



Ringwood Natural History Society Martin Down Walk

Date: 11th April 2017
 Walk Leaders: Pat Holder and Lyn Traves
 Weather: Sunny Spells
 Temperature: 15 degrees
 Attendees: 14 on walk and 2 around the car park area

Martin Down is situated on the Hampshire/Dorset border close to the little village of Martin. Our walk started from the main car park situated on the A354 near Bokerley Junction. 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. Our walk took us across the downland to the southern tip of the reserve where we saw the rare wild Pasque Flower (pasque comes from 'paschal', meaning Easter) and many Cowslips on route. After lunch we returned back to the car park via Bokerley Ditch which defines the border between Dorset and Hampshire, where a Red Kite was also seen.

Flowering Plants	Birds	Butterflies
Dandelion	Buzzard	Brimstone (m&f)
Daisy	Skylark	Holly Blue
Blackthorn	Carrion Crow	Red Admiral
Gorse	Yellowhammer	Peacock
Garlic Mustard	Swallow	Orange Tip
Greater Stitchwort	Chiffchaff	Small White
Wayfaring-tree	Green Woodpecker	Small Copper
Common Dog Violet	Wheatear	
Cowslip	Great Black-backed Gull	Others
Ground Ivy	Kestrel	St Mark's Fly
Pasque Flower	Linnet	Garden Snail
Dog's Mercury	Blackbird	Early Bumblebee (queen)
White Beak-sedge	Wren	Dark-edge Bee-fly
Green Field Speedwell	Wood Pigeon	Harvest Mouse Nest (disused)
Bluebell	Greenfinch	
Chalk Milkwort	Pheasant	
	Jackdaw	
	Blackcap	
	Red Kite	
	Raven	
	Chaffinch	



Pasque Flower, Martin Down, Hampshire by Martin King



Small Copper, Martin Down by Gerry Traves