

HKNHS November '09 Outing Report to Tai Lam Country Park

Just after ten o'clock, eighteen members set off up the first part of the Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail. This time, Susan Lupton from the UK who is presently visiting family in Hong Kong joined us.

For the first hour, the trail took us up a relatively steep slope, which fortunately eased off towards the top where we earned a most welcomed rest that was spoilt by a very cool breeze. On a clear day, this track provides us with a wonderful view of Tsing Yi, Tsing Ma Bridge and Lantau Island but unfortunately we did not have a clear view because of the dull, foggy sky.

The trail then led us through woodlands on a lovely track littered with leaves. We made our way for another hour past streams, over a small bridge, until we had to ford the river over concrete slabs so that we kept our feet dry. Soon after, we skirted an area of land that had been fenced and was obviously once a market garden but now overgrown. On the other side is a lovely picnic spot where stopped to have our lunch.



We walked along the road for a short time and then turned off, making our way along another track beside a stream. At one stage, we were walking along the trail with a bamboo forest on either side of us. We soon met another road, which we walked along for a short period before turning off into the trees once again towards the Kat Hing Bridge near the Tai Lam Chung reservoir. We walked a long a ridge but with trees on either side, there was very little view. However, the trees provided a very attractive path to walk along. Some of us stopped to take a photo of a tree with beautiful flowers.

Eventually we arrived at another picnic area at the top of the reservoir where we had another break. Some of us took a look at the rushing water as it entered the reservoir; reminding us of a mini Huka Falls back home in New Zealand. We then made the last two hours of our journey along the Macle hose Trail which weaves in and out alongside the dam for about five kilometres. Fortunately the track was very flat. On two occasions we had to stand aside as mountain bikers passed by. We stopped to see if we could still see the stilts and foundation stones of the village houses left in the middle of the reservoir after the village was evacuated for the construction of this Tai Lam Chung Reservoir, but the reservoir was quite high so we could only see one. We had some lovely views of the reservoir along the way. By this time, some of us were very weary and very grateful when we finally came to the road.



We finally arrived at So Kwun Wat at about 5:00pm., grateful to see the bus waiting for us. Those who were going home by bus climbed aboard and set off, but those who were making our way home on public transport had a drink at the little shop where one can sometimes hear the Mahjong blocks tapping but they were not obliging this time. We were soon on our way home, very weary from the long walk.

Christine Mills.