

Sevenoaks Ramblers

The River Darent meets the River Thames - 13 miles

Wednesday, 20th May

On a day with dark clouds but a weather forecast of a dry day our walk began from Darent Country Park. We were a group of 19 mostly Sevenoaks Ramblers with a few Ramblers from other groups including 2 members of Dartford Ramblers. Our aim was to continue a number of walks along the Darent Valley all the way to the Thames.

We made our way over the hill to Hawley, where our previous walk along the Darent Valley path had ended. Joining the path we made our way under the A2 motorway and joined the Darent Valley Path and made our way along the path passing woodland industrial estates, fishing lakes before entering the park in the middle of Dartford.

Leaving the park we made our way through Dartford, passing the County Court and Dartford Station before we started our journey along across the Dartford Flood Plain to the Dartford Thames Barrier. The barrier is designed to stop any tidal surge in the Thames flooding up the river Darent and flooding Dartford.

Having reached the flood barrier we continued along the river Thames towards the QE2 bridge, observing all the developments on the Essex side of the river. Stopping for a brief picnic lunch we passed under the QE2 Bridge and continued along the Thames passing numerous new structures housing the likes of Amazon and Ikea.

Eventually we had to turn inland and making our way to Stone before passing through the grounds of Darent Valley Hospital before returning to Darent Country Park and our cars.

