



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Whitefield Moor Walk and Gathering

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023  
 Weather: Sunny spells and showers  
 Walk Leaders: Yve Prior and Maz Russell  
 Attendees: 22

Our walk started at Whitefield Moor car park, situated off Rhinefield Road which runs from the A35 and leads into the north eastern side of Brockenhurst. During World War 2 this site was part of several thousand acres ploughed up to grow crops under the New Forest Pastoral Developments Scheme. Once the war was over it was ploughed again and sown with clover and grasses and became pasture superior to that of natural forest lawn. We followed the path which leads from the car park close to the road to reach Puttles Bridge which crosses over Ober Water and walked alongside the stream crossing back over it to return walking over Whitefield Moor to enjoy a picnic lunch, where we were joined by three non walkers. Ober Water originates in the bogland around Burley and joins the Highland Water to eventually become the Lymington River. The walk passes a variety of habitats around Ober Water, including heathland with gorse and bog, grassland, natural and formerly enclosed woodland.

| <b>Flowering Plants</b> | <b>Flowering Plants cont</b> | <b>Birds</b>      | <b>Butterflies</b>       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Ling                    | Lesser Skullcap              | Wood Pigeon       | Gatekeeper               |
| Catsear                 | Marsh Ragwort                | Bullfinch         | Large White              |
| Eyebright               | Water-pepper                 | Coal Tit          | Brimstone                |
| Daisy                   | Marsh Willowherb             | Great Tit         | Meadow Brown             |
| Dandelion               | Marsh Thistle                | Blue Tit          | Silver-studded Blue      |
| Birdsfoot Trefoil       | White Clover                 | Long-tailed Tit   | Red Admiral              |
| Wood Sage               | Self-heal                    | Nuthatch          |                          |
| Bell Heather            | Chamomile                    | Blackbird         | <b>Insects</b>           |
| Dwarf Gorse             |                              | Grey Wagtail      | Soldier Beetles          |
| Sand Spurrey            | <b>Ferns</b>                 | Carrion Crow      | Red-legged Shieldbug     |
| Bramble                 | Common Polypody              | Starling          | Migrant Hawker Dragonfly |
| Cross-leaved Heath      | Hard Fern                    | Stock Dove        |                          |
| Tormentil               |                              | Black-headed Gull | <b>Fungi</b>             |
| Lesser Spearwort        | <b>Fruits</b>                | Swallow           | Meadow Puffball          |
| Yellow Loosestrife      | Blackberry                   |                   | Field Mushroom           |
| Cow Wheat               | Sloes                        |                   | Blusher                  |
| Skullcap                | Haws                         |                   | Rufous Milkcap           |
| Wavy Bittercress        |                              |                   | Oakbug Milkcap           |
| Marsh St. John's Wort   |                              |                   | Panthercap               |
| Water Forget-me-not     |                              |                   | Dyers Mazegill           |
| Redleg                  |                              |                   | Nail Fungus              |
| Stemless Thistle        |                              |                   | The Deceiver             |



*Lesser Skullcap at Ober Water by Lyn Traves*



*Ober Water by Lyn Traves*