



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Whitsbury Walk

Date: 22nd March 2022
 Weather: Sunny and warm, 16 degrees
 Walk Leaders: Jean Crawford and Pat Holder
 Attendees: 15

Whitsbury is a village and civil parish in Hampshire, close to Fordingbridge. It is part of the group of villages on the edge of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are several tumuli on Whitsbury Down and an Iron Age hillfort, known as Whitsbury Castle which overlooks the village. The Church of St. Leonard built in the 14th century, was altered and restored in the late 19th century it is also the resting place of the bookmaker William Hill. The main employment is based upon the equine and agricultural industry, comprising 4 major yards of racing stables and stud.

After leaving the church car park we walked down into the village to cross farmland, reaching the village of Rockbourne. Walking from south to north, the length of the village to the 13th century St Andrews church where we had a picnic lunch in the churchyard with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. Adjoining the north side of the churchyard is a manorial complex consisting of a small L-shaped 14th-century house, now used as part of a modern farmhouse, the remains of a large Elizabethan or Jacobean house a short distance to the east, and a large 15th-century barn running northward from the chapel. We returned back to Whitsbury passing by Whitsbury Down, Manor House and its stud farm and the castle ditches back to our cars.

Flowering Plants	Plants cont.	Birds	Butterflies
Lesser Celandine	Common Dog Violet	Red Kite	Brimstone
Daisy	Herb Robert	House Sparrow	Small Tortoiseshell
Hazel Catkins	Sweet Violet	Wood Pigeon	Small White
Greater Stitchwort	Snowdrops	Blackbird	Peacock
Common Field Speedwell	Primrose	Buzzard	Red Admiral
Green Field Speedwell	Spring Snowflake	Pheasant	
Groundsel	Early Dog Violet	Rook	Insects
Dandelion	Red Campion	Jackdaw	Violet Oil Beetle
Blackthorn	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	Dunnock	Honey Bee
White Dead-nettle	Common Chickweed	Wren	
Cherry Laurel	Butcher's Broom	Chaffinch	Mammals
Box	Red Dead-nettle	Robin	Roe Deer
Ground Ivy	Petty Spurge	Skylark	
Bluebell	Wood Forget-me-not	Mistle Thrush	Fungi
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Grape-hyacinth (escapee)	Nuthatch	Turkeytail
Green Alkanet	Wild Daffodil	Carrion Crow	
Wood Anemone	Hedge Mustard		
Cow Parsley	Oil-seed Rape		
Dog's Mercury	Hartstongue		
Lords-and-Ladies	Soft Shield Fern		



Whitsbury - Wood Anemonies by Lyn Traves