

Hanworth Great Park 'walk' July 2023



The walk is circular in extent and commences at the north east corner of the park 'Airman Gate' and proceeds in a generally southerly direction along the eastern boundary of Hanworth Great Park in so doing

we cross the old parish boundary between Feltham and Hanworth.

Hanworth Great Park is so named to differentiate it from its far smaller acolyte Hanworth Little Park which was 'purely an agricultural entity.

Hanworth Park is not mentioned before the beginning of the 16th century. We are told that in June 1532, the park was granted together with the manor house to Anne Boleyn but it is known it was owned earlier by a family named Crosby or by the King at Domesday

On the 1754 map by Rocque [here coloured] Hanworth Great Park is shown generally 'green' with Hanworth Little Park shown in pink 'to the right' - left of which is what today is the Uxbridge Road, although it is positionally incorrect as far as today's road is concerned. The Longford River 'bold black wavy line' runs top to bottom of the map and crosses what was to become Hounslow Road near The Mount. Adjacent to Hounslow Road is the double tree lined avenue which was a private carriageway to Hanworth House and later to Hanworth Park House



Returning to the walk we have now reached The Mount, 'a listed structure' which today is shrouded in foliage but it is here the Longford River exits its subterranean home and continues to its original purpose while our journey is westerly passing alongside a Public Bridle Path.



It is here our imagination can exercise itself with thoughts of activities of yesteryear!



In this area were small aircraft establishments, one in particular was Cierva Gyrocopter works, evidencing such is a circular concrete securing pad.



The Air Park today is the home to Rugby and Football and a model flying club

We have now reached Tudor Court where a *viewing has been secured albeit it external only – there are some old and interesting features not least a Montoir (to be agreed)

In this south western portion of the park there are other buildings of old and the church where a conducted tour has been arranged plus welcome refreshment.

Following our church visit we re-cross Elmwood Avenue and re-enter the Park – following the properly laid out path (western side) our direction is generally north-west (300degrees magnetic) until we reach the junction of Elmwood Avenue, Forest Road and the Rookeries plus the Valve House, here we 'about turn' into the park and view the 'Bee Bank' and then on through a wooded area, where once was a Lodge House (now just a sunken area of land) we now have reached the Longford River and its rising from its subterranean home. We can terminate our journey here or back at our point of departure Airman Gate.