



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

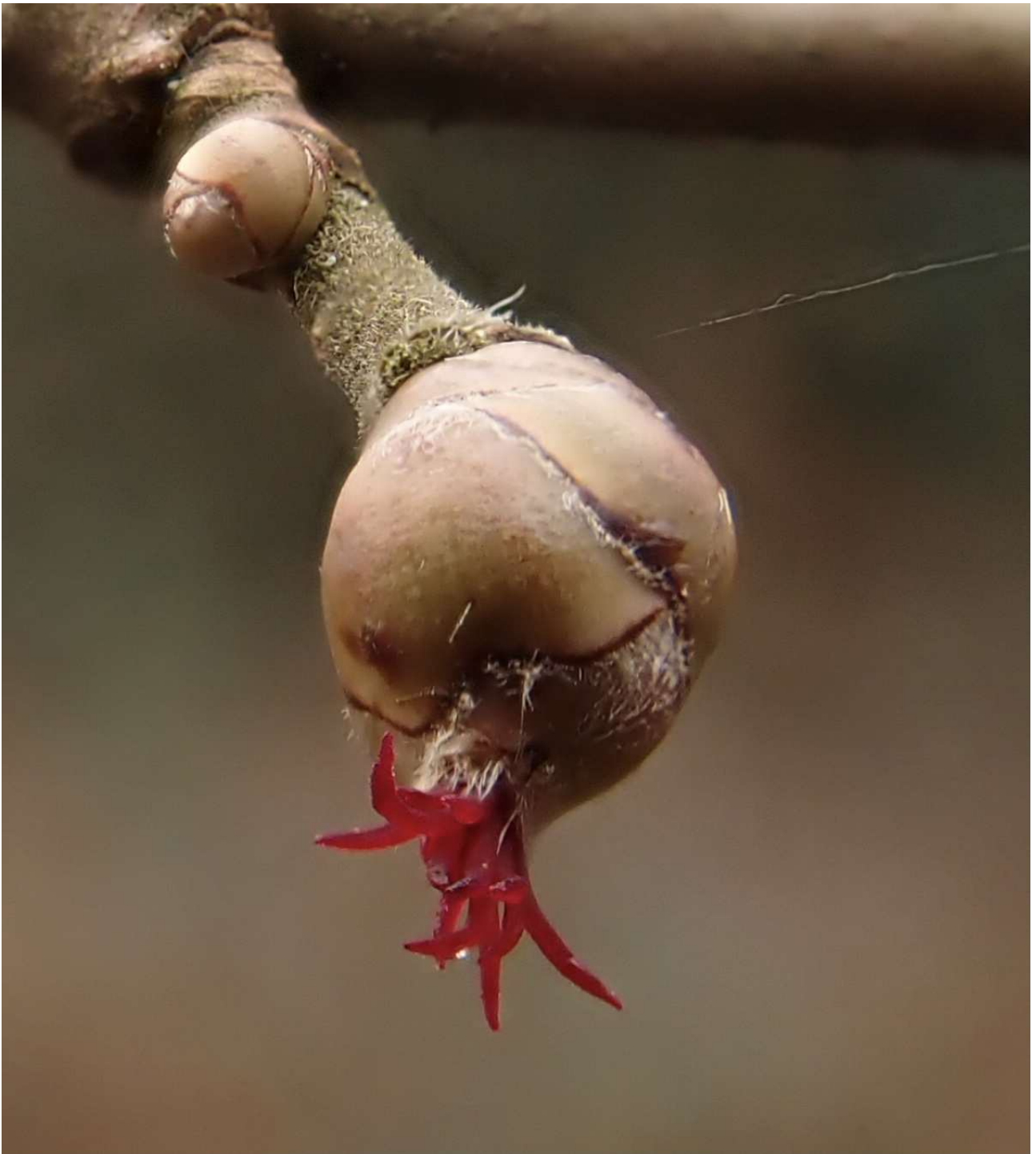
### **Moors Valley Walk**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Weather: Rain to start with then overcast  
Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves  
Attendees: 8

Moors Valley Country Park is situated in Ashley Heath, Dorset and is managed in partnership by Forestry England and Dorset Council. Moors Valley was originally 82 acre Kings Farm which was purchased by Wimborne Town and District Council in 1984. Work began to develop a 9-hole pay and play golf course, the narrow-gauge steam railway, play area, lake and Visitor Centre. This first phase of Moors Valley was officially opened in 1988. The park was much more popular than had originally been envisaged and was bursting at the seams with the half a million visitors by 1990. An additional 170 acres were purchased to allow for expansion of the golf course and a second lake to be built, the Visitor Centre was extended to make way for a Country Shop and new toilets. At the same time the Tree Top Trail and Play Trail were constructed in the forest. Over the following ten years the parks popularity grew still further with approximately 750,000 visitors each year, making it one of the most popular parks in the south of England. Today it features miles of walking and cycling paths and tracks signposted by different coloured bands, along with a Go Ape course, high ropes course and cycle hire. A ranger service provides a wide range of events and an educational programme.

Our walk started at Potterne Park, Verwood in the rain, which houses sports arenas and a pavilion, a path leads into Moors Valley Country Park. We turned left at Crane Bridge passing by the River Crane and Crane Lake, crossing Eblake and Moors Bridges, passing Moors Valley Railway's Kingsmere Railway Station to Moors Lake, then to the Visitor Centre, where we had coffee. Returning via King's Farm Bridge at the top of Moors Lake then along the bendy boardwalk back to Crane Bridge then retracing our steps back to Potterne Park. Due to the wet weather not as much was seen here as in previous years.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Carrion Crow	Goat Willow (Pussy Willow)
Black-headed Gull	Hazel Catkins (m&f)
Herring Gull	Alder Catkins
Mallard	Daisy
Tufted Duck	Reedmace
Coot	Gorse
Blue Tit	Lesser Celandine
Great Tit	Holly Berries
Blackbird	
Magpie	<b>Fungi</b>
Jay	Turkeytail
Wood Pigeon	Birch Polypore



*Female Hazel Catkin at Moors Valley by Christine Storey*