



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Old Sarum Walk

Date: 2nd October 2025
 Weather: Misty and cold to start with, then clearing
 Walk Leader : Judy Thomas
 Attendees: 14

Old Sarum is managed by English Heritage, it was originally an Iron Age hill fort in Wiltshire. It is now the ruined and deserted site of the earliest settlement of Salisbury where the Normans constructed a Motte and Bailey castle which was home to King Henry 1st the fourth son of William the Conqueror. It stood along with the original Salisbury Cathedral high on the motte, together with a surrounding bailey, a historically important site in southern England. In 1226 the cathedral was moved to its current site in Salisbury, due mainly to the lack of fresh water and poor living conditions on the windswept hilltop. Old Sarum remained an administrative centre into the 14th century. We met in the car park of Old Sarum found off the A345 Castle Road north of Salisbury, for a morning walk around the nearby 55 hectare Castle Hill Country Park which is situated on the opposite side of the A345 road. Since December 2020 the former farmland was taken into management by the Land Trust in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wessex Grounds Trust who provide day to day management. The countryside park provides far reaching views across a huge area of Wiltshire with Salisbury Plain to the north and the New Forest to the south. The Laverstock Downs, Salisbury Cathedral, Old Sarum and nearby airfield can also be viewed from the high ground. There was a surprisingly large amount of wild flowers found for this time of year. Afterwards there was a second walk around Old Sarum, where we viewed the remains of the original cathedral.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont.	Birds	Others
White Clover	Pignut	Skylark	Robin's Pincushion (Gall)
White Dead Nettle	Creeping Thistle	Great Tit	Two Spot Ladybird
Red Clover	Ox-eye Daisy	Chiffchaff	Red Admiral Butterfly
Dandelion	Agrimony	Magpie	Garden Spider
Groundsel	Autumn Hawkbit	House Sparrow	Ivy Bee
Ivy	Hoary Plantain	Robin	Cranefly
Black Horehound	Red Barista	Chaffinch	Rooting Shank Fungus
Yarrow	Daisy	Goldfinch	
Field Bindweed	Spear Thistle	Buzzard	
Hedge Bedstraw	Michaelmas Daisy (escapee)	Wren	
Petty Spurge	Common Toadflax	Rook	
Smooth Sow-thistle	Field Poppy	Carrion Crow	
Purple Toadflax	Shepherd's Purse	Jackdaw	
Red Valerian	Scentless Mayweed	Stonechat	
Broad-leaved Willowherb	Field Scabious	Pied Wagtail	
Barren Strawberry	Ladies Bedstraw	Wood Pigeon	
Cyclamen	Meadow Buttercup		
Trailing Bellflower	Self-heal		
Herb Bennet	White Campion		
Herb Robert	Feverfew		

Hedge Bindweed	Knotgrass		
Wild Basil	Hemp Agrimony		
Hedgerow Cranesbill	Spear-leaved Orache		
Black Medick	Fruits		
Prickly Sow-thistle	Haws		
Mugwort	Rose Hips		
Round-leaved Cranesbill	Wild Privet		
Lesser Knapweed	Cotoneaster		
Wild Carrot	Old Man's Beard (Clematis)		
Hoary Ragwort	Bramble		
Hedge Mustard	Dogwood		



Hoary Plantain by Gerry Traves



Common Toad Flax by Gerry Traves



Robion's Pincushion (Gall) by Gerry Traves