



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Mockbeggar Walk

Weather: Mainly overcast with light fog trying to clear (unsuccessfully)
 Walk Leaders: Maz and Will Russell for Yve Prior
 Attendees: 14

Our walk this week started from the lay by opposite Crosslanes Chapel in Mockgegar, which is a hamlet in the New Forest. Its nearest town is Ringwood which lies approximately 3 miles south-west from the hamlet, it is in the civil parish of Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley. We took the track opposite leading up Summerlug Hill to Ibsley Common, owned and managed by the National Trust as part of the New Forest Northern Commons. During WW2 the area including nearby Blashford Lakes became RAF Ibsley, it was constructed in the early stages of the war and officially opened in February 1941. Like many other wartime airfields in the Forest its operational life was relatively short lived and it ceased operations in 1946 before closing finally in 1952.

We walked towards Whitefield Plantation and the white painted Trig point, then continued on towards the Huff Duff (WW2 High Frequency Direction Finding Station). A network of these top secret stations were spread across the country. The remains contain an information board which explains that DF stations were an advanced form of radio direction finding, a means of locating aircraft radio transmissions by identifying the direction from which they are strongest. The site at Ibsley consists of the main building and a 30 foot three story wooden tower would have been bolted to the concrete base and powered by an external generator. Surrounding the tower is the remaining brick blast wall, to protect those inside from any nearby bomb blasts. We had our lunch sitting inside the remains taking shelter from the bitterly cold weather. Afterwards we retraced our steps back to our cars, then going onto nearby Hockey's Farm Cafe to warm up with hot refreshments.

Birds	Fungi	Flowering Plants	Mammals
Redwings	Turkeytail	Daisy	Fallow Deer
Wood Pigeon	Birch Polypore	Dandelion	
Sparrowhawk	Common Stump Brittlestem	Gorse	
Pied Wagtail	Common Jellyspot		
Great Tit	Clouded Funnel		
Snipe	Witches Butter/Yellow Brain		
Robin	Wood Blewit		
Wren			
Chaffinch	Lichenised Fungi		
	<i>Cladonia floerkeana</i> / Devils		
	Matchsticks		



Ibsley Common
by Gerry Traves



Cladonia floerkeana-Devils Matchsticks
by Gerry Traves



Witches Butter-Yellow Brain
by Gerry Traves