

Wednesday, 13 January 2016, Trinity Hill, EDW & Musbury with Ted Swann

"SEASONAL SLOTHFULNESS" or "A CASTLE VIEW"

In January 2015, a walk took place from Trinity Hill near Uplyme on a gloriously sunny but cold winters' day with a thin snow blanket covering the countryside. The few that braved the cold conditions persuaded the leader to repeat the walk the following year and so on the coldest day of the year to date, seven hardy souls met up the car park to do the same walk, albeit clockwise rather than the anticlockwise route of the previous occasion. Conditions were surprisingly similar with the exception of a lack of snow and copious amounts of gooey mud following the very wet conditions.



So far, so good

The route started going east through Trinity Hill woods in muddy conditions from the start, not improved by recent forest activity where heavy vehicles had churned up the wet track. We soon picked up the East Devon Way where we turned and headed west through fields and lanes. The first real test of the day was the steep ascent to the top of Musbury Castle where we stopped awhile to take in the glorious views of the countryside below us. Following the ridge northwards, the leader was confident that seating was available close by for us to have a lunch break. The seat however was mostly covered by a pool of water rendering it suitable for only one person, but we were compensated by having our food with a lovely panoramic view, even if it was a bit chilly.



Towards Stockland from Musbury Castle



Towards Seaton



Top of the the hill & relief

The walk continued by going through Great Trill on a long permissive footpath that partly incorporated the old Seaton branch railway track. The Trill footpath was a superb route of farm and open land passing through the ancient farm buildings sympathetically modernised. The path led us all the way back to our starting point at Trinity Hill.

This footpath will only be available to us until 2019 when the agreement with Natural England expires. I would urge anyone in the area to take advantage of what is currently open to the public as this footpath traverses some lovely countryside which will be denied to all too soon. The path starts at the car park at grid reference SY304955 where a plaque on a gate indicates the permissive footpath route which is waymarked in its entirety.

Ted Swan
13 January 2016