



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Worth Matravers Walk

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
 Weather: Warm, mostly cloudy, light breeze  
 Walk Leader: Pete Wellstead  
 Attendees: 7

Worth Matravers is a picturesque village and civil parish with a collection of attractive limestone cottages and farmhouses centered around a village green complete with duck pond. Situated on the Purbeck cliffs west of Swanage which form part of the South West Coast Path and the UNESCO Jurassic Coast, as well as the most southerly tip of tip of the Isle of Purbeck at St Aldhelm's Head just a mile from the village. The civil parish stretches from the coast northwards to and just beyond, the A351 road from Corfe Castle to Swanage. The village is situated on side roads towards the south of the parish, which also includes the village of Harman's Cross on the main road to the north. The cliffs of Worth Matravers were the site of a Chain Home Radar Station during World War II, which was instrumental in the development of radar from 1940 until 1942, when it was relocated to Malvern, Worcestershire.

This was a fairly strenuous 3 mile circular walk from the village, down to the sea at Winspit, the site of a disused limestone quarry. Then walking along the coastal path to Seacombe and steeply back up the cliff to Worth Matravers. The rare Lulworth Skipper was seen on this walk, one of our smallest butterflies. It is restricted to the extreme south of Dorset where it can be found in large numbers along this stretch of coast, being centred on the village of Lulworth where the species was first discovered in 1832. After the walk refreshments were taken at the famous Square and Compass pub.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Insects
Charlock	Rest-harrow	Swallow	<b>Butterflies</b>
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Self-heal	Buzzard	Marbled White
Great Willowherb	Scarlet Pimpernel	Sparrowhawk	Meadow Brown
Lady's Bedstraw	Buttercup	Goldfinch	Ringlet
Common Ragwort	Agrimony	Whitethroat	Small Skipper
Red Clover	Himalayan Balsam	Blackbird	Lulworth Skipper
Wild Morning Glory	Hedge Woundwort	Blackcap	Gatekeeper
Musk Mallow	Herb Robert	Chaffinch	Small Heath
Cuckoo Pint	Honeysuckle	Chiffchaff	Large White
Deadly Nightshade	Sow Thistle	Yellowhammer	
Common Centaury	Pryamidal Orchid	Skylark	<b>Moths</b>
Rosebay Willowherb	Bristly Ox-tongue	Herring Gull	6-spot Burnet
Speedwell sp.	Red Valarian	Swift	
Fairy Flax	Greater Knapweed	Robin	
Milkwort		Blackback Gull	
Scabious		Stonechat	



*Lulworth Skipper Butterfly by Richard Briggs*