

Saturday 19th January “Three Plantations” with Sarah Westacott

I arrived at the Wheathills Plantation car park on this cold grey winters morning to join up with the other enthusiastic walkers assembled here. Sarah the walk leader was wearing her wellington boots as were several others so I wondered if we were set for a very wet walk. However we soon headed out along a track through the plantation enjoying the open landscape before skirting along the edge of Hayes Wood. Fortunately it wasn't too wet underfoot, well nothing that walking boots couldn't cope with.

Eventually we came to a junction with a lovely panoramic view of the Otter Valley where mist was rising along the valley with Peak Hill visible in the distance. We then turned off heading towards Shortwood Common. Here we had a coffee break enjoying the warmth of the sun which had by now broken through the cloud.



Suitably refreshed we walked along the footpaths around Dalditch taking time to view Squabmoor reservoir.



Walking along a track by the reservoir and then down a road we made our way to Bystock Fishponds. Passing alongside the ponds and over the heathland we didn't see much in the way of wildlife other than the vegetation, but then it is winter. Returning back across East Budleigh Common we reached our starting point and cars.

Thank you Sarah for an enjoyable walk across the commons linking areas in a different and interesting manner.

Stella French