



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Fritham Walk

Date: 18th April 2025
 Weather: Mostly sunny but with a cool wind
 Walk Leader: Jean Crawford
 Attendees: 15

Fritham is a small village in Hampshire, it lies in the north of the New Forest, near the Wiltshire border, it is in the civil parish of Bramshaw. The village is a dispersed settlement of cottages, farms, a small chapel and a picturesque 17th-century thatched pub called The Royal Oak, which is situated in a large, oval, medieval enclosure surrounded by forest and open heath. From around 1860 until the 1920s the Schultze Gunpowder Factory, which was based at nearby Eyeworth Lodge, employed many local people. They also provided a small black postbox still situated on the north side of the car park which was to make deliveries easier for the postman. Our walk took us from the car park in a south-westerly direction across Fritham Plain, walking over an open heathland footpath. We had views towards Amberwood and Sloden Inclosures to our right and Queen North Wood and Freeworms Hill to our left. We passed Green Pond on our way, then reached the outskirts of Sloden Inclosure at its southern most point where we had our picnic lunch. We had a view of Holly Hatch Cottage, a keepers cottage owned and managed by Forestry England. After lunch we retraced our steps back towards Fritham, upon reaching Green Pond a Cuckoo was heard and seen sitting in a distant tree.

Flowering Plants	Birds	Others
Crab Apple	Blackcap	Green Tiger Beetle
Lesser Celandine	Robin	Dor Beetle
Heath Milkwort	Stonechat	Copper Greenclock Ground Beetle
Tormentil	Meadow Pipit	Brimstone Butterfly
Dandelion	Swallow	Orange Tip Butterfly
Common Gorse	House Martin	Speckled Wood Butterfly
Daisy	Pied Wagtail	Latticed Heath Moth
Heath Dog Violet	Chiffchaff	Common Lizard
Hazel Catkins (m&f)	Chaffinch	
Oak Catkins (m&f)	Dartford Warbler	
Holly	Willow Warbler	
Wood Sorrel	Song Thrush	
Bluebell	Mistle Thrush	
Bittercress	Cuckoo	
Greater Stitchwort	Raven	
Bilberry	Carrion Crow	
Royal Fern	Redstart	
Rowan	Wood Pigeon	
Grasses	Stock Dove	
Field Wood Rush	Kestrel	

Pill Sedge	Buzzard	
Spring Sedge	Nuthatch	
	Long-tailed Tit	
	Sparrowhawk	
	Red Kite	



Common Lizard by Gerry Traves



White Wood Sorrel by Lyn Traves