

DNSR Railway and Byway Walk Thursday 8th June 2006



**Worthys
Conservation
Volunteers**

A group of 7 members met in the accustomed spot outside the vets near Worthy Down Halt ready to commence the walk after a short introduction at 7-00 pm sharp on Thursday June 8th 2006. The intention was to try to heighten our awareness of the signs of natural and social history around us and to sharpen our powers of observation, always valuable skills when undertaking conservation tasks. The weather was once again remarkably good with bright evening sun, the gloom only setting in as we climbed up the path from the halt at about 9-30 pm.



Michael waxing lyrical about some obscure aspect of tree-kind whilst Maureen captures the happy band for posterity.

We walked along the Hookpit Farm byway towards the south and then returned along the railway footpath to Worthy Down Halt, a total distance of about 2½ miles. As we went along we discussed hedgerows, fields and tracks, their significance and interpretation, and also a little of the agricultural and social history of the features we saw. As we returned along the DNSR railway footpath we talked of the way in which trees and shrubs and wild flowers have invaded the abandoned track and tried to interpret why and how this has happened.

Michael led the task and tried to impart pearls of wisdom and nuggets of botanical and historical information as we progressed, with the odd attempt at humour!! The small party seemed to enjoy the evening and hopefully we all departed a little wiser than when we started.

The evening was somewhat enlivened by a horse which was frightened out of its' equine mind, seemingly by some aspect of our presence (perhaps Bruce's admirable bush-hat) and stood stock-still with flared nostrils visibly shaking until well after we had passed, despite the soothing words of the rider.

Walk leader: Michael Edwards