



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Kingston Lacy Drovers Walk

Date: 17th August 2023  
 Weather: Cloudy with sunny spells  
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves  
 Attendees: 16

White Mill is a former corn mill which stands in a peaceful setting by the River Stour, in Sturminster Marshall near Wimborne. The Mill is owned and cared for by the National Trust, as part of the Kingston Lacy estate. The first record of a mill on the site is from the Domesday Book, the current watermill was rebuilt in 1776 and was extensively repaired in 1994. It still retains its original elm and applewood machinery though this can no longer be used. White Mill bridge over the River Stour is reputed to be the oldest in Dorset with foundations that can be dated back to the 12th century. Our walk took us along some of Kingston Lacy estate lanes and droves (ancient roadways along which cattle were driven to market) linking Pamphill, Shapwick and Sturminster Marshall.

After leaving the car park at White Mill we walked along Mill Lane, The Drove, Park Lane, crossing a road onto Sweetbriar Drove which was the medieval route to Shapwick before the more southerly road by the Stour was adopted and used to be the main road to Blandford. Then turning right onto Kingston Lacy Drove on the perimeter of the estate parkland. The woodland to the left of the path is known as Coneygar, associated with the breeding of rabbits in the medieval period. We took the first right-hand turning off Kingston Lacy Drove to join the Stour Valley Way as it headed towards Sturminster Marshall. We followed the path until it joined the Shapwick to Cowgrove road, crossing the road and a stile to walk beside the River Stour before returning to White Mill. Numerous Brown Hawker Dragonflies were seen on the recce carried out a week prior to this one.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Butterflies</b>
Butterfly Bush	Hoary Plantain	Swallow	Red Admiral
Redleg	Wild Basil	Wood Pigeon	Meadow Brown
Knotgrass	Yellow Corydalis	Blue Tit	Small White
Prickly Sow-thistle	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Carrion Crow	Common Blue
Red Campion	Daisy	Robin	Speckled Wood
White Dead-nettle	Dovesfoot Cranesbill	Yellowhammer	Gatekeeper
Common Comfrey	Silverweed	Moorhen	Holly Blue
Stinging Nettle	Tufted Vetch	Goldfinch	Large White
Traveller's Joy	Hedge Woundwort	Whitethroat	Peacock Larvae
Large Bindweed	Black Bryony	Rook	
Common Fleabane	Field Scabious	Jackdaw	<b>Moths</b>
White Clover	Meadow Buttercup	Mute Swan	Common Carpet
Greater Plantain	Bramble	Mallard	Common Wainscot
Field Bindweed	Grey Field Speedwell	Wren	
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Birdsfoot Trefoil	House Sparrow	<b>Mammals</b>
White Bryony	Tansy-leaved Phacelia	Grey Heron	Brown Hare

Scarlet Pimpernel	Oil-seed Rape		Rabbit
Scentless Mayweed	Wild Radish	<b>Fungi</b>	Weasel
Herb Robert	Dewberry	Giant Polypore	
Small-flowered Cranesbill	Meadowsweet	Dryad's Saddle	<b>Beetles</b>
Pineappleweed	Yarrow	Milky Conecap	7-spot Ladybird
Spear Thistle	Greater Knapweed	King Arthurs Cakes	Dock Bug
Herb Bennet	Common Toadflax		
Meadow Vetchling	Common/Field Poppy	<b>Fruits</b>	<b>Snails</b>
Hop Trefoil	Mugwort	Elderberries	Brown-lipped Snail
Black Horehound	Great Willowherb	Lords and Ladies	White-lipped Snail
Lesser Burdock	Purple Loosestrife	Blackberries	
Agrimony	Marsh Woundwort	Snowberries	<b>Arachnids</b>
Dandelion	Wild Teasel	Haws	Harvestman
Bristly Oxtongue	Hedge Bindweed	Sloes	Nurseweb Spider
Hedgerow Cranesbill	Tansy		
Black Medick	Common Hemp-nettle		<b>Crickets</b>
Red Bartsia	Orange Balsam		Dark Bush-cricket
Ribwort Plantain			



*Dryads Saddle fungi at Kingston Lacy Doves Walk by Lyn Traves*