South Day Walk - Highclere Round, November

We met at Beacon Hill Carpark on a cold, but dry, November morning. Our route took us towards Old Burghclere, before we turned South along the line of a disused railway, along which a deer and a wild boar crossed our path.



Declining the opportunity of sprinting across the A34, we carried on parallel to the road until we could use an underpass.

After a short walk North we were able to join the Wayfarers Walk, skirting Beacon Hill and Sidown Hill in a north westerly direction.

En route we passed a couple of long barrows, which were a Neolithic/Bronze Age cemetery and a memorial stone to Geoffrey de Haviland, which marked the site of the first successful test flight on 10 September 1920. As we gained height and traversed Sidown Hill we enjoyed

wonderful views and in bright sunshine, and pleasant temperatures when we were out of the wind.









Having reached Grotto Lodge we turned on a gravel path towards Maple Farm and then travelled North to Highclere farm, with views of Highclere Castle.







Missing our turn East we arrived in Highclere to the very welcome sight of Ellie's Deli where we enjoyed our lunch.

Retracing our steps we found our footpath, hidden by vegetation, and walked along part of the Brenda Parker Way towards Highclere Castle.

Keeping to public rights of way, we traversed the estate until we reached a bridge over the A34 and could return along the old road to our cars.

Our route was 11.1miles , with 1027' of ascent (and interestingly, 1194' of descent!).

Attendees: Mike Goodyer, Margaret Moore and Margaret O'Dwyer.

Report by Margaret Moore