Nick Cowen:

Nick is a Senior Rights of Way Officer responsible for more than 2,000kms of "rights of way" in south Wiltshire. Having studied Fine Art, he became a professional photographer, but soon became disillusioned and returned to working in the countryside. He has been in his present job for more than 19 years, and has turned his hand to writing, with two "domestic travelogues" following a nineteenth century "pedestrian tourist".

The interview took place in September 2009 as Andrew Stuck accompanied Nick as he inspected a bridleway that had recently been cleared by a contractor. Published on http://talkingwalking.net

Notes of items mentioned in the interview:
Our walk took us through Hare warren woods, on Forestry Commission property: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/

What is a "right of way"?
http://www.ramblers.org.uk/rights_of_way/knowledge_portal/rights_of_way_law/basics_of_row_law

The Burnbake Trust is a charity that offers those with learning difficulties the chance to work in the countryside http://www.burnbaketrust.co.uk/

Hazel – not only can you eat the nuts but you can make much use out of it: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazel

In researching his own writing, Nick drew on the essays of William Hazlitt: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Hazlitt

His own two books are:
A Tour in search of Chalk
A Tour in Search of Flint
Are both published by the Hobnob Press, East Knoyle, Wiltshire:
http://www.hobnobpress.co.uk/8.html

Nick talks about several long distance footpaths in Wiltshire including:
- The Avon Valley http://www3.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/avon-valley-path.htm
- The Wessex Ridgeway http://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?path_name=Wessex+Ridgeway
- Monarch's Way http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch's_Way

Nick recommends two walks:
A Linear route – following the River Till from Tilshead, via Shrewton and Berwick St James to Stapleford.

A Circular route – from Tisbury railway station to Wardour Castle and back
http://www.diamondsinthelandscape.org.uk/home/walk?walkid=626006