



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Godshill Walk

Date: 28th January 2025
Weather: Overcast with light rain and windy
Walk Leaders: Liz and Mike Read
Attendees: 13

Following Storm Eowyn last weekend and Storm Herminia straight afterwards, Mike and Liz decided to re-route their planned walk at Godshill to start from Ashley Walk instead, the area had become so wet and muddy underfoot. The walk took in a good mixture of open heathland and forested inclosure, walking along the footpath leading from the car park through Black Gutter Bottom, crossing Ditchend Brook bridge, then walking uphill towards Pitt's Wood Inclosure, although it is no longer enclosed today. Passing lots of old Holly trees, Gorse, Bramble, Birch trees and an ancient Yew tree along the way.

The area was taken over by the Government during the Second World War and known as Ashley Walk Bombing Range. It was used by aircraft flying from the Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment at RAF Boscombe Down, near Salisbury. The range was used for training and testing, all types of munitions fired and or dropped from British aircraft were tested here first, except live incendiaries due to the fire risk. The range consisted of several different target types including air to ground attack, mock ship targets, aircraft pens, gun emplacement, bomb fragmentation areas and the Ministry of Home Security target (known locally as the Sub Pens).

Upon reaching Pitts Wood and walking through it a short way, we turned back and retraced our steps back to our start point due to the inclement weather.

Birds	Flowering Plants
Robin	Gorse
Blackbird	Butcher's Broom
Carrion Crow	
Great Tit	Fungi
Song Thrush	Birch Polypore
Siskin	
Chaffinch	Mammals
Blue Tit	Grey Squirrel
Greenfinch	
Treecreeper	
Redwing	
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	
Red Kite	



Godshill view of Ashley Walk by Lyn Traves



Pitts Wood by Lyn Traves