



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Highwood and Rockford Walk

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
 Weather: Overcast 10 degrees C  
 Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas  
 Attendees: 11

Our walk took place after weeks of very wet weather, with heavy rain early in the morning we were lucky enough to complete the walk in the dry. Being so wet the walk deviated from the original route to try and avoid wet boggy areas, however it was still very wet and muddy underfoot. We walked northwards from Poulner Lakes car park across the grassy picnic area, crossing the bridge over Lin Brook then turning right to follow a path lined with daffodils & primroses running alongside Lin Brook to Highwood Lane. We continued along Highwood Lane towards the hamlet of Highwood then turning onto Rockford Common.

Rockford Common, managed by the National Trust, is steeped in history from its traditional pastoral management of the livestock and local people to World War Two military history revealed by old bunkers, rifle butts and gun emplacements. Rockford Common's industrial past can be seen as grassy embankments and bowls as the result of gravel extraction. Our path led us to the junction with Moyles Court and the Dockens Water Ford. We followed the footpath part of which is the Avon Valley Path, running alongside Highwood Lane passing by Rockford Lake, then crossing Ivy Lane and passing by Blashford Lake to Snails Lane, returning back to the car park, crossing the Lin Brook bridge again. Our picnic lunch was cancelled because of the weather conditions and six of us had lunch at the Alice Lisle Public House.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Fungi</b>
Gorse	Swallow	Birch Polypore
Blackthorn	Black-headed Gull	Birch Mazegill
Primrose	Blackbird	Turkeytail
Wood Spurge	Wood Pigeon	Jelly Rot
Wild Daffodils	Mute Pigeon	
Wood Anemone	Coot	
Lesser Celandine	Wigeon	<b>Reptiles</b>
Yellow Archangel	Tufted Duck	Slow Worm
Hairy Bittercress	Buzzard	
Daisy	Blue Tit	
Hybrid Black Poplar Catkins	House Sparrow	
Red Dead Nettle	Green Woodpecker	
White Dead Nettle	Rook	
Dandelion	Great-crested Grebe	
Green Alkanet	Greylag Goose	
Bluebell	Chiffchaff	
Willow Catkins	Starling	





*Lin Brook by Lyn Traves*



*Highwood and Rockford Walk - Wild Daffodils by Lyn Traves*