



Ringwood Natural History Society Isle of Wight, Western Yar Estuary Walk

Date: 20th July 2017
 Walk Leaders: Lyn & Gerry Traves
 Weather: Sunny spells
 Temperature: 20 degrees
 Attendees: 13 on walk plus 4 members opted to go siteseeing

After catching the 11 a.m. ferry from Lymington to Yarmouth, we waked the Western Yar Estuary Circular Walk. The Eastern Yar is the longest river on the Isle of Wight arising from the chalk downs at the southern end of the Island and flowing for some 20km to outfall into the eastern Solent at Bembridge. Yarmouth has been a settlement since about 991, its old name of Eremue came from Ermud meaning 'muddy estuary'. We walked out of Yarmouth crossing the bridge over the river Yar, before the bridge was built a small ferry carried passengers across the estuary. The first road bridge was built in 1863 and was replaced with the current one in 1987. The Western Yar is home to many different creatures and is a key spot for wading birds and waterfowl, especially in the winter. At the half way point we reached Freshwater passing by the parish church of All Saints. The church is medieval and is one of the oldest churches on the Isle of Wight, and was listed in the Domesday survey of 1086. From the church we crossed Freshwater Causeway spanning the river Yar and returned to Yarmouth via the old railway line. The railway linked Yarmouth with other Island towns between 1889 and 1953. During the walk vast numbers of butterflies were seen.

Flowering Plants, etc.	Flowering Plants cont.	Birds	Butterflies
Hemp Agrimony	Common Ragwort	Canada Goose	Large White
Rock Samphire	Creeping Buttercup	Oystercatcher	Small White
Wild Carrot	Creeping Thistle	Common Tern	Small Copper
Nipplewort	Common Centaury	Wood Pigeon	Common Blue
Common Sea-lavender	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Feral Pigeon	Holly Blue
Bramble	Silverweed	House Sparrow	White Admiral
Wild Parsnip	Great Plantain	Redshank	Red Admiral
Traveller's Joy	Tufted Vetch	Robin	Painted Lady
Common Fleabane	Stone Parsley	Wren	Peacock
Wild Teasel	Honeysuckle	Kestrel	Comma
Yarrow	Scentless Mayweed	Green Woodpecker	Speckled Wood
Rough Sow-thistle	Pineappleweed	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Marbled White
Slender St. John's Wort	Hogweed	Swallow	Gatekeeper
Common Knapweed	Lady's Bedstraw	Goldcrest	Meadow Brown
Marsh Ragwort	Creeping Cinquefoil	Goldfinch	Soldier Beetle
Common Reed	Lesser Burdock	Carrion Crow	Southern Hawker
Snowberry	Groundsel	Greenfinch	Hornet
Mugwort	Hop	Chiffchaff	
Bittersweet aka Woody Nightshade	Hedge Woundwort	Black-headed Gull	Insects
Great Bindweed	Common Mallow	Herring Gull	Soldier Beetle
Dandelion	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Great Black-backed Gull	Southern Hawker
Oxeye Daisy	Daisy	Moorhen	Hornet

Flowering Plants cont	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	
Scarlet Pimpernel	White Dead-nettle	Mute Swan	
Herb Robert	Black Medick	Mallard	
Self-heal	Green Alkanet	Buzzard	
Spear Thistle	Red Valerian	Blue Tit	
Great Willowherb	Corn Sow-thistle	Grey Heron	
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Wild Privet	Little Egret	
Prickly Oxtongue	Lesser Sea-spurry	Curlew	
Common Teasle	Sea Purslane	Stock Dove	
Montbrecia	Meadowsweet	Reed Warbler	
Ribwort Plantain	Meadow Vetchling	Black-tailed Godwit	
Red Campion	Sea Beet	Rook	
Small-flowered Cranesbill	Rest-harrow	Starling	
Enchanter's Nightshade	Tormentil	Gannet	
Herb Bennet	Marsh Mallow		
Wood Dock	Pignut		
Stinging Nettle	Common Orache		
Wild Madder	Knotgrass		
White Clover	Red Dead-nettle		
Red Clover	Fennel		
Field Bindweed	Grass-leaved Orache		
Hawkweed Oxtongue			



Western Yar Estuary Walk IoW - Gatekeeper by Lyn Traves