

Report of the task of the 15th of August

Present were

Charlotte and Jonathon Smith with Imogen and Morgan
David and Pamela Johnson
Bruce Graham
Chris Starkey
Clare Eacott
Maureen Edwards
Connie Martyn

The purpose of the "Walking Survey" was to start to look outwards from Broadview and see what there was of interest along the railway line with a view to considering any possible improvements we might be able to make for wild life and people, with the agreement of course of the landowners. We shall need to find out if the parish council own the land.

Each of us had a bag for collecting smaller items of rubbish and litter and we recorded any larger items. At the end of the walk we took away the litter we had collected.

We were fortunate to have David Johnson with us as he pointed out several interesting things along the way. For example about two thirds of the way along Broadview there is a signal post completely covered in ivy. We could perhaps pull the ivy away and reveal it. In addition there is an old signal box on the left hand side of Kim Bishop's way.

Both sides of Kim Bishop's walk are bordered with quite tall trees and hedges of dogwood, privet, guelder rose, elders with lots of berries and coppiced hazels. Maureen noted that birch trees looked as regular as if they had been planted. The height of the trees made the walk quite dark in places and one suggestion was that we could perhaps open out a few viewpoints so that walkers could see the lovely views.

Just after the bridge there is a steep path leading down. (Clare remembers scrambling down it as a child) At the top there are the remains of a chestnut-paling fence.

It was noticeable that where there were brighter areas there were some lovely wild flowers: wild basil, marjoram, hemp agrimony, hedge bedstraw, wild parsnip, hedge parsley, St John's wort, rose bay willow herb, broomrape, teasel, mullein and scabious. There was one particularly lovely patch of soapwort and some broad-leaved helleborines about forty feet from the Springvale crossing. There was a wilding apple tree on the right of the path with a good crop of apples

As we came level with the fields there were many nettles possibly because of fertilizer.

We saw very few butterflies, probably because it was too dark but there were a few speckled woods and one white.

We diverted to look at the top field and saw toadflax and red bartsia. Continuing along the path there is a large coppiced ash. At the end we came to Kings Worthy substation

On our return, David showed us the site of the Roman villa and pieces of Roman tile and brick. There was also an Iron Age encampment lower down. He told us we were on a boiling mound and showed us a boiling stone which had been altered by being heated to a high temperature and then plunged into water used to cook food.

David says that the plinth for the Broadview mosaic is ready and the mosaic should be ready in a few weeks.

On the walk back along the lower path there was a large walnut on its side but still alive.

I should like to thank everyone who came on the walk for his or her valuable contributions. I am indebted to Maureen for her notes. It was good to see Clare looking fit and well. The children were superb litter collectors!

I contacted the parish council about the larger items of rubbish and they said that note had already been made of it and the City council will deal with it.