



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Spetisbury Walk

Date: 9th August 2022
 Weather: Sunny and hot, 30 degrees
 Walk Leaders: Rosemary and Derek Roberts
 Attendees: 8 on long walk plus 3 on short walk

With the continuing heatwave eight hardy members had a delightful walk starting from Spetisbury village car park. Spetisbury is a village and civil parish in north Dorset, situated on the River Stour and the A350 road, four miles southeast of Blandford Forum. We crossed the main road to follow the footpath over a long, raised metal footbridge which passes over the Mill House garden, then walking alongside the Mill House, over the weir to follow the path and emerge through a small iron gate into the open water meadow, passing by Keyneston Mill House. Reaching a minor road which we crossed over to follow the tarmac track, with Tarrant Abbey House on the right along with the dried up River Tarrant, to reach St Mary The Virgin Church at Tarrant Crawford. The site is close to the spot where the 12th century Cistercian nunnery of Tarrant stood before it was destroyed in the Reformation. The neighbouring farm is still named Tarrant Abbey, and possesses an ancient medieval barn that may have been an abbey building. We followed the path to the right of the church through a field and crossed the minor road again, we followed the footpath across fields to cross the lovely Crawford Bridge over the River Stour dated 1719, to bring us back to the A350. Crossing over this road and walking ahead we reached the railway, a section of the same railway we walked on the Fiddleford walk. Opened in 1863 the old Somerset and Dorset railway ran steam-hauled trains between Bournemouth and Bath. Sections of the old railway line are now used as a walking, cycling and horse riding route. It took us back to the disused Spetisbury railway station and our cars.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Insects
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	Autumn Hawkbit	Wood Pigeon	Butterflies
Smooth Sow-thistle	Lesser Burdock	Kestrel	Gatekeeper
Prickly Sow-thistle	Field Bindweed	Wren	Small White
Stinging Nettle	Wild Carrot	Swallow	Large White
Chalk Stream Water Crowfoot	Vervain	Bullfinch	Red Admiral
Hedge Bindweed	Lady's Bedstraw	Red Kite	Small Tortoiseshell
Herb Bennet	Chicory	Little Egret	Common Blue
Common Ragwort	White Clover	Mute Swan	Green-veined White
Water Figwort	Red Clover	Buzzard	Meadow Brown
Spear Thistle	Self-heal	Robin	Comma
Great Willowherb	Traveller's Joy		Speckled Wood
Hoary Willowberb	Great Mullein		Clouded Yellow
Bittersweet	Common Mallow		Moths
Common Fleabane	Large Bindweed		Hummingbird Hawk Moth
Angelica	Mugwort		Dragonflies
Common Knapweed	Common Comfrey		Brown Hawker
Dandelion	Common Vetch		Banded Demoiselle
Bramble	Common Club Rush		Others
Common Evening Primrose	Purple Toadflax		Minnow
Purple Loostripe	Common Hemp-nettle		Brown Trout
Opium Poppy	Enchanter's Nightshade		Roe Deer
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Herb Robert		Field Vole

Arrowhead	Red Valerian		Shrew (deceased)
Knotgrass	Yellow Corydalis		Bloody Nosed Beetle
Pineappleweed	Montbretia		
Greater Plantain	Apple Mint		
Broad-leaved Dock	Rosebay Willowherb		
Silverweed	Common Toadflax		
Branched Bur-reed	Field Scabious		
Yarrow	Hemp Agrimony		
Butterfly Bush	Slender Bedstraw		
Wild Teasel	Fruits		
Lesser Knapweed	Elderflower		
Hogweed	Blackberry		
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Haws		
Creeping Thistle	Lords and Ladies		
Red Campion	Grasses		
Fat Hen	Timothy		
Scentless Mayweed	Cocksfoot		
Common Field Speedwell			



Spetisbury - Green-veined White by Lyn Traves



Spetisbury - River Stour by Lyn Traves