



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ibsley Common Walk

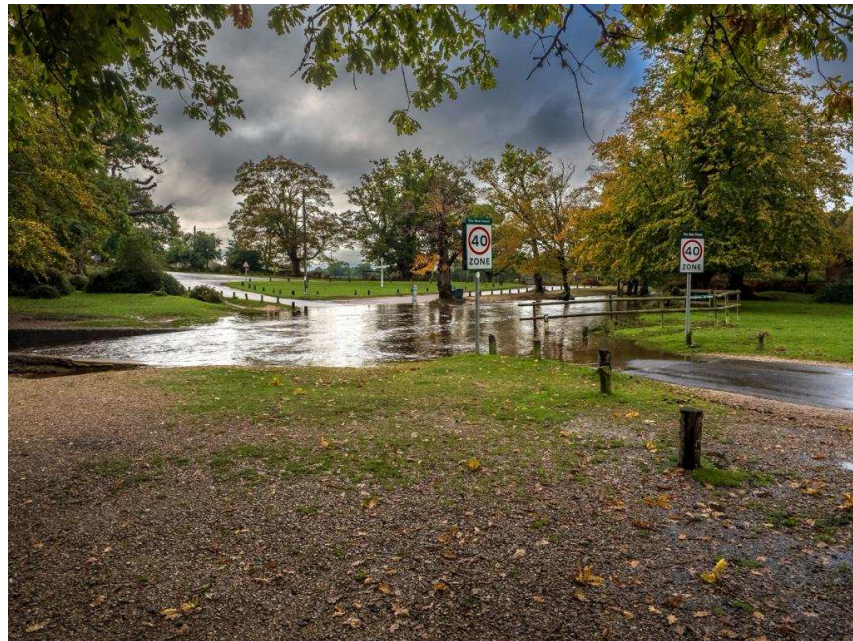
Date: 25th October 2023
 Weather: Overcast
 Walk Leaders: Yve Prior and John Gurney
 Attendees: 7

This weeks walk started from Moyles Court School at Rockford, Ringwood where we parked in the lay by opposite. Nearby at Moyles Court ford where Dockens Water runs through, the water was 2 foot 6 inches deep after heavy rain and impassable, except for one reckless driver who tried to cross and got stuck, he had to be towed out!

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 path to Ibsley Common, owned and managed by the National Trust as part of the New Forest Northern Commons. It was purchased from the 5th Earl of Normanton of Somerley Estate on 4th April 1999. At the top we turned right to take the footpath leading across Ibsley Common, first taking a detour to view the WW2 Battle HQ, an underground unit which was designed to defend the airfield in the event of invasion and is still in tact and can be found among the conifer plantation. After, we reached the white painted stone trig point and Whitefield Plantation consisting of Douglas Fir and Scots Pine, where we had our lunch. The plantation stands out on the skyline and was planted to enhance the view from Somerley House. We returned back walking southwards and then by Newlands Plantation where most of the trees have been cut down, we could see Dockens Water was running at a very fast rate below.

Fungi	Birds	Flowering Plants	Beetles
False Deathcap	Jay	Yarrow	Devil's Coach-horse
Common Puffball	Carrion Crow	Catsear	Dor Beetle
Tawny Grisette	Wood Pigeon	Common Gorse	
Panthercap	Jackdaw	Rhododendron	Mammals
Vermilion Waxcap	Buzzard	Bell Heather	Pigs
Moss Bell	Meadow Pipit	Cross-leaved Heath	New Forest Ponies
The Deceiver	Long-tailed Tit	Dwarf Gorse	Fallow Deer (buck)
Purple Brittlebill	Goldcrest	Tormentil	
Snapping Bonnet	Coal Tit	Common Ragwort	
Turkeytail	Robin	Herb Robert	
Ugly Milkcap	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Smooth Hawkweed	
Orange Birch Bolete	Grey Heron		
Hairy Curtain Crust			
The Blusher			
Deathcap (alba form)			
Turf Mottlegill			
Dusky Puffball			

Parasol			
Common Rustgill			
Saffron Milkcap			
Common Earthball			
Fly Agaric			
Birch Milkcap			



Dockens Water at Moyals Court Ford by Martin King



A car attempted to drive through the ford! by Martin King