



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Moors Valley Walk**

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
 Weather: Sunny Spells and very cold  
 Walk Leader: Gerry Traves  
 Attendees: 13

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, which opened in 1988. The park was much more popular than had originally been envisaged and an additional 170 acres were purchased to allow for expansion of the golf course, a second lake to be built and the Visitor Centre 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 cold, 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 lunch. 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 cold spell not as much was seen here as in previous years.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Birds cont</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Mallard	Wood Pigeon	Dandelion
Gadwall	Robin	
Teal	Mistle Thrush	
Tufted Duck	Blackbird	
Cormorant	Goldcrest	
Great White Egret	Great Tit	
Grey Heron	Blue Tit	
Buzzard	Long-tailed Tit	
Moorhen	Nuthatch	
Coot	Treecreeper	
Snipe	Magpie	
Lapwing	Carrion Crow	
Black-headed Gull	Chaffinch	
Herring Gull	Goldfinch	



*Great Egret at Moors Valley by Andy Enefer*