



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Ferndown Common Walk

Date: 28th April 2026  
 Weather: Windy and overcast with sunny spells  
 Walk Leaders: Christine Storey and Andy Enefer  
 Attendees: 10

Ferndown Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest on the edge of Ferndown in Dorset. It is owned by the Wimborne Estate and leased to the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, who manage it to preserve the site's rare wildlife. The 68 Hectares of open heathland is surrounded by an urban environment and consists of a mix of dry, humid and wet heath dominated by bell heather and purple moor grass. The reserve is home to the native six species of reptiles being especially good for the smooth snake. There are three large ponds located within the mixed deciduous and coniferous tree boundaries and are home to all of the common amphibian species. Western gorse is found across large parts of the heath, and is managed for Dartford Warblers. Unfortunately we were unable to park at the Ferndown Leisure Centre as planned because the car park was full, so we re-located to Tesco's car park, then walked to Church Road and took a path by the schools playing fields to reach the common. After walking in an anti clockwise direction around the common and viewing the ponds, we retraced our steps back to our cars.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Others</b>
Gorse	Chiffchaff	Slow Worm (deceased)
Broome	Carrion Crow	Common Heath Moth
Bluebells	Great Tit	Southern Wood Ants
White Dead-nettle	Robin	Birch Polypore
Green Alkanet	Blackcap	Purplepore Bracket
Rowan	Magpie	
Yellow Flag Iris	Chaffinch	
Snowberry	Wren	
Daisy	Buzzard	
Dovesfoot Cranesbill		
Herb Robert		
Dandelion		
Groundsel		
Garlic Mustard		
Smooth Sow-thistle		
Catsear		
Common Mouse-ear		



*Common Heath Moth by Richard Briggs*