

Saturday 31st January 2015, Templer Way Stage I with Mike Paddison

"Almost Downhill all the Way!"

Fifteen walkers arrived at the foot of Haytor Down on a cool, bright day in February to walk seven and a half miles, the first stage of the Templer Way. We had gathered at Exeter Bus Station to take the bus to Bovey Tracey and then the short drive by taxis to gather at the Dartmoor National Park Visitors Centre.

The route links the granite quarries of Dartmoor with the seaport of Teignmouth 29 km away. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries three generations of the Templer family were involved in exporting first china clay, via a canal, then granite from Dartmoor to Teignmouth Docks.

We paused for a group photo at the Templer Way logo near the original granite quarries then set off on the downhill route. The granite rails were clearly visible on the ground and we enjoyed very clear views of the surrounding moorland as we approached Yarner Wood. Beyond the woods we passed fields and mature apple orchards. We skirted the edge of Bovey Tracey and entered the Great Plantation, once part of the Templer Estate, but now owned by the Forestry Commission. This was the only really muddy part of the walk and we ended the first stage at the very busy Drumbridge Roundabout.

Road works had meant that the bus stop was not in its usual place but we found its temporary replacement with plenty of time to spare for the return bus to Exeter.

The second stage of 10 and a half miles on 11 March will see us again meeting at Exeter Bus Station for the bus to Drumbridge Roundabout. Our walk will take us through Stover Country Park, originally part of the Templer Estate and along the Stover Canal and eventually to Newton Abbot town quay. From there we will follow the Teign Estuary for the last few miles to Teignmouth itself.

Sheridan Brenchley
18 February 2105

(To be contd. Ed)

Templer Way

The Stage II finalists:-



pix by Stella