



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Martin Down Walk

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018  
 Weather: Hot and sunny, 30 degrees  
 Walk Leader: Martin King  
 Attendees: 17

This walk was rescheduled due to overgrown footpaths at Colehill, our thanks to Martin for stepping in at the last minute. 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, the main Dorchester to Salisbury road (A354) passes about half a mile west of the village. Our walk started from Sillens Lane car park which leads off the main street at the village green. Another very hot day for walking with lots of butterflies seen.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont.</b>	<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Birds</b>
Bramble	Goatsbeard	Meadow Brown	Raven
Yarrow	Pignut	Gatekeeper	Red Kite
Wild Parsnip	Creeping Thistle	Common Blue	Wood Pigeon
Agrimony	Common Ragwort	Large White	Chaffinch
Lesser Knapweed	Hemp Agrimony	Brimstone	Buzzard
Traveller's Joy	Stemless Thistle	Chalkhill Blue	Magpie
Tufted Vetch	Autumn Gentian	Small White	Wren
Marjoram	Harebell	Green-veined White	Bullfinch
Honeysuckle	Squinancywort	Ringlet	Redstart
Wild Carrot	Rosebay	Small Heath	Long-tailed Tit
Wild Basil	Fairy Flax	Painted Lady	Swallow
Field Scabious	Silverweed	Dark-green Fritillary	Skylark
Slender St. John's Wort	Wood Sage	Brown Argus	Yellowhammer
Square-stalked St. John's Wort	Ribwort Plantain	Small Copper	
Perforated St. John's Wort	Hoary Plantain	Comma	<b>Others</b>
Rough Chervil	Great Mullein	Speckled Wood	Harlequin Ladybird
Red Clover	Spear Thistle	Adonis Blue	Harlequin 2-spot Ladybird
White Clover	Common Toadflax	Red Admiral	7-spot Ladybird
Lady's Bedstraw	Scarlet Pimpernel	Clouded Yellow	Buff-tailed Bumblebee
Wild Mignonette	Mugwort		Wasps Nest
Red Bartsia	Pineappleweed	<b>Moths</b>	Honey Bee
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Great Willowherb	Mint Moth	Hornet Roberfly
Self-heal	Hogweed	Silver Y	Field Grasshopper
Eyebright	<b>Fruits</b>	Six-spot Burnet	Mottled Grasshopper
Smooth Hawksbeard	Sloes		Roesel's Bush-cricket
Mayweed	Wayfaring-tree		Robin's Pincushion
Rough Hawkbit	Elderberry		
Hedge Bedstraw	Blackberry		



Hornet Robberfly (*Asilus crabroniformis*), Martin Down by Martin King