



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Portland and Lodmoor Walk

Date: 7th April 2026
 Weather: Sunny but very windy at Portland Bill
 Walk Leader: Pete Wellstead
 Attendees: 11

Portland Bill is a narrow promontory (or bill) at the southern end of the Isle of Portland and is the southernmost point of Dorset. Jutting out 6 miles into the English Channel, it is ideally placed to receive migrants in the spring and autumn. Portland's coast has been notorious for the number of shipwrecked vessels over the centuries. The dangerous coastline features shallow reefs and the Shambles sandbank, made more hazardous due to the strong Portland tidal race. The Bill is an important way-point for coastal traffic, and three lighthouses have been built to protect shipping. The original two worked as a pair from 1716, the lower lighthouse was demolished and rebuilt in 1844, it became a bird observatory in 1961. They were both replaced in 1906 by the current one.]

RSPB Reserve at Lodmoor is a SSSI and a quiet haven for wildlife in Weymouth. Lodmoor is 1.6 kilometers (1mile) east of Weymouth, near the suburb of Preston. The site is accessible via three trails and is separated from Weymouth Bay by Greenhill beach and the B3155 Preston Road. The construction of a sea wall in the twentieth century alongside the B3155 road has prevented regular tidal incursions, although freshwater flooding is still an occurrence, especially in winter. The combination of a large reedbed, open water, saltmarsh, wet grassland and bushes attract a variety of different birds.

Portland (AM)		RSPB Lodmoor (PM)	
Birds	Flowering Plants	Birds	Flowering Plants
Wheatear	Thrift	Blue Tit	Cow Parsley
Gannet	Danish Scurvy Grass	Coot	Red Dead-nettle
Guillemot	Daisy	Black-headed Gull	Three-cornered Leek
Razorbill	Bluebell	Mallard	Germander Speedwell
Sandwich Tern	Seaside Daisy	Marsh Harrier	Groundsel
Common Tern	Wild Plum	Little Egret	Hoary Cress
Herring Gull	Hawthorn	Cetti Warbler	Bluebell
Common Gull	Red Clover	Chiffchaff	Lesser Celandine
Rock Pipit	Bulbous Buttercup	Robin	Ground Ivy
Common Scotter	Spotted Medick	Greenfinch	Lords and Ladies
Fulmer	Blackthorn	Mediterranean Gull	Field Horsetail
Kittiwake	Smooth Sow Thistle	Black-tailed Godwit	
Cormorant	Dandelion	Oystercatcher	Butterflies
Carrion Crow	Borage	Canada Goose	Brimstone (F)
Jackdaw	Round-leaved Cranesbill	Teal	Small White
Sand Martin		Shelduck	Peacock
Swallow	Insects	Mute Swan	Speckled Wood
Goldfinch	Seven-spot Ladybird	Reed Warbler	Comma
Wood Pigeon		Moorhen	
Magpie		Herring Gull	
Skylark		Great Black-backed Gull	
Kestrel		Ruddy Shelduck (cross)	
Buzzard		Great Tit	

Linnet		Gadwall	
House Sparrow		Dunlin	
Meadow Pipit		Long-tailed Tit	
		Wren	
		Song Thrush (sunbathing)	
		House Sparrow	



Alexanders by Lyn Traves



Portland Lighthouse by Gerry Traves