



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Martin Down - A ten minute walk in the rain

Date: 12th June 2025
Weather: Overcast with very heavy rain
Walk Leaders: Mike and Liz Read
Attendees: 10

The village of Martin is the most westerly parish in Hampshire. It is part of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which straddles the counties of Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire. The National Nature Reserve of Martin Down covers approximately 350 hectares is jointly owned and managed by Natural England and Hampshire County Council. Although one of the largest areas of undulating chalk grassland in the country, Martin Down represents a small remnant of downland which once covered the chalk. The site includes flower rich grassland, scrub and woodland, supporting a wide range of wild flowers, insects and birds. The down is rich in archaeology, dating from Neolithic Bokerley Ditch to the Rifle Range used during the Second World War.

Our walk started from Sillens Lane car park in Martin, which leads off the main street at the village green to Martin Down. Unfortunately we had not gone very far when it started to rain extremely heavily, so the drenched NATS prematurely returned very quickly to our cars.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants Cont	Birds	Others
Cleavers	White Clover	Cuckoo	Roe Deer
Dog Rose	Goatsbeard	Rook	Five-spot Burnet Moth
Privet	White Mignonette	Yellowhammer	
Elder	Stinging Nettle	Chaffinch	
Field Bindweed	Dandelion	Robin	
Ribwort Plantain	Curled Dock	Blackcap	
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Creeping Thistle	Wren	
Wild Parsnip	Lesser Stitchwort	Whitethroat	
Germander Speedwell	Hedge Bedstraw	Skylark	
Scentless Mayweed	Agrimony	Magpie	
Hogweed	Creeping Cinquefoil	Willow Warbler	
Field Scabious	Knapweed	Wood Pigeon	
Common Poppy	Yarrow		
Black Medick	Meadow Vetchling		
Bramble			
Red Clover	Grasses		
Meadow Buttercup	Cocksfoot		
Ox-eye Daisy	Yorkshire Fog		