



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Pig Bush Walk

Date: 7th May 2026
 Weather: Sunny spells
 Walk Leader: Theresa Holden
 Attendees: 11

Pig Bush Wood is situated on the B3056 Lyndhurst to Beaulieu Road, not far from Beaulieu Road Station, Beaulieu Hotel and Drift Pub. Our walk started from Pig Bush car park and crossed over the heath containing brackish streams and ponds with wooden duckboards and bridges crossing over the low lying wetland. The area is called The Bishop of Winchester's Purlieu, a purlieu is land once within the jurisdiction of the Forest, but no longer so, it has since been returned back to the Crown Estate. Running through this area is the Bishops Dyke or Ditch, a grassy earthen bank and ditch once thought to enclose a 13th century deer park. We crossed over the ditch before almost reaching the main railway line running from Southampton to Bournemouth, where we had lunch. Afterwards we returned back crossing over the heathland, to reach the woodland of Rowbarrow, then back to Pig Bush.

Flowering Plants	Birds	Others
Lesser Celandine	Willow Warbler	Small Heath Butterfly
Bluebell	Robin	Holly Blue Butterfly
Gorse	Chiffchaff	Carder Bumble-bee
Tormentil	Song Thrush	Minotaur Beetle (see below)
Heath Milkwort	Daisy	Grass Long-palp Cranefly (see below)
Lousewort	Dandelion	May Bug
Round-leaved Water Crowfoot	Firecrest	Brown Silverline Moth
Bugle	Wren	Common Heath Moth
Lesser Spearwort	Blackcap	
Ladies Smock	Hawthorn	
Common Cotton Grass	Pied Wagtail	
Common Dog Violet	Redstart	
Wood Anemone	Stonechat	
Ground Ivy	Chaffinch	
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Cuckoo	
Guilder Rose	Blackbird	
Holly	Stock Dove	
Germander Speedwell	Blue Tit	
Alder Buckthorn	Great Tit	
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	
	Meadow Pipit	



Grass Long-palp Crane fly (*Tipula vernalis*) by Martin King

Mainly in moist well-wooded places, wet woodland and marshy areas.

April to June. Common and widely distributed in Britain

Prefers short, grazed turf on dry, sandy soils. Creates burrows under the dung of rabbits, sheep, deer, horse and occasionally cattle. These can reach 1 to 1.5m in depth.

Jan-May and Aug-Oct. Most sightings are in Spring or Autumn.



Minotaur Beetle *Typhaeus typhorus* by Martin King
Local in England and Wales becoming scarce further north.