

RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Southbourne Cliffs an afternoon seaside walk



Date: 18th January 2018
Weather: Sunny spells with a light shower. Temperature: 10 degrees
Walk Leaders: Audrey Walker and Harold Jones
Attendees: 21

Southbourne is the most easterly suburb of the Borough of Bournemouth, Dorset, situated between Boscombe and Christchurch. Fishermans Walk beach is located between Southbourne and Boscombe. Mostly sand, with some shingle, the beach has safe swimming, deckchair hire, beach huts and a cafe. Due to its distance from central Bournemouth, this beach is usually less crowded and less hectic than the main beaches and possesses a coveted Blue Flag. Accessed from Southbourne Overcliffe Drive, the Fishermans Walk Cliff Lift was opened in 1935 and is still operational in the summer season offering a direct route from the cliff top to the beach.

Our walk started by Fishermans Walk Cliff Lift at Cafe Riva, following the cliff top footpath westwards passing through Boscombe Cliff Gardens and descending down to Boscombe Pier. The pier was built in 1888/9 at a cost of £3813 by James Stuart Campbell McEwan-Brown and was 200 yards long. The pier head was added in 1926, it was partially demolished during WWII to combat the threat of invasion. The pier remained derelict for a number of years and was only fully reopened in 1962. The building at the pier end was initially reopened as the Mermaid Theatre and then a roller skating rink before becoming an amusement arcade. It closed in 1989 and the pier became progressively more derelict over the next 19 years. In 2005 it was deemed unsafe and closed again, it was restored and reopened in 2008 with a fishing and viewing platform to replace the theatre. A musical walkway was added in 2014.

After exploring the pier we returned walking along Boscombe Promenade where we saw Goats grazing the cliffs near Honeycombe Chine, a developed area of what was the seafront car park. There are a total of 10 goats brought over from the Isle of Wight and are used to control the non-native plants such as holm oak, garden privet and pampas grass. We ascended Fishermans's Walk Zig-zag back to our start point, finishing with afternoon tea at Cafe Riva.

Birds	Flowering Plants	Animals
Pied Wagtail	Sweet Alison	Goats
Starling	Gorse	Grey Squirrel
Black-headed Gull	Daisy	
Wood Pigeon	Brassica species (Poss. Sea Kale)	
Carrion Crow	Charlock	
Herring Gull	Rough Sow Thistle	
Oystercatcher	Dainish Scurvygrass	
Robin	Shepherd's Purse	
Chaffinch	Thrift	
	Lesser Celandine	
	Seaside Daisy	
	Hottentot-fig	
	Common Chickweed	



Boscombe Beach from the Pier by Lyn Traves