



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Tuckton Walk**

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025  
Weather: Overcast  
Walk Leaders: Maz and Will Russell  
Attendees: 11

Our walk started from Wick Lane car park. Wick is a village on the south bank of the River Stour in Dorset, just short of the Stour's entry into Christchurch Harbour. Along with the nearby village of Tuckton, it originally formed as a tithing in Christchurch, before becoming part of the Civil Parish of Southbourne in 1894. The latter being incorporated into the Borough of Bournemouth in 1901. Wick Fields form an important part of the Hengistbury Head Nature Reserve and constitutes a SSSI. Hengistbury Head, Wick Fields and adjacent land were declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) on 18 May 1990. The meadows here have not been improved for agriculture and are therefore regarded as 'ancient grassland', rich in flowering plants and rushes, along with an increase in birds such as Dartford Warbler and Stonechat. A herd of Galloway Cattle graze the land, these cattle are ideally suited to the harsh conditions of the coast and estuary and help manage the land by chewing and trampling down any overgrowth.

We walked the river path to Wick Fields crossing the wooden bridge and stopping at the viewing platform, reaching Wick Hams and onto Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre, ending up at the Hiker Cafe for refreshments. We returned back along Roebury Lane bordering Solent Meads golf course and the site of the old rubbish tip back to the wooden bridge, Wick Fields and our cars.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Birds cont.</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Mallard	Little Egret	Common Gorse
Wood Pigeon	House Sparrow	Teasel (seed heads)
Black-headed Gull	Redshank	Ivy (fruits)
Blackbird	Starlings	Daisy
Oystercatcher	Stonechat	Dandelion
Nuthatch	Magpie	
Grey Heron	Carrion Crow	
Cormorant	Curlew (heard)	
Robin	Mute Swan	
Herring Gull	Moorhen	
Great-spotted Woodpecker (heard)		



*Grey Heron at Wick Meads by Andy*