

Saturday 6th May 2017, East Devon Way Stage 1 Lyme Regis to Colyford with Penny and Paul Kurowski

We didn't know how many people would join us on this leisurely version (when compared to last year) of the East Devon Way, and were pleased to find 10 people catching the bus with us at Newton Poppleford, with a further 4 getting on at Seaton. So 16 of us set off from the seafront at Lyme Regis, walking up through the mill and along the river to Uplyme.



The walk to Colyford followed peaceful paths and roads, with plenty of time to chat to other members of the group on topics ranging from immigration in Costa Rica to EU subsidies for having olive trees on your land.

As we left Uplyme we spotted the splendid 600ft long Cannington viaduct. Research after the walk tells us that it was opened in 1903 to carry steam trains on the now dismantled branch line from Axminster to Lyme Regis, and was the first viaduct in the UK to be constructed in concrete. Mike pointed out that due to subsidence one of the arches had been reinforced with an infill of bricks.



The hillside below Musbury Castle made a good lunch stop with a fallen tree trunk to sit on and wide ranging views. An intrepid few walked up to Musbury Castle itself (an iron age hill fort) for 360° views across the country and to the sea, somewhere to aim for on a really clear day.

Even though we were tackling the East Devon Way in the “wrong” direction, it was very well signposted, with plenty of reassuring pink arrows guiding the way. The only real problem was in Musbury, where signs took us into a very attractive private garden, but didn't sign us out of it - a map and common sense took us onto the correct route. We have informed the team at East Devon Council!

From Musbury the way was flat, if winding, through water meadows of the Axe to Colyford, where at one point we were almost chased across the fields by a large group of inquisitive heifers.



As we had made good time, we diverted from our original plan and caught the tram to Seaton to enjoy ice creams on the beach before catching the trusty 9A bus back to Newton Poppleford.



Penny Kurowski