

Tuesday March 6th 2018, “Steps Bridge and Mardon Down” with Iain Ure

I was one of the fortunate few that managed to meet up with the walk leader despite the closure of the road leading to Newton Poppleford. The weather was delightful with plenty of sunshine as we headed to Dartmoor and Steps Bridge where the walk started. Climbing up a hill and along a ridgeway we surprised four deer who quickly disappeared down into the steep valley. Patches of snow were scattered around us.



We headed to Heltor Rock a small isolated Tor on the edge of Dartmoor for our coffee break, taking in the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The next stop was Mardon Down where we encountered the 'headless cross' and had our lunch. Apparently it is just a standing stone and was never a cross.



After a walk through the woods where we encountered more extensive areas of snow we reached the River Teign at Clifford Bridge. We were in search of the wild daffodils along the

river banks and although there was extensive evidence of them the cold weather had delayed their flowering and most were still in bud.



It was a great varied walk that finished in the traditional way with a very good cream tea in a nearby village. It was also unusual in that it left us all with very clean boots.

Many thanks to Iain for leading such an interesting walk.

Stella French