



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Studland Dune Walk

Date: 19th June 2024
 Weather: Sunny spells
 Walk Leader: Bill Syratt
 Attendees: 8

Our walk started from Shell Bay car park, set at the very tip of the National Trust owned Studland Peninsula. It is on the south side of the mouth of Poole Harbour and connected with Sandbanks by the Sandbanks Ferry which runs regularly across the entrance to the harbour and carries vehicles, foot passengers and cyclists. Studland Peninsula is a glorious slice of natural coastline featuring a four-mile stretch of golden sandy beach with gently shelving bathing waters along with views of Old Harry Rocks and the Isle of Wight. As of 31st May 2019, Studland Bay was designated a Marine Conservation Zone. The heathland behind the beach is a haven for native wildlife and features all six British reptiles. The dunes at Studland are made of acidic sand with very low shell content. This acidity means that after about 60 years, when the roots of the marram grass have anchored the sand in place, they become colonized by heather. Most of the Studland dune system is characterised by an unusual habitat known as dune heath. With more than 75 hectares, Studland is the largest area of dune heath on the south coast. Designated trails through the sand dunes and woodlands allow for exploration and spotting of deer, insects and bird life as well as a wealth of wild flowers.

Flowering Plants	Grasses etc.	Birds	Dragonflies
Marsh Bedstraw	Marram	Cormorant	Common Darter
Silverweed	Soft Brome	Sandwich Tern	Four-spotted Chaser
Self-heal	Yorkshire Fog	Common Tern	Broad-bodied Chaser
Common Centaury	Wild Barley	Swallow	Common Blue Damselfly
Catsear	Sand Sedge	Black-headed Gull	Small Red Damselfly
Hawkweed sp. <i>Hieracium perpropinquum</i>	Early Hairgrass	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Black Darter (female)
Sticky Groundsel	Smooth Meadow grass	Great Black-backed Gull	
Purple Toadflax	Squirrel-tail Fescue	Carrion Crow	
Sea Bindweed	Perennial Ryegrass	Meadow Pipit	
Ragwort	Heath Wood-rush	Chiffchaff	Others
Sheepsbit	Hard Rush	Willow Warbler	Honey Bee
Bell Heather	Jointed Rush	Magpie	White-tailed Bumblebee
Cross-leaved Heath	Common Rush	Pied Wagtail	Southern Wood Ants
Sheep's Sorrel	Sea Rush	Grey Heron	Alder Beetle
Lesser Spearwort		Stonechat	Dark-edged Bee-fly
Broad-leaved Pondweed		Mallard	
Common Mouse-ear		Little Egret	
		Wood Pigeon	