A gentle stroll and stunning views – a tasty recipe for a walk from the Club’s Blackmore site in Worcestershire. Jo Vaughan is your guide.

The Malvern Hills are a glorious backdrop for the Club’s Blackmore site – especially at sunset. But not everyone has the energy or inclination, to climb the big hills. A good walk around here doesn’t have to be strenuous, however. This glorified dog walk isn’t very difficult – although there is one small hill to climb and many stiles to climb over. And at once, you’ve arrived at Hanley Swan, why not stop at The Swan Inn for lunch? After all, the beauty of a walk direct from the site is that you can have a pint or two with a completely clear conscience, as you don’t have to get behind a wheel to return to the site. However, if you want to be certain of a meal, especially on a nice sunny day, then it’s essential to book – I arrived at 1pm on a Sunday to find that there was no meat left for the carvery.

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Leave the site via its entrance road, heading for the main road. Turn left at the road then, almost immediately, turn left again, over a stile, following a public footpath sign on the left side of a field.
2. Climb over another stile and go straight ahead through the next field, following the public bridleway sign and a yellow arrow.
3. Meet right just before the metal gate, following some blue arrows along the narrower footpath, and continue until you pass through a wooden gate. Follow the arrows to the top of the hill where there are lovely views of Malvern to your right.
4. Look out for a stile to your left marked with a yellow arrow. Cross the small wooden boardwalk and then climb over this (partially broken) stile before continuing over the next stile.
5. Walk down the hill, along the left-hand side of the field, and admire the great views of the Club site to your left. Go through the metal gate and continue ahead, through the farmyard and then over the drive beside another metal gate. Continue straight ahead up the tarmac road by a beautiful farmhouse.
6. Keep left where the road forks, towards ‘No Through Road’ sign, which is soon marked ‘Private Road – Footpath Only’. Walk past the houses all the way into Hanley Swan, passing the Royal British Legion Club. Once at the pond, cross the main road ahead and pass to the right side of The Swan Inn (keeping the green to your right).
7. Continue along the main road ahead, keeping the footpath. Then, very soon, having passed some bungalows on your left and a seat on your right, turn left following a public footpath sign on the other side of the road (next to a stile on plan 3, Malvern 5 miles). Go down the narrow tarmac road. Soon grass starts to grow up the middle, before it turns fully to grass.
8. Go over the slightly wobbly stile and continue down the left side of the field. Walk over the bridge (this has stiles at each end) and continue ahead through the field until you reach a metal kissing gate. Carry on straight ahead, turning through the metal gate where you turn right following a yellow arrow. Go across the next bridge with its single stile and walk to the road.
9. Cross the road and veer slightly right. Continue ahead over another stile with a public footpath sign. Go down the left side of the field, then over another bridge with two metal gates at each side. Go straight ahead across the next field towards a timbered house.
10. Cross the stile ahead the road, as you are facing Steyning Hill, turn left up the main road, keeping to the heath for safety. Go past the sign for Hanley Swan and turn right into the campsite entrance road.