

Group walk Thursday 14th October. Canal, Hatchet Lane & Shawgrove Copse. 2.75 miles

10.00am from Great Bedwyn Square (the island opposite The Stores). No stiles

In October we continued to offer 2 walks, a weekday and a weekend walk but this month they were of different lengths. This Thursday walk was the shorter of the two. Bedwyn Health walks restarted on Mondays earlier in the month but our walk still attracted 9 walkers (2 of them new to the group) and we enjoyed a lovely bright sunny walk.

We took a circular walk heading south-west out of Bedwyn through the churchyard and the new black kissing gate, to the towpath, then looping back along tracks and through fields above Bedwyn, with views back down into the village. The path to the village from Shawgrove Copse was until a few weeks ago known locally as the 'stile path' but no longer – a recently installed kissing gate and a pedestrian gate now make this a 'no-stile path'!

The churchyard gate had recently replaced a tricky gap stile, and the two gates at Shawgrove Copse had replaced two high and awkward old wooden stiles. The funds for these gates came from Pewsey Area Board, Great Bedwyn Parish Council and a generous donation from a member of our group. The installation was done by our local Countryside Access Officer, Stephen Leonard, who was ably assisted by volunteers from our group. The gates all received positive feedback from the walkers and were much easier on the knees and hip joints than the tricky stiles.

