

It was a bit on the chilly side but the forecast of showers didn't come to anything more than a few heavy drops.

Thirteen hardy walkers and two dogs gathered for a walk away from our normal circular walks that we all know so well.

We left the village hall going across the playing field onto the Broad Green Road, past the allotments and straight on following the lovely foot path towards Roydon Hall, Creeting St. Peter. No matter the weather, the views across to Stowupland, Stowmarket and beyond are always worth taking your time to view. Many of the walkers were quite amazed how different it all looks and how you can get confused as to which direction you are actually looking in.

We went on along the drive of Roydon Hall to the Creeting St. Peter Road where we turned right, walking a short distance until taking a left at the foot path finger post. The grass path leads onto a field which goes straight uphill, all well defined but if there is a rape crop it can become a little overgrown when it is at its full height. This is a Bridleway so the horses usually keep it quite clear.

Following the path through the hedge and round the edge of the field is very easy to follow. Turning right over a wooden sleeper bridge, the path takes you on to the drive of Park Farm in Stowupland.

We made our way to the Crown where we took a little liquid refreshment. The walk to the Crown took 75 minutes but bear in mind we don't hurry and do stop every so often for those at the back to catch up.

For our return journey, we walked to the Freeman School and crossed the road to follow the foot path to the right of the bungalow. This path leads to Park Farm but after crossing the wooden bridge you should turn left and follow the path which goes alongside the spinney then across the field to the right. Again the way is obvious as the crop has been removed. I must admit that we didn't take the route after the bridge, but it is the correct way to go. We rejoined it on the gravel track that comes out onto the Creeting Road.

Turn right and walk along the road to the right hand bend where we turned left and walked along the wide grass path at the edge of the field. At the end of this path is the worst part of the route where it follows the A1120 around the horrible left hand bend to the Broad Green junction, known as Bells Cross.

The rest of the route is, of course, a pleasant walk back to the village hall round Broad Green.

We arrived back about an hour after leaving the Crown. It's not a strenuous route but one well worth doing. With summer coming it is one to remember when wanting exercise in the fresh air and refreshment along the way.

Happy Walking
Jen Henderson-Hamilton