



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

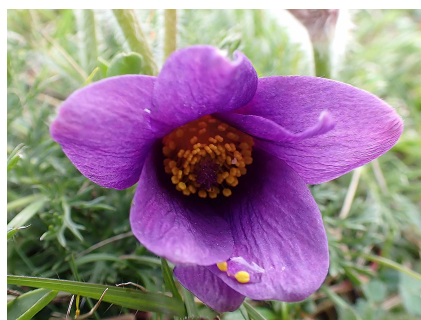
Martin Down Walk

Date: 15th April 2026
 Weather: Overcast and windy with sunny spells turning to rain
 Walk Leaders : Lyn and Gerry Traves
 Attendees: 11

Martin Down is situated on the Hampshire/Dorset border close to the little village of Martin. The National Nature Reserve which 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. The village of Martin is within Cranborne Chase and is the most westerly parish in Hampshire.

Our walk started from the main car park situated off the A354 near Bokerley Junction and followed the path across the down to reach Grimms Ditch a Bronze Age (circa 1000 BC) bank and ditch earthworks, where we saw just one plant of the rare wild Pasque Flower (pasque comes from 'paschal', meaning Easter) growing on tumuli. We returned back circling round to walk alongside Bokerley Ditch to reach the car park. We had cut the walk shorter than planned, just as well as the forecasted rain started.

Flowering Plants	Birds	Others
Blackthorn	Kestrel	St Mark's Fly
Gorse	Common Whitethroat	Hares
Daisy	Song Thrush	Leaf Beetle sp.
Dandelion	Red Kite	
Cowslip	Linnit	
Crab Apple	Magpie	
Wayfaring Tree	Rook	
Hairy Violet	Carrion Crow	
Pasque Flowers	Yellowhammer	
Field Wood-rush (aka Easter grass)	Chiffchaff	
Salad Burnett	Goldfinch	
Wavy Bittercress	Cuckoo	
White Chalk Milkwort		
Germander Speedwell		
Greater Stitchwort		



Pasque Flower by Gerry Traves