

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH



INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7th

ANNUAL FARM WALK - SHEEPDROVE ORGANICS & AGM

Lambourn, Hungerford

Meet at 5.45 for 6.00 pm Start

Sheepdrove Organic Farm is one of the best known - and admired - farms in the Thames Valley and beyond. We are fortunate they are willing to host our annual Thames Valley branch farm walk and are most grateful to the management for doing this.

Sheepdrove is a diverse 786 hectare farm in the Berkshire Downs. The farm hosts a natural burial site, two wedding venues, a conference centre, holiday accommodation, residential units, commercial property, a re-wilding site and an organic farm.

The farm also has two wind turbines, a ground source heat pump and five solar arrays which provide most of the heat and power for the farm. The farm grows 304 hectares of organic arable crops, including Wild Farmed Wheat and Heritage Rye.

The 449 hectares of grassland is grazed by cattle and sheep that belong to third party graziers. The farm has been in environmental stewardship since the 1990's and places a strong emphasis on incorporating nature within the farming system.

As a result, Sheepdrove has one of the highest concentrations of farmland birds for a lowland farm that has been recorded. The farm has over 461 separate Corn Bunting territories and the birds 'speak' a separate language to those on neighbouring farms.

It is **VITAL** that people not to use the postcode when travelling to the farm, as it will take them to the wrong place. Instead they need to put 'Sheepdrove Road' into their Sat Nav and follow the road to the top of the hill.

This should be a fascinating visit and If you want to attend this event, please email Giles Martin at:

gilesmrtn@aol.com

The cost to attend is £10 per head for members and £15 for non-members – this includes some food at the end of the walk etc. Please make a payment in advance to the following account:

- **Lloyds Bank**
- **Sort Code - 30: 96: 96**
- **A/C No. - 00358115**

We will also hold our annual AGM at the end of the walk when we will elect our new officers for the coming year and give a summary of activity and finances etc. but this will only take 10 minutes maximum.

We look forward to seeing you there – and feel free to invite a friend/colleague/partner etc. too who also might be interested.

Richard Crane & Giles Martin

Joint TVB Secretaries