



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Milford on Sea Walk

Date: 25th January 2023
Weather: Misty and cold
Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas
Attendees: 12

Our walk started from The Needles Eye Cafe, we walked along Hurst Road passing the bird hide, then along the spit which runs to Hurst Castle alongside Sturt Pond a 10.9-hectare (27-acre) Local Nature Reserve in Milford on Sea. It is owned and managed by Milford on Sea Parish Council. Also part of Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, a Special Protection Area of Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation and of Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Sturt Pond itself is tidal, and the reserve also includes Dane Stream which runs through it, reedbeds, lagoons and saltmarsh. These habitats attract many birds, and there is also an area of grassland which is grazed by New Forest Ponies. After crossing a bridge over Dane Stream by now on its way to the sea we circled back to Milford on Sea village, home to 11 hectares of Ancient Woodland known as Milford Nature Walk or the Pleasure Gardens. With a network of winding footpaths and grassland alongside the Dane Stream, it runs parallel to the coast. The stream forms part of the Milford on Sea conservation area and runs the length of the parish and leads to Studland Common. We returned back by walking along the cliff top.

Birds	Birds cont.	Others
Mute Swan	Jackdaw	Spring Snowflake
Teal	Mallard	Hazel Catkins
Herring Gull	Grey Heron	Lords and Ladies
Redshank	Moorhen	Grey Squirrel
Black-headed Gull	Wood Pigeon	
Dunlin	Carrion Crow	
Turnstone	House Sparrow	
Little Egret	Metal Owl	
Greenshank	Robin	
Lapwing	Goldcrest	
Starlings	Pied Wagtail	
Skylark	Rook	
Rock Pipit	Stonechat	
Brent Geese	Kingfisher	
Cormorant		