



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Mottisfont Estate Walk

Date: 21st July 2022
 Weather: Light cloud and sunny spells, 23 degrees
 Walk Leaders: Theresa Holden and Martin King
 Attendees: 9

Mottisfont Abbey is a historical priory and country estate in Hampshire, sheltered in the valley of the River Test. The estate was acquired by the National Trust in 1957, which includes the mansion house, gardens, woodlands, rivers and farmlands, over 648 hectares or 1645 acres. The land has been managed as a traditional working estate since 1500, today the estate is managed to maintain access, enhance wildlife habitats and preserve the landscape. Our walk started from Spearywell Wood car park within the estate, the National Trust has worked to restore the historic rides within the woodland to a width that favours plants and insects. Wide rides allow plenty of light and sun into the woods and this provides a habitat for butterflies such as Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral and Meadow Brown, all of we saw plus many more listed below. After walking through the wood, then Dummer Copse, crossing the margin of a field to walk along Keepers Lane. At the junction with Spearywell Road we crossed onto Benchers Lane which we walked along to reach Abbey Farm. We turned sharp left to walk diagonally cross the fields back to Spearywell Road and the car park. Unfortunately, the Oil-seed Rape field had been harvested and due to the long period of hot dry weather, most of the wild flowers had expired in these fields.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Insects
Knotgrass	Wild Angelica	Wood Pigeon	Butterflies
Stinging Nettle	Hemp Agrimony	Nuthatch	Meadow Brown
Enchanter's Nightshade	Corn Mint	Robin	Speckled Wood
Bramble	Lesser Spearwort	Blackbird	Gatekeeper
Cleavers	Perforated St John's Wort	Wren	Silver-washed Fritillary
Large Bindweed	White Clover	Swallow	Ringlet
Marsh Willowherb	Red Clover	Bullfinch	Red Admiral
Montbretia	Agrimony	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Large Skipper
Wood Dock	Pignut	Firecrest	Green-veined White
Brooklime	Marsh Cudweed	Chiffchaff	Brimstone
Water Figwort	Lesser Knapweed	Song Thrush	White Admiral
Creeping Buttercup	Ribwort Plantain	Stock Dove	Large White
Nipplewort	Field Bindweed	Red Kite	Marbled White
Herb Bennet	Common Fleabane		Small White
Herb Robert	Tufted Vetch		Peacock
Pendulous Sedge	Scentless Mayweed		
Meadowsweet	Pineappleweed		Moths
Sweet Chestnut	Wild Carrot		Dingy Footman
Greater Plantain	Scarlet Pimpernell		Straw Dot
Red Currant (fruits)	Butterfly Bush		
Common Ragwort	Spear Thistle		Dragonflies
Hedge Woundwort	Catsear		Emperor Dragonfly
Common Chickweed	Yarrow		

Red Champion	Mugwort		Others
Creeping Thistle	Great Willowherb		Forest Shieldbug
Yellow Pimpernel	Field Pansy		Soldier Beetle
Self-heal	Fat Hen		
Betony	Redleg		
Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil	Groundsel		
Marsh Thistle	Traveller's Joy		
Field Horsetail	Lesser Burdock		
Hedge Bindweed	Fool's Parsley		
Marsh Woundwort			



Mottisfont Estate Walk - Silver-washed Fritillary by Lyn Traves



Mottisfont Estate Walk- Brooklime by Lyn Traves