

Sunday 19 April 2015—Redbrook: Highbury Wood Nature Reserve- Hidden Valley Circular

On Sunday 19 April, the Lower Wye Ramblers enjoyed a short walk in the Wye Valley. Starting from Redbrook, a short, sharp climb up a flight of steps led to a stretch of, mainly level, lane before entering Forge Wood. A fairly steep path angled up the hillside through woods where early bluebells tinged the carpet of wild garlic with a hint of blue and birdsong rang out the message of Spring. At the top the walkers paused to take in the view before descending into the valley below Newland. Following the lane around the valley bottom, flushing the occasional pheasant, the group paused for refreshment on the bridge over Valley Brook. Here, the idyllic scene was enhanced by a family of geese shepherding a flock of fluffy, yellow chicks on the river bank.

Leaving the valley bottom to follow a gentle incline with stunning views of the countryside, the group climbed up to Coxbury Lane to follow a path around Highbury Wood Nature Reserve. Sadly, the planned route had been blocked by a number of fallen trees so the walk was rerouted around the less attractive, although still enjoyable, higher path. Joining Offa's Dyke path for a distance yielded an exceptionally dramatic view of the Wye and the old railway bridge at Redbrook. The sharp descent to Redbrook along Offa's Dyke was rejected in favour of the longer, less challenging route. Upon arrival back at the car park, most of the participants elected to pay a visit to The Boat Inn for a convivial drink together before parting.



