

Thursday 4 August 2016, Around Branscombe with Jon Roseway

"Through the Hole and over the Edge!"



It was a sunny summer's morning and the legions were massing at Branscombe Village Hall car park. However, they all toddled off to the beach, leaving only five OVA stalwarts to begin the walk up the valley to Hole House. On the way I saw my first ever hedgehog since moving to Devon. Sadly, it was only half an inch thick and had clearly come off worse in an argument with a car tyre!



At Hole House, originally a Medieval manor, we descended to the stream and walked behind what was the watermill for the manor. Moving upstream brought us to another ancient habitation site on a steep hillside; Edge Barton, currently a renovated 16th century manor house with extensive views up and down the valley. A gradual climb up the access road beyond the house was followed by a flatter section of arable farmland.



We reached Weston village and turned onto the path that passes through woodland until it eventually joins the coast path.

Stupendous views of Lyme and Tor bays awaited us and were much appreciated during our lunch stop from a perfectly positioned cliff-top bench.



Another stretch of the coast path and a long descent to Branscombe Mouth in the hot sun was the excuse for tea or an ice cream at the Sea Shanty restaurant.

One of our group, a new member from Exmouth, misjudged the width of the bench he was about to sit on and inadvertently performed a back somersault



worthy of the GB Olympic gymnastics team. What's more, in an amazing feat of dexterity, he managed to save his ice cream by placing it on the table in mid tumble.

A stroll into the village completed the eight miles and we all thanked the heavens for perfect weather.

Jon Roseway

26 August 2016