



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Downton Walk

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025  
 Weather: Mainly cloudy with a little drizzle  
 Walk Leaders: Maz & Will Russell  
 Attendees: 14

Downton in Wiltshire is close to the Hampshire border and straddling the channels of the River Avon south of Salisbury. The town centre is known as The Borough with its wide and pretty green and thatched timber-framed cottages which gives it a village feel. The medieval Downton was built as a 'new town' by the Bishop of Winchester around 1205, it was made a borough in the 13th century, entitling the town to hold markets and fairs. The town continued to prosper as industry and commerce flourished, lace was produced as a cottage industry. It has long been associated with flour and paper-milling, handmade paper was produced until the end of the First World War. For centuries the village has supported thriving trout fisheries and today Downton is renowned as an angling centre for the Wiltshire Avon.

We headed north walking beside the River Avon with its intricate form of irrigation of a floating water-meadow system that controlled river flooding by turning it to its advantage. After crossing the river and passing a mill we came to a large mansion set in parkland dating back to the 18th century, once known as Standlynch House. It was acquired by the Treasury in 1814 and renamed Trafalgar House after being given to the heirs of Admiral Viscount Nelson, in recognition of the services of Britain's greatest seafaring hero. The Nelson family continued to live here until 1948.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont.</b>	<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Birds</b>
Stinging Nettles	Hedge Cranesbill	Large White	Red Kite
Hedge Woundwort	Field Bindweed	Speckled Wood	Greenfinch
Knotweed	Creeping Thistle		Carrion Crow
Hawkbit	Pineappleweed	<b>Insects</b>	Grey Heron
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Redleg	Ladybird	Mallard
Common Ragwort	Shepherd's Purse	Wasps with nest	Canada Geese
Yarrow	Small Hairy Willowherb		Buzzard
Hemp Agrimony	Silverweed	<b>Damselflies</b>	Great Spotted Woodpecker
Water Mint	Red Clover	Beautiful Demoiselle	Collared Dove
Bittersweet	Birdsfoot Trefoil		Rook
Water Figwort	Greater Burdock	<b>Fish</b>	Jackdaw
Great Willowherb	Nipplewort	Rainbow Trout	Raven
Good King Henry	Dark Mullein		
Herb Robert	Creeping Buttercup		
Butterfly Bush	Common Teasel		
Greater Bindweed	Tufted Vetch		
Common Fleabane	Yellow Water-lily		
Snowberry	Common Comfrey		
Water Crowfoot	Self-heal		
Purple Loosestrife	Water Forget-me-not		

Marsh Woundwort	Enchanter's Nightshade		
Spear Thistle	Ladies Bedstraw		
Bramble			
Hogweed	<b>Grasses</b>		
Rest-harrow	Common Club Rush		
Knapweed	Hard Rush		
Meadowsweet	Timothy		
Gipsywort			