



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ibsley Common Walk

Date: 12th June 2026
 Weather: Overcast
 Walk Leader: Martin King
 Attendees: 11

This weeks walk started from Moyles Court School at Rockford, Ringwood where we parked in the lay by opposite. During WW2 the area including nearby Blashford Lakes became RAF Ibsley, it was constructed in the early stages of the war and officially opened in February 1941. Like many other wartime airfields in the Forest its operational life was relatively short lived and it ceased operations in 1946 before closing finally in 1952. We walked along the road with the school on our left to a gate to take the footpath uphill, which is part of the Avon Valley long distance footpath and followed it until we reached Summerlug Hill where we saw Royal Ferns growing. It leads to Ibsley Common, owned and managed by the National Trust as part of the New Forest Northern Commons which was purchased from the 5th Earl of Normanton of Somerley Estate on 4th April 1999. Reaching Ibsley Common we walked towards Whitefield Plantation. Nearby we found Greater Broomrape growing, a perennial parasitic plant growing off the roots of the Gorse bushes. The recent hot weather followed by an unsettled period meant they were past their best, although we did manage to find some new shoots growing. After our picnic lunch we returned walking across the common to reach the hamlet of Mockbaggar. From there we walked along the road back to Moyles Court School.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Others
Soft Rush	Nipplewort	Song Thrush	Tawny Grisette
Jointed Rush	Royal Fern	Buzzard	Dung Roundhead
Common Ragwort	Ivy-leaved Water Crowfoot	Goldfinch	Robins Pincushion (Gall)
Daisy	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Swallow	Brown Silverline Moth
Dandelion	Creeping Buttercup	House Martin	Cinnabar Moth and Larva
Catsear	Germander Speedwell	Red Kite	Minotaur Beetle
Bramble	Bell Heather	Willow Warbler	Fallow Deer
Herb Robert	Heath Bedstraw	Chiffchaff	
Dog Rose	Greater Broomrape	Lapwing	
Heath Speedwell	Wood Sage	Greenfinch	
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	Sand Spurrey	Dunnock	
Common Mouse-ear	Birdsfoot		
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Field Forgetmenot		
Sheep's Sorrel	Self-heal		
Stinging Nettle	Honeysuckle		
Hedge Mustard	Monkeyflower		
White Clover	Brooklime		
Red Campion	Climbing Corydalis		
Rhododendron	Greater Stitchwort		
Foxglove	Water Purslane		
Pineappleweed			



Greater Broomrape by Gerry Traves