



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Cranborne Estate Walk

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
 Weather: Overcast, windy and it rained for most of the walk  
 Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas  
 Attendees: 16

Cranborne is a village in East Dorset 7 miles north of Wimborne, situated on chalk downland of Cranborne Chase. The Manor is the home of Viscount Cranborne, eldest son of the 7th Marquess of Salisbury. It is surrounded by extensive formal and informal gardens, lawns, a kitchen garden, walled gardens and an orchard. The gardens only are open to the public on Wednesdays, March to September.

The estate consists of a 3,000 acre farm which is mostly arable with some pastureland and riverside meadows. The main crops grown are wheat for animal feed, oil seed rape for bio-diesel or cooking oil and barley for the beer brewing industry or animal feed, all grown in rotation. The fields feature hedges and gaps filled with shrub, with the aim of improving the habitat of the less common flora and fauna, including species such as grey partridge, yellowhammers, linnets, sky larks and brown hares. The beef herd consists of roughly 50 breeding cows and two bulls. Half the herd is registered rare breed pedigree White Park, the other half is a more conventional cross-breed with a Sussex bull. There are over 1,700 acres of coniferous and broadleaf woodlands. The species diversity is due to a wide variety of soils from thin soils over chalk in the north-west, through Reading Beds and London Clay to heathland soils in the south-east. A forest policy based on Continuous Cover Forestry has been adopted which gives a more uneven aged structure, providing sustainable use of home-grown timber. The forest is monitored for research purposes.

Our walk took us from Cranborne Manor Garden Centre, through the village passing the Close, the Valley and farm, Jacks Corner where we saw hares, bypassing the woods due to the rain and returning back to the village and the Garden Centre where refreshments we taken in Mary's Tea Rooms.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Others</b>
Meadow Buttercup	Common Sorrel	Blackbird	Brown Hares
Daisy	Meadow Vetchling	Wood Pigeon	Dead Shrew
Field Forget-me-not	Goatsbeard	Chaffinch	
Common Mouse-ear	Hogweed	Robin	<b>Moths</b>
Oxeye Daisy	Pineappleweed	Lapwing	Mullein Moth Caterpillar
Germander Speedwell	Groundsel	Goldfinch	Carpet Moth
Herb Bennet	Dandelion	Yellowhammer	Grey Dagger
Herb Robert	Dog Rose	Cuckoo (heard)	
Stinging Nettle	Black Bryony	Song Thrush	<b>Butterflies seen on recce</b>
Hop Trefoil	Wood Dock	Linnet	Green-veined White
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Charlock	Dunnock	Brimstone
Small-flowered Cranesbill	Hawthorne		
Greater Celandine	Bladder Campion		
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Common Figwort		
Bugle	Hedge Woundwort		
Rough Chervil	Hedge Mustard		
Cow Parsley	Greater Stitchwort		
Hedgerow Cranesbill plus a white form	Wild Madder		
	Dogwood		
White Dead-nettle	Shining Cranesbill		
Cleavers	Silverweed		

Bramble	Field Bindweed		
Hedge Mustard	Common Fumitory		
Elder	Yellow Corydalis		
Common Comfrey	Prickly Sow-thistle		
Red Clover	Pellitory of the Wall		
White Clover	Rough Hawksbeard		
Curled Dock	Black Medick		
White Champion			