

Saturday 4th August 2018 “Devonshire Heartland Way - part 3, North Tawton to Bow” with Heather Fereday

We parked our cars in Bow near the medical centre and caught the bus to the start of the walk in North Tawton. After locating the public loos, we headed up the road and soon realised it was the wrong road so headed back into the town where we all posed for a photo in front of St Peter’s church dating back to 1257.



After a bit of confusion on my part, we then headed off in the right direction up Boucher’s Hill and across fields. The morning was fairly cloudy and cool and we were treated to some excellent views of both Exmoor and Dartmoor.

We had our lunch in the churchyard of the pretty village of Zeal Monochorum where just outside the churchyard was a very attractive bench.



The original bench was built for the Silver Jubilee and has now been rebuilt by the son of the original bench builder for the Diamond Jubilee. By this time the sun had broken through and we stopped off for a quick cool drink in a nearby pub.

In one field, we came across four horses who had their blindfolds on but had a bit more interest in us than I was comfortable with.



Next, it was a field of cows, two bulls and lots of calves. We disturbed them as they were sheltering in the shade and they came out bellowing loudly, the most intimidated I have ever felt with cows.

This is a very quiet area in Devon and it amused us that while we had met hardly anyone on our travels we suddenly came upon a junction where a horse rider, a tractor with a large bale of hay and a vehicle all arrived at the same point on this very narrow lane. We had to wait while everyone took their turn.

The last few miles were very hot and for the last fifteen minutes we left the Heartland Way and headed back to where we had parked our cars. A lovely day's walk along quiet lanes, across fields and through some welcome shaded areas.

The total walk was 10.5 miles and took 4.5 hours.

Heather Fereday, photos Paul Kurowski