



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Badbury Rings Walk

Date: 29th May 2025
 Weather: Cloudy becoming sunny and windy
 Walk Leader: Lyn Traves with the help of Maz and Will Russell
 Attendees: 14

Badbury Rings is situated between Wimborne and Blandford on the B3082 in East Dorset. It is a hill fort which dates from the Iron Age, 800BC to AD43 and was in use until the Roman occupation. It is constructed on an earlier Bronze Age site (2200BC-800BC). It is believed to have belonged to an ancient Dorset tribe known as the 'Durotriges'. Until 1983 it was owned by the Bankes family as part of the Kingston Lacy Estate who discouraged investigation of the site. Now owned by The National Trust, a survey of the hill fort by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (now merged with English Heritage) was begun in 1993. The summit area was cleared of undergrowth by the National Trust in 1997 and the conifer plantation was thinned out. This allowed the RCHME to complete the survey in 1998, which recorded 28 potential hut sites within the ramparts the site. It has now been restored to light grazing land, all that remains of the fort are three 'rings' around it that would have helped defend its residents, the innermost ring is thought to date from around 500-600BC.

We followed the footpath northwards from the corner of the car park, passing by the point to point race course to our left, walking towards the Oaks. This is an ancient woodland planted at the beginning of the 14th century and formerly referred to as Sterley Bushes. It has been pollarded to produce timber, on the east side of the wood are the remains of the Dorchester to Old Sarum Roman Road. We reached Heron Drove, the arable field on the left called Batts Beds was historically the intersection of important Roman roads in the area. Arriving at a gate which led us back towards Badbury Rings where we walked around the outer rampart of the rings back to the car park.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	Butterflies
Bramble	Wood Dock	Skylark	Small White
Cow Parsley	Bluebell	Common Whitethroat	Small Heath
White Clover	Wild Garlic	Wood Pigeon	Common Blue
Silverweed	Ground Ivy	Red Kite	
Dandelion	Stinging Nettle	Blackbird	Moths
Creeping Buttercup	Rough Hawksbeard	Swift	Common Marble
Meadow Buttercup	Hogweed	Hobby	Pretty Chalk Carpet
Ribwort Plantain	White Dead-nettle	Corn Bunting	Nettle Tap
Daisy	Red Campion	Rook	
Horseshoe Vetch	Prickly Sow-thistle	Chiffchaff	Beetles
Chalk Milkwort	Pineappleweed	Song Thrush	Weevil <i>sp. Liparus coronatus</i>
Common Thyme	Common Ragwort	Carrion Crow	Lesser Stag Beetle
Salad Burnet	White Campion	Yellowhammer	Seven Spot Ladybird
Dogwood	Shepherd's Purse	Duncock	Ladybird Larvae
Herb Bennet	Broad-leaved Dock	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Swollen-thighed Beetle
Common Spotted Orchid	Field Bindweed	House Sparrow	

Dog Rose	Black Bryony	Pheasant	Others
Herb Robert	Goatsbeard	Stonechat	Earthworm
Stinking Iris	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Goldfinch	Red-tailed Bumblebee
Germander Speedwell	Hedgerow Cranesbill	Chaffinch	Wheat-stem Sawfly
Alder Buckthorn	Grasses		Oak Gall
Elder	Coltsfoot		Common Lizard
Cleavers	Soft Brome		
Traveller's Joy	Downy Oat-grass		
Cutleaf Cranesbill	Yorkshire Fog		
Hedge Woundwort	Quaking Grass		



Greater Butterfly Orchid by Andy Enefer



Corn Bunting by Andy Enefer



Small Heath Butterfly by Andy Enefer