

## Walk the Route - April 27 2008

Brogborough hill is a bit off the beaten track and a rather unpromising spot to start a walk, sandwiched as it is between the whirling traffic of the A421, junction 13 of the M1 motorway and the giant Amazon warehouse. Heavy rain was threatened for the day as well. Nevertheless 60 of us started the walk down that well-known obstacle to the building of the canal, Brogborough hill. We then went across the heavy clay of Marston Vale trying to keep in mind the vision of "The Marston Broads" with the canal linking Brogborough and Stewartby lakes. Luckily the rain mostly held off and the clay wasn't quite so heavy as it had been a glorious day on the Saturday.

The turn-out was not as good as the previous year but I thought that the exhibition worked out a lot better. The Forest Centre did not surround us with so many screens and there seemed to be a lot of interest, especially in the DVD of the route, recently filmed by Geoff leaning out of a borrowed helicopter (no charge!). Some people get all the best jobs.



The most successful part of the day was also after the walk finished. Patrick Hall, MP for Bedford, a keen supporter of the waterway whose red shorts were such a feature of the 2007 walk was unable to come. He sent his wife with apologies and a promise to organise a Trust awareness event with Jonathan Shaw the Waterways Minister. This will take place on 17 July 2008. Look out for more information.