



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

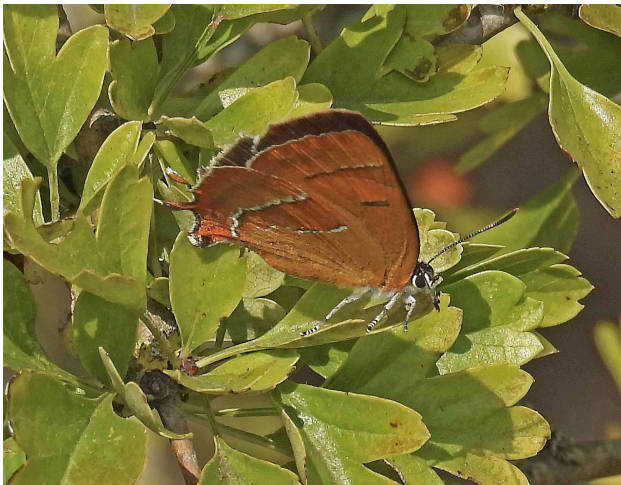
### **Stockbridge Down Walk**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
 Weather: Hazy Sunshine  
 Walk Leader: Theresa Holden  
 Attendees: 15

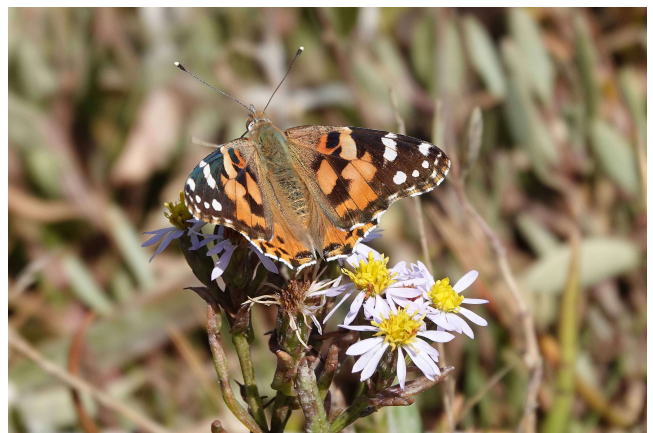
Stockbridge Down is 1 mile east of Stockbridge on the B3049 Stockbridge to Winchester road. A chalk hill supporting grassland, areas of scrub and partially wooded margins. The habitat diversity of Stockbridge Down is hugely beneficial to local wildlife and is a SSSI site. It possesses the remains of Woolbury Ring a 3000 year old Iron Age hill fort earthworks and 14 Bronze Age burial mounds, so its also a site of importance for archaeology, as well as nature conservation. The site was donated to the National Trust in 1947 by Rosalind Hill and is managed in conjunction with the Court Leet (a commoners court) and conservation bodies such as Natural England. From the car park we crossed the road to walk uphill until we reached Woolbury Ring at 518 feet above sea level, possessing far reaching views towards Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire and the Hampshire Downs and where we had our picnic lunch. It was used in WWII as a lookout post, it also has 260 individual juniper trees. We descended from the ring and returned back to the car park walking along the Gallops which were used to train racehorses for the Danebury racetrack and then used to grow arable crops during WWII for the nearby military hospital. The down is now an area rich in butterflies with 40 species recorded. Andy managed to find a Brown Hairstreak Butterfly, his photo is shown below.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont.</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Butterflies</b>
Common Toadflax	Hoary Ragwort	Jackdaw	Meadow Brown
Mugwort	Vervain	Wren	Chalkhill Blue
Creeping Thistle	Herb Robert	Wood Pigeon	Large White
Dewberry	Rosebay Willowherb	Buzzard	Common Blue
Silverweed	Agrimony	Stock Dove	Small Copper
Wild Parsnip	Hemp Agrimony	Robin	Small Heath
Stinging Nettle	Common Knapweed	Long-tailed Tit	Green-veined White
Ivy	Greater Knapweed	Kestrel	Small White
Butterfly Bush	Rock Rose		Speckled Wood
Self-heal	Dwarf Thistle		Adonis Blue
Hedge Bedstraw	Common Fleabane		Brown Hairstreak
Hairy Hawkbit	Wild Clematis	<b>Reptiles</b>	
Ribwort Plantain	Shepherds Purse	Common Lizard	<b>Insects</b>
Knotgrass	Pignut		Mint Moth
Chamomile	Red Clover		Honey Bee
Marjoram	Common Centuary		White-tailed Bumblebee
Wild Basil	Autumn Gentian		Brown-banded Carder Bee
Squinancywort	Perforated St. John's Wort		Meadow Grasshopper
Field Scabious	Wild Carrot		Hornet
Birdsfoot Trefoil			Seven-spot Ladybird

Ladies Bedstraw	<b>Fruits</b>		
Mignonette	Haws		
Eyebright	Sloes		
Yarrow	Blackberry		
Autumn Hawkbit	Yew		
Fairy Flax	Dogwood		
Hoary Plantain	Buckthorn		
Common Ragwort	Dewberry		
Red Bartsia	Rowan		
Hairbell	Apples		



*Brown Hairstreak by Andy Enefer*



*Painted Lady by Gerry Traves*



*Rosebay Willowherb by Gerry Traves*



*Rosebay Willowherb by Gerry Traves*