



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Stanpit Marsh to Christchurch Quay Walk

Date: 10th December 2025

Weather: Sunny

Walk Leader : Judy Thomas

Attendees: 14

Stanpit is a neighbourhood within the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. It's also within Mudeford parish, and is situated on the shore of Christchurch Harbour, 1 mile east of Christchurch town centre. Our walk started from Stanpit car park where we took the westerly footpath bordering Stanpit Recreation Ground. The path leads to Riversmeet Meadow, formerly a golf course, this Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) serves as a buffer to Stanpit Local Nature Reserve. The rewilding programme and new management regime are attracting pipits and finches, and the path around the edge offers views across Central Marsh and Priory Marsh. We walked through a car park and past the disused Christchurch Borough Council Offices to reach Bridge Street. Turning left walking along Bridge Street we crossed over two river bridges both over branches of the River Avon. We reached the Mill Stream, walking beside it with the Avon on our left to the Old Mill, we had a magnificent view of Christchurch Priory, reputedly the longest parish church in England, dating back to 1094. It was a Catholic Augustinian Institution until the Dissolution when it became the Parish Church of Christchurch. We arrived at the Quay on the River Stour, with views towards Hengistbury Head and the Isle of Wight and where a large group of Swans hang out. We then walked around the grassy area known as The Quomp and where we had lunch. Afterwards we returned along the Convent Walk, passing the ruined Norman Keep back to Bridge Street, then retracing our steps back to the car park.

Birds	Flowering Plants	Fungi
Dunnock	White Dead Nettle	Shaggy Inkcap
Wood Pigeon	Yarrow	
Herring Gull	Dandelion	Mammals
Greylag Goose	Evening Primrose	Grey Squirrel
Cormorant	Mexican Fleabane	
Blackbird	Wall Rue	
Carriion Crow	Shepherd's Purse	
Jackdaw	Monterey Pine	
Black-headed Gull	Seaside Daisy	
Mute Swan	Oxford Ragwort	
Mallard	Pellitory of the Wall	
Moorhen	Smooth Sow-thistle	
Cetti's Warbler	Daisy	
Little Egret		
Curlew		