelion	Trailing St. John's Wort	Soft Brome	Chaffinch
Water Figwort	Germander Speedwell	False Oat-grass	Chiffchaff
Common Figwort	Lesser Spearwort	Common Couch	Skylark
Bramble	Honeysuckle	Annual Meadow-grass	Greenfinch
Meadow Buttercup	Common Birdsfoot Trefoil	Common Bent	Egyptian Goose
Creeping Buttercup	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Heath Wood-rush	Garden Warbler
Herb Robert	Ling	Bristle Bent	Red Kite
Silverweed	Climbing Corydalis	Early Hair-grass	Hobby
Red Campion	Three-nerved Sandwort	Squirrel-tail Fescue	Stonechat
Herb Bennett	Common Chickweed	Ratstail Fescue	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Ox-eye Daisy	Water Pepper	Oval Sedge	Buzzard
Stinging Nettle	Royal Fern	Toad Rush	Blackbird
Catsear	Large Bittercress	Dwarf Rush	Carrion Crow
Common Mouse-ear	Slender Trefoil	Hard Rush	Jackdaw

Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Round-leaved Crowfoot	Soft Rush	Stock Dove
Creeping Thistle	Yellow Pimpernel	Purple Moor-grass	Goldfinch
Common Sorrel	Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil	Barren Brome	Grey Wagtail
Sheep's Sorrel	Marsh Willowherb	Red Fescue	Greenfinch
Wood Sage	Broad-leaved Willowherb	Heath Grass	
Pendulous Birch	Elder		<b>Others</b>
Rhododendron	Monkeyflower		Fallow Deer
Bell Heather	Lady's Smock		Red Tailed Bumblebee
Heath Bedstraw	Broad-leaved Dock		Dung Roundhead Fungus
Tormentil	Enchanter's Nightshade		Dryad's Saddle Fungus
Cross-leaved Heath	Clustered Dock		Turkeytail
Sand Spurrey	Greater Celandine		Damselfly sp. Just emerged
Water Pursalane	Brooklime		Common Blue Damselfly
Common Ragwort	Slender Marsh Bedstraw		Whirligig Beetle
Hedge Bedstraw	Spear Thistle		
Annual Pearlwort	Redleg		
Buckthorn	Ground Elder		
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Hedge Woundwort		
Cinquefoil	Tutsan		
Slender Parsley Piert	Garlic Mustard		
Eyebright	Greater Periwinkle		
Birdsfoot	Square-stemmed Willowherb		
Common Ragwort	Dodder		



*Greater Broomrape at Ibsley Common  
by Lyn Traves*



*Royal Fern growing on Summerlug Hill  
by Lyn Traves*