

Oundle to Ashton Walk – February 2016

Before leaving the Ship Inn we had short summary of Oundle, of its 17 century buildings and Grade 1 listed properties, many in ownership of the Public School.

We continued through the Market Place and North Street and other properties were pointed out.

On down Station Road, we crossed the main River bridge and turning left at the former Station followed the old Railway line.

We crossed the main road at Elmington - a village owned by Crowland Abbey in 1086, but by 1720 all the houses had gone as the land had been turned over to pasture for grazing. However, the name has been retained on houses in local villages. We then turned on to the bridleway at Tansor Lodge Farm.

This took us to the former Roman road from Warmington to Ashton. Warmington has some 28 listed buildings including the Dovecote and the Mill which was operational until the middle of the twentieth century and now functions as a retail outlet for the ceramic tile company, Fired Earth.

A short stop in Ashton - a village of thatched houses and Pub, was rebuilt in 1900 for estate workers by the Rothschild family. The annual World Conker Championship has been hosted by the village since 1965 although it is currently held at Southwick. We also learnt of the Lane family and Dame Miriam Rothschild – a noted natural scientist and author who was born in the village.

From there we crossed the field to the roundabout at the former Riverside Pub, and back through the town to the Ship Inn.

There followed a good Pub lunch, with many opting for a Sunday roast.

A total of 20 walkers on a day of good sunshine, but a biting wind.