



## Ringwood Natural History Society Longham Walk

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
 Walk Leader: Sonia Wilkinson  
 Weather: Sunny Spells  
 Temperature: 7 degrees  
 Attendees: 8

Our walk started at the Angel Inn, Ferndown Dorset. We crossed the A348 Ringwood Road and walked down Angel Lane, Coneygar Lane crossing Ham Lane, down High Mead Lane and Green Lane to Longham Lakes. In 1994 planning permission was granted for the extraction of gravel and formation of reservoirs on land owned by Bournemouth Water. The purpose being to store river water to be used when existing resources are unavailable. Longham Lakes has only been in existence since February 2010, when the large Longham Reservoir South was flooded for the first time and where no fishing is allowed, it is put over to wildlife. The smaller Longham Reservoir North was filled in spring 2002 and is stocked for mixed coarse fishing. The site boasts a comprehensive bird list, in winter there are large numbers of wildfowl and in summer the lakes are surrounded by rushes and reeds and there are lots of wild flowers and insects. After wading around the lakes we crossed back across Ringwood Road and walked alongside the River Stour passing by Dudsbury Rings and the footpath to the Guides Camp, crossing Christchurch Road and returning to the Angel Inn via Poor Common and Belle Vue Plantation. The highlight of the day was two Great White Egrets seen on the River Stour water meadows at Hampreston, viewed from the North Lake Longham.

Birds	Birds cont.	Flowering Plants
Common Buzzard	Long-tailed Tit	Daisy
Jackdaw	Mute Swan	Groundsel
Carrion Crow	Greylag Goose	Gorse
Redwing	Canada Goose	Lesser Celandine
Pied Wagtail	Herring Gull	Goat Willow/Sallow/Pussy Willow
Wood Pigeon	Coot	Alder Catkins (m&f)
House Sparrow	Great White Egret	Hazel Catkins (m&f)
Robin	Pochard	Blackthorn
Blue Tit	Moorhen	Dandelion
Blackbird	Little Egret	Common Field Speedwell
Black-headed Gull	Cetti's Warbler	Hairy Bittercress
Magpie	Song Thrush	Danish Scurvygrass
Wren		Red Dead-nettle
Chaffinch		Bullace – Wild Plum sp.
Great Crested Grebe		Wood Spurge
Tufted Duck		Sweet Violet
Stonechat		Common Mouse-ear



*River Stour from Dudsbury by Lyn Traves*



*Bullace Blossom (Wild Plum) by Lyn Traves*