

Wednesday 5th August “Coast and Country” with Iain Ure and Dee Woods

As planned a total of 12 walkers met on The Green in Otterton and assembled into two groups of 6 following brilliant signs a bit like being met by a taxi at an airport. It was warm and humid but dry with a few pools of sunshine.

We quickly set off in a direction which I had not expected, a pathway north heading between number 6 and 8 The Green. What a wondrous place Otterton is, the last leg of the return was almost due south a few yards to the east.

I was in the group led by Iain with the majority using poles, mostly two each. I found the poles particularly helpful in areas where storm water had eroded the centre of some tracks.

The route initially travelled east of the Otter beyond Anchoring Plantation where we turned more easterly towards Mutters Moor. It was as we approached Mutters Moor car park I had asked Iain where we were and I think he was amused to point out the car park signs.

A break for lunch followed near a solitary bench, unfortunately the grass was damp but we were well prepared. We then skimmed the sides of Peak Hill with some lengthy climbs which we all seemed to handle well and in good humour.

The return leg was very enjoyable with some fine views, we stopped occasionally to look at the best bits. We mostly avoided roads and even did a surprising diversion near the bus turning point in Otterton which took us behind the northern fringes of the village and directly into the pub garden, Iain clearly knew that bit well.

We seemed fairly matched for fitness so we all arrived pretty much together although the two groups were mostly just out of sight of each other.

Thank you Iain and Dee for a grand day out.

Andrew Beresford”