



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Whitsbury Gallops Walk

Date: 23rd July 2026
 Weather: Hot and sunny
 Walk Leaders: Jean Crawford and Richard Briggs
 Attendees: 12

Our walk started from Whitsbury Gallops which is part of Whitsbury Manor Farm and Stud, a working farm, there are two racehorse trainers and their riders who use the gallops every day. It was originally founded by bookmaker William Hill in the 1950s, It is reached via Fordingbridge and taking Whitsbury Road then Green Lane until the road runs out. We walked a circuit of some of the gallops, racehorses were passing us whilst out exercising, the verges of the gallops were alive with wildflowers and bird life. The walk was programmed as a morning walk, which, as it was still quite hot and sunny although out of heatwave conditions, was plenty enough to do. We were the first to arrive for the walk and were lucky enough to see a group of around ten Grey Partridge taking their morning exercise along with the racehorses.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Butterflies
Common Poppies	Wild Basil	Grey Partridge	Small White
Field Bindweed	Chicory	Buzzard	Gatekeeper
Scentless Mayweed	Wild Mignonette	Goldfinch	Large White
Cornflowers	Common Knapweed	Linnet	Red Admiral
Smooth Hawksbeard	Knapweed Broomrape	Greenfinch	Holly Blue
Bramble	Creeping Buttercup	Swallow	Large Skipper
White Clover	Quaking Grass	Red Kite	Small Heath
Traveller's Joy	White Dead-nettle	Wood Pigeon	Moths
Hedge Parsley	Agrimony	Raven	Grass Veneer
Greater Plantain	Field Scabious	Kestrel	Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Hedge Bindweed	Perforated St John's Wort	Yellowhammer	Yellow Shell
Corn Sow-thistle	Rest-harrow	Corn Bunting	Burnett Campion
Black Medick	Silverweed	Wren	Others
Ribwort Plantain	Wild Parsnip	Whitethroat	Meadow Grasshopper
Small-flowered Cranesbill	Pineapple Weed	Chaffinch	Common Harvestman
Wild Carrot	Hogweed	Blue Tit	Big-spot Anthomyia fly
Marsh Mallow	Tufted Vetch	Spotted Flycatcher	Red-sided Parasite fly
Yarrow	Common Ragwort		Two banded Spearhorn-
White Campion	Nipplewort		-hoverfly
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Mugwort		Honey Bee
Creeping Thistle	Meadow Vetchling		
Spear Thistle	Common Toadflax		
Scarlet Pimpernel	Sloes (fruits)		



Small Whites feeding on horse dung by Andy Enefer



Corn Bunting at Whitsbury by Andy Enefer



Spotted Flycatcher by Andy Enefer



Yellowhammer by Andy Enefer