

October 2023 The Bridgewater Arms – Little Gaddesden

We met at the Bridgewater Arms in Little Gaddesden, the rain had stopped but the grey clouds were a little worrisome as 12 individuals decided that today was a good day for a short trek and how right we were! The weather improved so much so that we returned to our starting point in lovely sunshine.

From the car park we walked for a short while before turning left, passing Ashridge Golf Course on our right before entering Golden Valley. This is a very picturesque Valley lined with trees and beautiful views. Eventually we passed Ashridge College* before continuing through Hardings Rookery, Thundell Wood and Princes Riding before crossing the golf course and back to the pub for a well-deserved lunch.



*Ashridge College was originally a monastery built in 1283. With the dissolution of monasteries in 1539, Ashridge fell under the ownership of King Henry VIII, who called Ashridge House home for 11 years. Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth 1) was raised at Ashridge House during her youth. It became a royal residence for both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I—it was at Ashridge House that she was arrested in 1552 under suspicion of treason. The monastery was demolished and Ashridge House was built between 1808 and 1814 by John Egerton, 7th earl of Bridgewater. It has been a private house for long periods, as well as a military hospital during both World Wars.