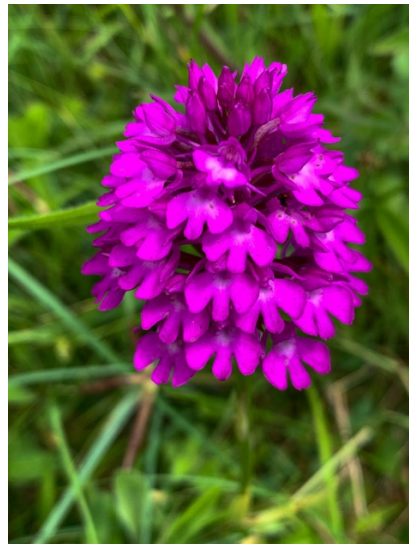


Wednesday, 7th July “Sid Valley Ring - Part Two” with Viv Insull

Viv led Part One (the western half) of this relatively new official walking route in February 2020, but unexpected events then took over and it was only possible for her to take us on Part Two nearly 17 months later. After that long wait, three members of the party nearly missed the proceedings as they failed to get off the bus from Sidmouth when it stopped in Sidbury. They would have been on their way to Honiton if the bus driver hadn't taken pity on them and stopped again almost immediately!

The route ascends gradually from Sidbury on lanes and tracks around Buckton Hill to Harecombe Farm, where it crosses the Snod Brook. After that we passed through the grounds of the imposing Knowle House and climbed up through fields and woods to the always busy main coast road, which we crossed with great care and trepidation. Here the route leaves the Sid Valley and heads south towards the sea, joining the SW coast path at Dunscombe. The display of flowers on the grassy clifftop was wonderful with a good number of Pyramidal Orchids showing off their beauty.



Heading westwards towards Sidmouth we stopped for lunch at the bench with the “best view in East Devon” according to one of our group. It's certainly a good spot to see the fresh scar on the cliff beyond Weston Combe that resulted from a large rockslide the previous Autumn.



We continued along the coast path, but soon diverted inland to contour round Salcombe and rejoined the coast path at the Frog Stone thus avoiding a steep 'down and up'. From there it was straight down into Sidmouth and across the impressive new footbridge over the Sid.

It was well worth the wait to experience this walk through varied and beautiful scenery and we expressed our thanks to Viv for leading it.

Jon Roseway (with photos by Heather Fereday)