

## Group walks 22<sup>nd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July, The Brail and canal, 3 miles

**From the chains, the island in centre Great Bedwyn, opposite The Stores, at 10.00 am.**

There was an extreme heat weather warning and with temperatures approaching 30 degrees, members declined to walk on the Thursday and by Sunday severe storms were forecast leading to 7 of the booked walkers cancelling. However, as it turned out, on the day it was dry and cool enough for the remaining 9 of us to be walking with jumpers and coats!

A group of 9 of us left Great Bedwyn village centre behind and headed up across a meadow to the Brail woods. We entered the Brail on the footpath, rather than the bridleway as shown on the map, because of the poor condition of the surface of the bridleway. After a short walk through Bedwyn Brail, we turned right off the track at Castle Copse and continued along a grass path through woodland to an open valley. Our walk then took us alongside Wilton Brail with views across fields to the canal and beyond. We returned along the towpath beside the Kennet and Avon canal and past St Mary's church.

As we left the woods above Brail Farm we had to negotiate an awkward old stile but this is due to be replaced with a kissing gate in August as one of a number of stiles that are being replaced with gates thanks to funds from Pewsey Area Board, Great Bedwyn Parish Council and a generous donation from one of the group's members.

Steady inclines and two stiles (it is usually possible to open the gate beside the second stile), one road crossing and a pedestrian railway crossing

