

Civil Engineers' Club

Notes on the Walking Weekend - Saturday 9th /Sunday 10th June 2018

The weekend commenced on Friday evening with a short walk around Dorchester to see some of the sights before we had an excellent dinner at the Kao San Thai Restaurant, Dorchester.

On Saturday, we met at the National Trust, Hardy's Visitor Centre at Higher Bockhamton. There were 17 walkers who had travelled from Preston, Southampton, London, Kent and Surrey. We took a footpath through the woods to Hardy's Cottage and on through Puddletown Forest, Lower Bockhamton, crossing the bridge over the River Frome, passing by water meadows and Stafford House on our way to West Stafford for lunch at "The Wise Man".

After lunch, we returned to Higher Bockhamton via Hardy Way, taking a detour into the graveyard at Stinsford church to see the gravestone of Thomas Hardy, before passing through the grounds of Kingston Maurward Park having covered a distance of 10miles. On Saturday evening, we met for a meal at the Wessex Royale Hotel, Dorchester.

On Sunday, the walk started from the car park by the Brewer's Arms in Martinstown with 16 walkers. We saw a 19th century sheep washing pool before heading south up Bronkham Hill where we saw an early Bronze Age Cemetery. The path joined the Dorset Ridgeway which took us towards the Hardy Monument which some of us climbed. We returned to Martinstown via another path to have lunch at the Brewer's Arms having covered 6 miles.

Thanks to Duncan and Elizabeth Hyde for planning and leading the walk on Saturday and to Ray Sterry for arranging the evening meals and planning and leading the walk on Sunday and to all who made the effort to join us for such an enjoyable and successful weekend. We hope to arrange another event next year.

Tony Barber



