

## Great Bowden Heritage

### Great Bowden Archaeology

As part of National Archaeology Week 2008 we decided to conduct a guided walking tour of the Archaeological sites in and around the village.

The tour took place on Sunday 20th July, starting at the Village Hall. We were very lucky with the weather and although, as you can see in the photographs the skies threatened, it remained dry throughout and a perfect temperature for the walk.

The tour started under the guidance of Jean Clarke and visited the Church, Buckminster Close, the earthworks close to the cemetery and then crossed the fields to Knights End. Once Station Road was reached Jean handed over to Pam Abbott who guided the walk for the rest of the tour. Pam took the walkers up the hill to Bowden Ridge and visited the site of the Roman settlement and then walked along the Ridgeway and descended the "dun" which probably gave the village of Great Bowden its name. The party then explored Green Lane and the centre of the village before returning to the Village Hall.

About 38 people went on the actual walk with another dozen just visiting the hall. When the walkers returned, after about 2 hours and 2½ miles they were ready for the tea and cakes that awaited them. While queuing for tea they were able to look at a display showing some of the finds we have discovered at places on the tour and also to look at maps of the fields both before and after Enclosure in 1776. There were also a number of photographs to supplement what they had learned on the walk.

During tea our visitors were able to read the dozen or so mini leaflets on subjects connected with or mentioned on the tour. These included leaflets on milling, Knights Hospitaller, Countess Judith and Earl Waltheof, local horsefairs, coins found on Bowden Ridge, the formation of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire and the Great Bowden Enclosure Award.

We were delighted to welcome the Dimblebee family who brought along the polished Neolithic flint axe head found a few years ago in the village. This was a special treat and the axe head was passed around the visitors who enjoyed the opportunity to handle it.

The Heritage Group would like to thank everyone who came along, joined in and who made our own efforts worthwhile.

Rosemary Culkin  
1st August 2008