



Ringwood Natural History Society Pondhead Walk

Date: 29th June 2017
 Walk Leader : Theresa Holden
 Weather: Overcast
 Temperature: 15 degrees
 Attendees: 5

A very pleasant walk after the previous days rain from Bolton's Bench car park in Lyndhurst, passing by White Moor and crossing the B3056 Lyndhurst to Beaulieu road to Pondhead and Park Ground Inclosures. We saw William's Copse where 900 Sessile Oaks were planted in 1979 to commemorate the creation of the New Forest in 1079 by William I. We also visited the site where Pondhead Conservation Trust produce charcoal. The Trust uses a Charcoal Retort, a kiln on wheels, allowing removal from the site after a burning thus leaving no 'footprint' on the woodland. The wood used is mainly hazel with birch and holly cut from within the woodland by volunteers. Their aim is to restore the hazel coppice, woodland understorey and ride (track) network of Pondhead Inclosure in order to improve its biodiversity. It is a unique area of woodland in the Forest, being the only remaining area of hazel coppice with oak standards on the Crown land.

A parasitoid Ichneumon Wasp was spotted (see photograph below). They always kill the host which ranges from an aphid egg to beetle, butterfly and moth larvae. Some species found in the New Forest are giants which may be seen patrolling fresh felled logs during sunny weather. They have a very long ovipositor which is used to drill into the wood to lay eggs in beetle or wood wasp larvae. *Amblytleles armatorius*, the species we saw is found on roadside verges, hedgerows, woodland rides and clearings, especially on any dense undergrowth such as bramble patches. They feed on pollen, especially umbellifers such as Hogweed. The hosts are moth larvae. Because many of the hosts of the Ichneumon larvae are insect pests of both agricultural and forest crops, such as bugs, weevils, codling moths and beetles etc. Ichneumons can be effective biological control agents and provide an economic and environmental benefit to humans.

Flowering Plants, etc.	Flowering Plants, etc.	Birds	Butterflies
Bramble	Common Figwort	Greenfinch	Gatekeeper
Catsear	Foxglove	Starling	Ringlet
Red Clover	Slender St. John's Wort	Carrion Crow	Meadow Brown
Wood Sage	Marsh Ragwort	Rook	Small Skipper
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Chickweed	Grey Heron	Silver-studded Blue
Tormentil	Hoary Plantain	Chiffchaff	
Lousewort	Spear Thistle	Robin	Insects
Bell Heather	Wood Spurge	Wren	Pug Moth
Self-heal	Marsh Thistle	Blackcap	Scallop Oak Moth
Daisy	Silverweed	Great spotted Woodpecker	Ichneumon Wasp
Herb Bennet	Lesser Stitchwort	Dunnock	<i>(Amblytleles Armatorius)</i>
White Clover	Agrimony	Goldcrest (heard)	
Enchanter's Nightshade	Tutsan	Coal Tit	Others
Cleavers	Germander Speedwell	Blackbird	Frog
Hedge Woundwort	Common Centaury	Great Tit	Gery Squirrel
Common Sorrel	Meadowsweet	Stock Dove (heard)	
Broad-leaved Willowherb	Cross-leaf Heath	Long-tailed Tit	
Stinging Nettle	Dodder	Chaffinch	

Flowering Plants, etc	Rushes, etc	Birds cont.	Fungi
Herb Robert	Soft Rush	Wood Pigeon	Birch Polypore
Nipplewort			Birch Brittleghill
Creeping Buttercup	Sedges etc		Oyster Mushroom
Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil	Pendulous Sedge		Geranium Brittleghill
Slender Marsh Bedstraw			
Wood Dock			
Common Cow-wheat			
Cinquefoil			



Pondhead Walk - Ichneumon Wasp by Lyn Traves