



## RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### Pig Bush Walk

Date: 23rd August 2023  
Weather: Sunny  
Walk Leader: John Gurney  
Attendees: 14

Pig Bush Wood is situated on the B3056 Lyndhurst to Beaulieu Road, not far from Beaulieu Road Station, Beaulieu Hotel and Drift Pub. Our walk started from Pig Bush car park and crossed over the heath containing brackish streams and ponds with wooden duckboards and bridges crossing over the low lying wetland. We did spot both the New Forest Water Crowfoot and Hampshire Purslane, both confined to the New Forest. The area is called The Bishop of Winchester's Purlieu, a purlieu is land once within the jurisdiction of the Forest, but no longer so, it has since been returned back to the Crown Estate. Running through this area is the Bishops Dyke or Ditch, a grassy earthen bank and ditch once thought to enclose a 13<sup>th</sup> century deer park. We crossed over the ditch before reaching the main railway line running from Southampton to Bournemouth, walking over a bridge to reach Denny Lodge Inclosure with ancient, ornamental woodland of Oak and Beech and areas of coniferous woodland. We passed through the inclosure to cross back the same railway line at Woodfidley Cottages at an unmanned crossing into Frame Heath Inclosure, passing through to reach the old open woodland of Rowbarrow and return back to Pig Bush.

#### **A note by Martin King regarding the Goat Moth caterpillar we saw:**

Goat Moth (*Cossus cossus*) has a status of being nationally scarce. They were once locally widespread, but in recent years they have declined rapidly. Since I re-started running my moth traps in the garden in 2020 I have only caught 3 Goat Moths. Two on the night of 25 June 2020 & 1 on 03 June 2022.

The caterpillars live under the bark or in the heartwood of many broadleaf trees & shrubs. These include sallows, willows, pear, plum, Sweet Chestnut and Pedunculate Oak They feed within the timber taking between 3 & 4 years to become fully grown. The fully mature larva leave the tree in the autumn. They wander off, sometimes at great speed to find a suitable place to pupate. Pupation site would be some rotten wood or they will burrow underground. Where they over winter in their cocoon, before emerging in the early summer as moths. The moths are on the wing in June & July. Mated females lay their eggs on suitable trees and the whole live cycle starts all over again.

Goat Moths get their name from the caterpillars which are said to smell of goats.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	Butterflies
Lesser Spearwort	Lesser Stitchwort	Tree Pipit	Red Admiral
Water-pepper	Common Centuary	Stonechat	Small Heath
Bell Heather	Rock Rose	Wood Pigeon	Small White
Tormentil	Common Fleabane	Kestrel	Large White
Catsear	Hemp Agrimony	Carrion Crow	Speckled Wood
Daisy	Honeysuckle	Robin	Holly Blue
Dandelion	Foxglove	Wren	Gatekeeper
Lesser Hawkbit	Eyebright	Spotted Flycatcher	Brimstone
Ling	Wood Sage	Willow Warbler	Small Copper

Common Ragwort	Knotgrass	Goldcrest	
Cross-leaved Heath		Blackbird	<b>Dragonflies</b>
Dwarf Gorse		Redstart	Large Red Damselfly
Sheepsbit		Great Tit	Migrant Hawker
Marsh St. John's Wort		Coal Tit	Common Darter
Water Mint		Treecreeper	Keeled Skimmer
New Forest Crowfoot		Goldfinch	
Marsh Ragwort		Chaffinch	<b>Other Insects</b>
Water Plantain		Nuthatch	Hornet
Hampshire Purslane			Common Wasp
Lesser Water Plantain		<b>Mammals</b>	Bee-wolf Digger Wasp
Hairballs		Grey Squirrel	Mint Moth
Agrimony			Goat Moth caterpillar
Marsh Thistle			Common Backswimmer



*Goat Moth Larva seen on Pig Bush Walk by Lyn Traves*