

Five u3a walkers met on Monday, 14th June, in Ashing Lane (track!) near Dunholme. Our walk leader, Jenny, led us into the Nature Reserve – Watts Wood. It had been a few years since our last visit and the site is now much more mature.

From the car park the path leads to a wooden arch. This is the entry point and has maps and information about the site.

An avenue of planted trees leads to a commemorative oak tree, through meadows in full flower.

As we followed the path we began to see the purple marsh orchids. At first a single spike and the groups of ten or twenty clustered in the grass and under the willow trees.

It was a hot day and we were glad to find plenty of seats strategically positioned! Just off one path we visited, is the stone book commemorating the opening of the reserve with the planting of oak trees to supply Lincoln Cathedral with roof timbers in a hundred years time!!

We also visited the 'Beatles Pond'. Now a mature area and pond with marsh flowering plants, yellow iris, marsh marigolds and white water lilies. An area busy with birds and dragonflies.

Walking with friends on such a lovely day and seeing so many delicate, purple orchids made for a happy, relaxing morning.

A big thank you to Jenny, our leader for this walk, and our friendly companions.

Celia Pepper