



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

An afternoon seaside Walk

Date: 15th February 2023
Weather: Sunny
Walk Leaders: Audrey Walker and Harold Jones
Attendees: 10

Southbourne is the most easterly suburb of Bournemouth, Dorset, situated between Boscombe and Christchurch. Fisherman's Walk beach is located between Southbourne and Boscombe. Mostly sand, with some shingle, the beach has safe swimming, deckchair hire, beach huts and a cafe. Due to its distance from central Bournemouth, this beach is usually less crowded and less hectic than the main beaches and possesses a coveted Blue Flag. Accessed from Southbourne Overcliff Drive, the Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lift was opened in 1935 and is still operational in the summer season offering a direct route from the cliff top to the beach. It is owned and managed by BCP (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch) Council.

Our walk started by Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lift at Cafe Riva, following the cliff top footpath westwards passing through Boscombe Cliff Gardens and descending down to Boscombe Pier. The pier was built in 1888/9, the pier head was added in 1926, it was partially demolished during WWII to combat the threat of invasion. The pier remained derelict for a number of years and was only fully reopened in 1962.

We returned walking along Boscombe Promenade where we saw Goats grazing the cliffs near Honeycombe Chine, a developed area of what was the seafront car park. They are used to control the non-native plants such as Holm Oak, Japanese Knotweed and Bamboo which no longer dominate this area. With such a dramatic transformation having been achieved, the council decided to introduce goat grazing to other areas. The council started with 10 goats in 2010 which are now being increased to 100 and are to be grazed between the West Cliff and Southbourne. They will be moved between compartments grazing back invasive species, improving the habitat for native plants and animals to thrive (including rare species such as Dartford warblers and sand lizards). The cliffs within the bay are designated SSSI and have been subject to cliff falls due to erosion. After walking along the seafront we ascended Fisherman's Walk Zigzag back to our start point, finishing with afternoon tea at Cafe Riva.

Birds	Flowering Plants
Black-headed Gull	Gorse
Herring Gull	Thrift
Feral Pigeon	Seaside Daisy
Starlings	Sweet Violet
Carrion Crow	Sweet Alison
Kestrel	Daisy
Magpie	Groundsel
Stonechat	Reptiles
Robin	Sand Lizard
Chaffinch	



Southbourne Beach by Lyn Traves