

Amble 1st July 2022

A depleted party of four set off from the car park south of Souter Point lighthouse, following the cliff top route southwards towards Whitburn. The weather held up for the occasion, with only a light sprinkling of raindrops every now and again.

As well as some attractive looking small rocky bays, there was much evidence of cliff erosion, much more so than when we last ambled this way three years ago. Some of the erosion was perilously close to the pathway, so we're just wondering how much longer this route would remain open.



There isn't much observable from the historical point of view, but the group were animated in discussing the collective memories of trams in Gateshead and Newcastle, Shepherds of Gateshead (the biggest and the best store – that jingle bringing back the memories?), what Tesco did next (Shopping City), the closure of Joplings in Sunderland and other half remembered facts from the past.

Talking of which, the amble convenor recalled memories of this place:



where the army tried to produce at least some marksmen! Some skills were harvested in the use of the SLR, GPMG, Sterling and 9mm pistol. Many a bruised shoulder on those that forgot about holding a rifle correctly.

A few hundred yards further on, the place of refreshment was reached. Slight disappointment that the café itself was closed, but food and drink were available from a side hatch. Seating was outside, but the weather stayed fine but overcast, so apart from some wet backsides from the outside seating, all was well.



As an added bonus, on the way back to the car park, a group (pod?) of dolphins were seen playing in the waves.