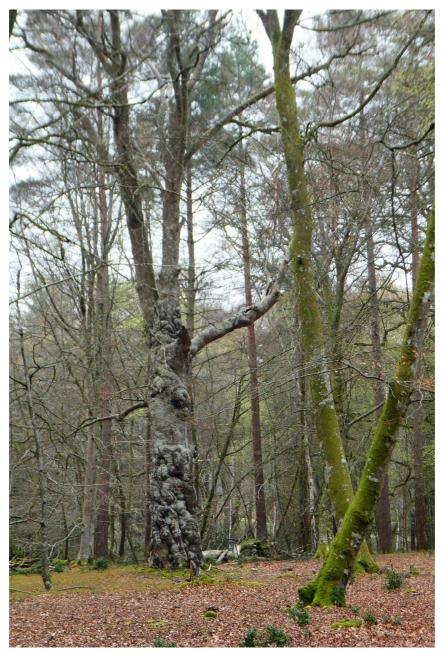
## RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Acres Down Walk

Date:17th February 2022Weather:Broken sunshine turning overcast and breezyWalk Leaders:Will and Maz RussellAttendees:17

Acres Down Car park is situated off the road which runs between the A35 at Emery Down, just west of Lyndhurst towards Stoney Cross on the A31, near the village of Minstead. The lane to Acres Down car park is narrow and has a ford, which can get deep after heavy rain. Leaving the car park we passed through mixed open woodland with beech, oak, silver birch, holly and some coniferous trees where fungi could still be found. The path takes you to Highland Water Inclosure, with ditches draining rain water downhill each side of the gravelled path towards Highland Water. Walking though the inclosure we passed some Larch trees with last years cones attached. After bearing left we returned back through ancient and ornamental woodland. Just as you return to the car park a path goes up to a viewpoint over Highland Water and Acres Down Inclosures. It is a popular spot with birdwatchers looking for birds of prey soaring on the thermals, we saw a Raven circling. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Goshawk were reported as heard but not seen.

| Birds                               | Fungi               | Flowering Plants |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Siskin                              | Sulphur Tuft        | Gorse            |
| Crossbill                           | Turkeytail          | Hard Fern        |
| Blue Tit                            | Southern Bracket    | Larch (cones)    |
| Great Tit                           | Hairy Curtain Crust |                  |
| Coal Tit                            | Witches Butter      |                  |
| Long-tailed Tit                     | Bitter Oysterling   |                  |
| Greater Spotted Woodpecker          | Beech Woundwort     |                  |
| Robin                               |                     |                  |
| Raven                               |                     |                  |
| Carrion Crow                        |                     |                  |
| Goshawk (2 heard)                   |                     |                  |
| Lesser-spotted Woodpecker (4 heard) |                     |                  |



Acres Down by Lyn Traves