

Oakley

Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

Wednesday 16th September saw ten Ramblers, and a dog, meet on a beautiful sunny morning for an 8.6 km (just over 5 mile) circular walk, starting at the footbridge over the M3 at Hatch. What clouds were present at the start of the walk had disappeared and it was a very warm morning with beautiful views across the countryside. The first part of the footpath was parallel to the M3, so there was a fair amount of motorway noise, and we were required to walk in single file. We soon turned a corner to walk past the pond and fountains at Hush Farm, where we had to stop for a moment to admire the view over the pond and take a photo. The sound of the fountains completely covered the now dull sound of the motorway noise in the distance. We walked along footpaths through a series of gates between fields as the countryside opened up and the sound of the motorway disappeared. Crops had been harvested and the local brown sheep accepted our presence. After a water stop and briefly walking a very short stretch of road on the outskirts of Mapledurwell we passed St Mary's Church, then were immediately back onto footpaths and a gentle climb across a wide open area towards woodland, but then turning away from the woodland and uphill, not quite so gentle a slope here, to Five Lanes End. We had now turned the corner onto the home leg of the walk, but still with wide open views until we arrived at the other end of Mapledurwell and briefly walked through part of the WW1 centenary memorial woodland.

Over the weekend of 25th to 28th September ten of us travelled to Selworthy, Somerset to walk on and around Exmoor. I hope to have more on this trip in the next Link. Unfortunately our planned walk on Saturday 3rd.October was rained off.



Pond and Fountains at Hush Farm