



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Martin Down and Vernditch Chase Walk

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
 Weather: Overcast 16 to 20 degrees  
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves  
 Attendees: 16

Vernditch Chase is situated within Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on the county boundaries of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset and is maintained by Forestry England. This mixed woodland mainly consisting of Beech is on the edge of (but not part of) Martin Down NNR and shares an entrance and car park with the extensive downs off the A354. There is also a neolithic long barrow on the main path into the wood on the left and Grim's Ditch an ancient boundary network running through the site, only a low mound remains, overgrown with trees in open beech woodland. A Roman Road also runs along the eastern boundary of Vernditch. Having walked around the woodland we returned back to our cars and having our lunch overlooking Bokerley Ditch among a sea of wild flowers. The rolling downland landscape of the National Nature Reserve covers approximately 336 hectares, jointly owned and managed by Natural England and the Hampshire County Council. Although one of the largest areas of undulating chalk grassland in the country, Martin Down represents a small remnant of downland which once covered the chalk. The site includes flower rich grassland, scrub and woodland, supporting a wide range of wild flowers, insects and birds. The down is rich in archaeology, dating from Neolithic Bokerley Ditch to the Rifle Range used during the Second World War.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	Others
Dog Rose	Meadow Buttercup	Dog's Mercury	Yellowhammer	Click Beetle
Dandelion	White Campion	Wood Spurge	Skylark	5 spot Burnet Moth
Creeping Buttercup	Goatsbeard	Wood Dock	Linnet	'Cuckoo Spit' Froghopper
Cleavers	Marjoram	Stinging Nettle	Whitethroat	Cinnabar Moth and Larva
White Nettle	Wild Carrot	Daisy	Wood Pigeon	Harvestman
Germander Speedwell	Musk Thistle	Pignut	Carrion Crow	Common Green Grasshopper
Traveller's Joy	Honeysuckle	Wild Thyme	Chiffchaff	
Yarrow	Hedge Bedstraw	Columbine	Blackbird	<b>Butterflies</b>
Smooth Hawksbeard	Bittersweet	Scarlet Pimpernel	Song Thrush	Dark Green Fritillary
Black Medick	Nipplewort	Squinancywort	Coal Tit	Large Skipper
Ribwort Plantain	Perforated S. J. Wort	Sheep's Sorrel	Goldcrest	Small Heath
Kidney Vetch	Ground Ivy	Salad Burnet	Wren	Meadow Brown
Wild Mignonette	Hedge Woundwort	Oxeye Daisy	Robin	Small Tortoiseshell
Dogwood	Rock Rose	Creeping Thistle	Buzzard	Speckled Wood
White Clover	Herb Bennet	Lesser Knapweed	Chaffinch	Marbled White
Common Broomrape	Yellow Rattle	Agrimony	Nuthatch	Brimstone
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Elder	Hedge Mustard	Corn Bunting	Red Admiral
Sainfoin	Fairy Flax	Hogweed	Jackdaw	Common Blue
Red Clover	Common Valerian	Common Vetch	Rook	Small Blue
Horseshoe Vetch	Tufted Vetch	Common Gromwell	Dunnock	
Dropwort	Creeping Cinquefoil	Meadow Vetchling	Magpie	
Greater Knapweed	Marsh Thistle	Tormentil		
Wild Privet	Common Figwort	<b>Orchids</b>		

Silverweed	Enchanter's Nightshade	Pyramidal Orchid		
Catsear	Lesser Trefoil	Common Spotted Orchid		
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Ladies Bedstraw	Fragrant Orchid		
		Bee Orchid		



Martin Down - Fragrant Orchid