**Essex Heartlands, Saturday 2nd October 2021**

5 walkers, 7.5 miles – leader Ron Williamson

Our objective today was to walk 21 miles through the Essex countryside from North Fambridge to Ingatestone. Only five of us were at the start on a grey miserable day with a forecast of heavy rain and high winds by 10am and expected to last throughout the day.

Anyway we set off in the dry having decided to review the situation at Bicknacre some 7.5 miles into the route, a good section with some cover along a disused railway and sheltered ancient pathways.

We reached Bicknacre with its pub and adjacent bus stop in what had now become persistent rain and wind. With 10 miles of exposed farmland to traverse before reaching the next suitable drop out point the leader made the decision to abandon the walk and retreat to the pub and wait for the next bus. Hopefully the remaining walkers were not too disappointed.