

Our June History walk visited Whiteheads Lodges. We had lovely evening weather, perfect for June. Along the way we had an impromptu botany lesson looking at the late Spring Wild Flowers.

Our first stop was the Top Lodge walking via Knowsley Cottages. We observed and discussed the route of the old track running between Ainsworth to Bentley Hall Lane and the fact that this would have been the route for some of the local pit workers. We then discussed the origin of the Lodges that were built in the early 1800s for the Parker and Whitehead, Bleaching and Dyeing works in Elton Vale.



*These trees probably form the edge of an old road along which miners would walk to pits on the other side of the lodge*



*There appears to be a continuation of a road on the other side of the lodge*



*These mounds are believed to be the burial site of Civil war soldiers*

We also visited the alleged site of the Civil War graves and then, after looking at the overflow between the two lodges, dropped down to the Middle Lodge.



Here we discussed the 1840s dam breach which caused the flooding of the canal in Bury, leaving barges stranded.



*Bridge across the overflow between the lodges*



*The bottom of this plaque marks the height of this overflow sill as it was prior to the 20th April 1934 the right to restore it to this height is reserved*



*overflow down to middle lodge*





We then made our way back via Ainsworth Mill, having a quick look at the rear pond.

Thanks to everyone who attended on this lovely evening.