

# Hong Kong Natural History Society Outing

Shing Mun Country Park, 26th April, 2015



Once again we had a beautiful day for hiking - 26 degrees and slightly overcast. A smaller than usual group (*fifteen in total*) met in Central and Kowloon Tong.



We arrived at Shing Mun at 10.00am, the bus dropping us close to the main dam so we missed the monkeys along the road which we usually walk. It was good to miss them in this area as they can be quite aggressive at times often due to the previous interaction they have had with thoughtless humans.



After a short briefing we began the walk by crossing along the top of the dam wall, giving us a clear view of the dam. A few tortoises were spotted as well. We then continued onto the Wilson Trail section 7.

The trail skirted the dam providing many beautiful scenic spots to stop, look and enjoy. We had a coffee break near a stream and making use of boulders to sit we took in the vista on offer.



We continued on to our lunch stop. When planning the hike I had concerns that we would attract the attention of monkeys in search of a free feed; however the



monkeys were well behaved but we did attract the notice of some of the local cows who wished to partake of our lunch. The presence of the cows provided added entertainment, as did the bride and groom having photos taken with the beautiful backdrop provided by nature and some inquisitive cows in the foreground.

After lunch we continued along the Wilson Trail and detoured to visit the Arboretum which I have visited many times when I have seen many trees and plants in flower, but on Sunday there were very few blooms to be seen and it was noted by one member that there were more blooms and colour on the hillsides than inside. However, it is still a beautiful garden with a wonderful bamboo section to be enjoyed all year round. A troupe of monkeys was also spotted playing in the vines nearby.

We regrouped and marched along the road, then onto a little-used track that took us to Lead Mine Pass, after which we finished by the downhill path towards Tai Po.

We arrived a little early at the pickup spot so it was decided to continue walking on to the village for a beer or two.....

This hike is one of my favourites and I hope more people can enjoy it next time. Thanks to Glenda, Jan, Heidi (Citybus), Mr Chan (bus driver) and everyone who came hiking with me and making the NHS monthly outings (November till May 2015) so successful. Our next hike will be in November.

*Report by Frank Bradley*

