



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Wild Woodbury Walk**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
 Weather: Warm and sunny after early morning rain  
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves  
 Attendees: 10

Wild Woodbury is located in Bere Regis Dorset. The former farm was acquired in 2021 by Dorset Wildlife Trust for a large scale re-wilding project involving the local community. Dorset Wildlife Trust received donations and a land purchase grant from BCP Council and Dorset Council for land management changes to remove nitrogen inputs. This was achieved in the second year of the project by a landscape changing river restoration project to restore the headwaters of the River Sherford to allow it to take its natural course across the site. The land had been drained with a deep ditch and field drain system and the river could no longer be seen. By filling in the ditches to push the water out onto the land, blocking up the field drains and creating leaky dams, the once dry cracked landscape is now a mixture of large flows, pools and delta like areas, making the land more resilient to drought and filtering out excess nutrients out of the water and to help alleviate flash flooding downstream. This enabled the Councils to meet their duties to mitigate for impacts of increases in nitrates from development in Poole Harbour catchment and ensure there is no further deterioration of water quality in the harbour. A neighbouring farmer helps graze the site, Hereford Cattle, Exmoor Ponies and two Mangalitsa/Berkshire cross pigs have been introduced, we met the very friendly pigs 'Thelma and Louise', their presence has contributed to nature recovery. These changes have increased the amount of wildlife found throughout the 170 hectare site, we followed the two and a half mile waymarked route around some of it.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Flowering Plants cont.</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Butterflies</b>
Mugwort	Heath Bedstraw	Magpie	Small White
Common Comfrey	Common Fleabane	Wood Pigeon	Speckled Wood
Great Mullein	Ivy	Goldfinch	Large White
Hogweed	Green Field Speedwell	Buzzard	Small Copper
Scented Mayweed	Canadian Fleabane	House Martin	Meadow Brown
Dandelion	Spear Thistle	Grey Heron	Brown Argus
Stinging Nettle	Marjoram	Little Egrets	
Teasel	Wild Basil	Swallows	<b>Others</b>
Large Bindweed	Field Poppy	Kestrel	Honey Bee
Field Bindweed	Scarlet Pimpernel	Linnet	Wasp
Pineappleweed		Chiffchaff	Thistle Gall
Creeping Thistle	<b>Grasses</b>	Sand Martins	Woodlice
White Clover	Crested Dogs-tail	Chaffinch	Earthworm
Common Ragwort	Coltsfoot	Raven	Eared Leafhopper
Small-flowered Cranesbill		Stonechat	Field Grasshoppers
Yarrow	<b>Fruits</b>		
Creeping Buttercup	Elderberry		<b>Mammals</b>
Nipplewort	Blackberry		Roe Deer
Perennial/Corn Sow-thistle	Bittersweet		
Hoary Willowherb	Rose Hips		

Hedge Woundwort	Haws		
-----------------	------	--	--



*Perennial sow-thistle by Gerry Traves*



*Creeping Thistle by Gerry Traves*



*Roe Deer by Andy Enefer*