

Thursday 16th May, “Butterfly Heaven and Horsefly Hell” with Jon Roseway

The title of today’s walk might have put some people off but unfortunately the butterflies were scarce and the horseflies even scarcer. The bluebells were still abundant and there was plenty of variety.

The reservoir is nestled in the heart of Dartmoor National Park adjacent to the village of Chagford. It gravity feeds water into Trenchford reservoir and supplies Torquay with drinking water. Construction was completed in 1942 and the reservoir holds up to 380 million gallons.

We parked near the Fernworthy dam, walking alongside it and then climbed up to Thornworthy Tor for a coffee break and a look at the splendid views.



Then we walked on to Chagford Common and took a circuit back to the dam where we stopped for lunch and took photos of the abundant bluebells.



We opted for the extra extension after lunch which took us out on the open Moor and through Fernworthy forest. Here we spotted many skylarks which were ground nesting and a well camouflaged frog in the long grass.



From this point we also had a good view of the Fernworthy Assycombe stone row.



A lovely day for a walk and thank you, Jon, for showing us a new area.

Heather Fereday