
ALTON U3A RAMBLERS
MONDAY 7TH JULY 2025
SHORTHEATH COMMON, KINGSLEY and WYCK



PICTURE COURTESY OF Hampshire County Council

Shortheath Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with areas of grassland, heathland, a large pond, and oak and birch woodland. More unusual ecosystems on the common are inland sand dunes, and an area of 'schwingmoor', or 'quaking' bog formed by a thin mat of compact moss which grows over the acidic water and floats on it, making a 'bouncy' surface. We shan't be walking on that! These habitats support a diversity of birds and insects: nightjars nest here in the summer, 23 different dragonfly species and a rare cricket...

Starting point is the car park at Shortheath Common, by Shortheath pond, what3words claw.identify.biggest. There is a small green CAR PARK sign on the Oakhanger road. Follow the track to the parking area. The footpath takes us around the pond and across Kingsley stream into Kingsley. We pass Kingsley Nurseries and South Hay farm, heading back via Binwood.

Start and end time: 09.45. Booted and ready for walk start at 10. Should be back at the cp by 1pm latest. Walk is 6.5 miles.

Stiles etc: one stile, mostly kissing gates.

Terrain: sandy paths on the heathland, tarmac on quiet lanes, field edges and across fields. We cross the main road B3004 twice.

What to bring: yourself! Fit and well.. For your comfort and enjoyment please bring water and/or flask and a snack for a brief refreshment stop, and wear appropriate footwear and clothing for a hike. **Remember to bring your ICE number easily accessible in your bag/rucksack or on your phone.** Dogs with well-behaved owners welcome. Bring your lunch if you want to picnic by the pond after the walk.

any queries please contact me on lesley.ann12@hotmail.com

Look forward to seeing you!