



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Alners Gorse Field Study

Date: 31st July 2025
 Weather: Overcast with a shower, sunny spells after lunch
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves
 Attendees: 15

Alners Gorse lies between Kings Stag and Hazelbury Bryan in North Dorset. Butterfly Conservation purchased the land (14 hectares or 32 acres) as a reserve in 2005 which was funded by a legacy from Pamela Lewis, enabling them to preserve this fantastic site for butterflies. The land was bought from a local charitable trust the William Williams Charity. It is an important site for wildlife because it is one of the few relics of the heavily wooded landscape that used to make up the Blackmore Vale. Much of the land had been ploughed and drained and had lost the rich diversity of animals and plants that it must have once had. Butterfly Conservation's aim was to restore habitats after many years of neglect, through scrub control, removal of unwanted trees and grazing with four Dartmoor ponies, improving the habitats for butterflies such as the Marsh Fritillary along with other wildlife. It also supports flourishing populations of Nightingales and Brown Hairstreak butterflies which are dependent on blackthorn their larval foodplant, along with a very rich moth fauna including several nationally scarce species. Unfortunately the weather was against us so we did not see many butterflies including our target species Brown Hairstreak, although there were sightings reported a few days later.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Butterflies
Hedge Bindweed	Marsh Thistle	Great spotted Woodpecker	Large White
Stinging Nettle	Greater Knapweed	Wren	Red Admiral
Hogweed	Common Saw-wort	Buzzard	Green-veined White
Common Fleabane	Creeping Thistle	Great Tit	Gatekeeper
Bramble	Betony	Green Woodpecker	Common Blue
Silverweed	Meadow Vetchling	Stock Dove	Speckled Wood
Knot grass	Marsh Ragwort	Chiffchaff	Meadow Brown
Pineappleweed	Lesser Spearwort	Robin	Small White
Red Campion	Square-stalked St John's Wort	Swallow	
Stone Parsley	Ox-eye Daisy	House Martin	Moths
Agrimony	Daisy	Wood Pigeon	Blood Vein
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Groundsel	Blackbird	Grass Veneer
Sneezewort	Tufted Vetch		
Common Ragwort	Hoary Willowherb	Beetles	Amphibians
Hoary Ragwort	Common Teasel	Soldier Beetle	Common Frog & Froglets
American Willowherb	Mallow	Seven-spot Ladybird	Common Toad
Grass Vetchling	Broad-leaved Dock		
Tormentil			Reptiles
Honeysuckle	Grasses etc.		Common Lizard
Greater Plantain	Compact Rush		
Stone Parsley	Hard Rush		



Blood Vein Moth by Gerry Traves



Common Blue Butterfly by Gerry Traves