



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Gorley Common Walk

Date: 3rd July 2025
 Weather: Sunny
 Walk Leader : Jean Crawford
 Attendees: 9

Hampshire County Council's Western New Forest Commons are four areas of common on the north western fringe of the New Forest National Park, consisting of Hyde, Gorley and parts of Ibsley and Rockford Commons. Just half a mile south of Hyde Common is the slightly smaller Gorley Common (100 acres), its part of the civil parish of Hyde. The majority of the site is a former gravel pit which now supports a mosaic of scrub and acid grassland with seeping mires, interspersed with gorse bushes which are shaped by the ponies who roam there. Our short morning walk took us on a circular walk from the car park around the common, the south-west corner of which was once an iron-age hill fort. The earthworks were destroyed in the 1950's when the commons owners carried out large scale gravel extraction. The quarry owners sold the quarry to Hampshire County Council and since 1955 the Common has been owned and managed by them.

| Flowering Plants | Birds | Butterflies |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Bramble | Red Kite | Gatekeeper |
| Honeysuckle | Buzzard | Meadow Brown |
| Common Ragwort | Chiffchaff | Brimstone |
| Foxglove | Willow Warbler | Peacock |
| Round-leaved Sundew | Raven | Red Admiral |
| Sheep's Sorrel | Robin | Green-veined White |
| Tormentil | Mistle Thrush | |
| Bell Heather | Wood Pigeon | Dragonflies |
| Ling | Nuthatch | Emperor |
| Cross-leaved Heath | Magpie | Keeled Skimmer |
| Dodder | Long-tailed Tits | White-legged Damselfly |
| Bog Asphodel | Stonechat | Brown Hawker |
| White-beaked Sedge | Song Thrush | |
| Various hawkbits/hawkweeds | Blackbird | Others |
| | | Bee sp. |
| | Mammals | 6 spot Ladybird |
| | Fallow Deer | Cinnabar Moth Caterpillars |



Keeled Skimmer by Andy Enefer