



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Longslade Bottom Walk

Date: 17th August 2026
 Weather: Overcast skies to start followed by sunny spells
 Walk Leaders: Andy & Sue Skarstein
 Attendees: 10

This week's walk was set to be at Vereley, however, due to the ongoing fire off the A31 making access to the road to Vereley difficult, we relocated to Longslade Bottom, an area that was used during WW2 for large tank exercises before being ploughed and reseeded under wartime food production initiatives to grow crops.

A Raven, giving its 'kronk-kronk-kronk' call, flew over just as we were about to leave the car park. Our walk took us under the railway bridge which once carried the main railway line from Southampton to Dorchester, otherwise known as Castleman's Corkscrew, which closed in the 1960s and is now a trailway for walkers and cyclists.

Skirting Hinchleslea Bog in an easterly direction we spotted a few plants still in flower including the bright yellow of Dwarf Gorse and the endangered diminutive Allseed, a nitrogen-fixing plant. This means that it is able to take nitrogen from the air and convert it into a form that can be used by other plants which improves soil fertility. Walking on, the path we would have taken across the bog was, surprisingly, under water so we continued further along the heath before heading up towards Hinchleslea Wood, a typical ancient and ornamental woodland. Here we saw several veteran trees that stood out from the rest, mainly for their size and gnarled appearance, one in particular was a multi stem Scots Pine with a girth of just over 4 metres. After examining a couple more trees we stopped for lunch on some fallen tree trunks, just outside the back gate of Hinchleslea House. After food and a rest we followed a fence line through the woods, coming out on the western edge by a very gnarled 300-400 year old coppiced Holly tree. From there we walked along the edge of the woods before coming out at the top of the slope leading back down to the bog and the route back to the car park, on the way stopping to see a very industrious Bee Wolf.

Sue Skarstein

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Butterflies
Black Spleenwort	Common Figwort	Raven	Small Heath
Bramble	Knotgrass	Carrion Crow	Holly Blue
Ling	Water Purslane	Dunnock	Large White
Honeysuckle	Marsh Willowherb	Song Thrush	Red Admiral
Tormentil	Lesser Hawkbit	Robin	Painted Lady
Cross-leaved Heath	Catsear	Blackbird	Dragonflies/Damselflies
Lesser Spearwort	Marsh St John;s Wort	Wood Pigeon	Blue Damselfly sp.
Water Mint	Hawthorn Berries	Great Tit	Common Hawker
Dwarf Gorse	Rowan Berries	Blue Tit	Others
Marsh Lousewort	Hard Fern	Long-tailed Tit	Pond Skater
Autumn Hawkbit	Broad Buckler Fern	Stonechat	Red Spider Mite
Marsh Cudweed	Bracken	Stock Dove	Bee-wolf
Allseed	Special Trees	Spotted Flycatcher	Fungi
Lesser Skullcap	Noteable Scots Pine (multi stemmed)	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Panaeolus sp.
Marsh Ragwort	Vintage Beech x2	Swallow	Dog's Vomit Slime Mold
White-beaked Sedge	Vintage Oak	House Martin	

Devil's-bit Scabious	Vintage Holly	Chaffinch	
White Clover			
Birdsfoot Trefoil			
Round-leaved Sundew			
Sharp-flowered Rush			



Hinchleslea Bog by Gerry Traves



Unidentified by Gerry Traves



Pollarded veteran Common Beech by Gerry Traves



Red Spider Mite Web by Gerry Traves