

Arthingworth – June 2018 (evening walk)

Our group of 13 gathered in the Bull's Head car park on this pleasant, although cloudy, evening where Finbarr (our walk leader) told us a little about this pretty village.

It is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but there is some evidence that it was being inhabited during Roman times. Arthingworth Manor, which was behind St Andrews Church, was left as a shell in 1967 revealing walls probably from an older house. A stable block remains, now converted to a house but incorporating the Manor House staircase.

On the outskirts of the village can be seen the site of the medieval fish ponds. Also, nearby is an MOD site that appears to be a bunker complex, but it is difficult to find much information about this for obvious reasons. It was connected to the nearby Harrington Airfield, which was a Thor missile site back in the late 1950s.

We then started our walk and, after we had walked past some pretty gardens on the way out of the village, Finbarr pointed out the site of the medieval ponds near where we crossed the River Ise, and also the MOD bunker before we turned right along the Brampton Valley Way. This is actually a 14 mile linear park that stretches from Northampton to Market Harborough, and was developed after the railway line was closed in 1981.

It was a very pleasant walk along this track with lots of different bird song, and after about half a mile we stopped for a short break, where we had our usual group photo.



After another few minutes, we turned off the track and into a field. Finbarr had warned us that when he did this walk previously there were some cows and bulls way over the far side of the field. However, today as we approached the gate there were bulls, cows and calves waiting to greet us. After a brief discussion on how best to approach these, we decided to walk quietly as it was a public footpath after all, and in fact these beasts had little interest in us, although a couple of the calves were a bit skittish.



We crossed a couple of fields along a very good pathway and eventually saw some buildings ahead which announced our arrival back into Arthingworth. It was exactly eight o'clock as the church clock chimes told us.

Back at the Bull's Head, most of us changed our footwear and went inside for a rewarding drink and some delicious food.