

Spirit of Sutterby

Field Walking 2018 Sunday 18th and 25th February 2018 1300hrs Shoot Lodge
Pot Washing Wednesday 21st March 2018 1900hrs Sausthorpe Village Hall



Field walking team Sunday 18th February 2018

It is that time of year again, shooting season is over, fields are fallow or crop is very short, the weather is cold, the ground is muddy, it must be field walking time!

On the first day of field walking, there was a cold wind, mist in the air, it was dry, but the ground was very sticky mud, BUT the walkers were keen.



We met in the Shoot Lodge where Dave Start our leader briefed everyone and allocated positions, marker canes and collection bags.

This year we are walking Fox Covert Field, It is so large a field we are doing it in two stages even so it is a big ask in two days. On Friday Dave, Geoff and Ray marked out the field and put in the first row of marker canes.



Weather – Cold wind and misty



Ground – heavy going



The field lay fallow last year and is a mixture of bare earth, large areas of stubble and in the lower area grass and moss. The younger and fitter walkers were given the very long stretches and the older less fit the shorter lower areas. There is quite a steep slope at the top of the field and as you come down the slope there is a spring line so the lower areas are wetter. This day we walked the top and bottom areas, the middle next week.



Top of field



Bottom of field



The church is to the right of us through the mist



The pig farm is below us, we know it is there!!!!!!



A big area to cover



Finds are sparse in the stubble, better in the bare earth areas



Field walking team Sunday 24th February 2018

On the second day of field walking the sun was shining, very little breeze, frost overnight and wind during the day for the previous week had dried the surface of the ground so walking should be less muddy. Once again Dave briefed everyone on their job for today, issued marker canes and finds bags and we set off for Fox Covert field. Because of the size of the field and the way we are walking this year we do not bring our marker canes back with us, we have a collector do it for us, today it is Denise ably assisted by Toby her dog.



Setting off for the field



We only take the 4x4's because of condition of track



Car wash tomorrow Geoff?



And they're off



The sun is out today and a nice clear blue sky. Walking the middle section of the field today, down the slope and the spring line. Field still covered in stubble over the main part of walk so finds will be hard to see except where the earth is bare. As usual Julia is again helping Dave keep order and helping the walkers



Geoff as ever the Gentleman carries the stick collecting bag out to the field for Denise. He also transports the First Aid Bag on site before starting the walk.



Denise meanwhile poses with her dog Toby while waiting for Geoff to deliver collecting bag.



Dave and Julia sort out the walkers



Finds are hard to see



Sun shining, blue sky, moon out, no wind perfect day for a walk?



Post field walk, in Shoot Lodge, hot drink and biscuits, hand in your finds and talk about how day went. Next is Pot Wash Day when we clean all the finds and see how many stones and bits of field drain we carried back?

Pot wash night



Preparing the Village Hall for the “washers”, newspapers on tables and bowls of warm water



Basic tools for cleaning finds



Some of the finds still with their mud covering



And they're off, pot washing



The finds had been whittled down by Dave, sorting out field drain pieces, stones and fossils. An easy job in the warmth and bright light of his kitchen, a bit different to a cold and windy field with numb fingers trying to decide medieval pottery or red chalk, stone or flint.







The end product, carefully washed finds still with their locations, they will now dry off and be sent out for identification. On their return Dave will update us as to what we found.