

History and Archaeology Group

Walk the Common (part 2) 15th June 2011

As part of the setting up of the 'History and Archaeology Group' (HAG) we went on a second walk on Naphill Common to look at known features.

Starting at Forge Road, 6 members made a very wet start to the walk heading towards the Two Dells. Just before reaching them we turned right towards Ash Pond then right again to look at a large depression. We were not sure as to what it was. It had a firm bottom so unlikely it was an old pond. There was no obvious way out indicating it could have been an extraction pit. Iron slag has been reported as being found here. A suitable candidate for further work. We carried on to Ash Pond to make our way back to the Two Dells.

The Two Dells are deep depression, one much deeper than the other. A cherry tree growing in the side is approximately 150 years old. The conical shape of the deeper dell indicates a possible collapse of an underground feature such as a mine tunnel. Again further work would be needed.

We went looking for additional 'dells'. Not finding any (better to look in the winter when there is less ground cover) we ended up near the remaining junipers. Trevor went to see how they were getting on. He reported that they were doing fine and one appears to have a few young berries indicating it to be a female. This is good news as we now have a least one male and one female. Despite the rain we decided to go and look and a known saw pit.

This saw pit is located alongside H22 not far from Five Ways. Behind the saw pit is a circular feature which could be a charcoal platform or lye pit. Again further work will be needed.

6 very damp individuals then made there way back home. It was too wet to take any meaningful photographs – another day perhaps.