

Tuesday, 25th January "Orcombe Circular" with Paul and Penny Kurowski

On a rather cold and grey morning, fifteen OVA walkers set off down a little-known footpath from Douglas Avenue to cross the Littleham Brook and valley. Fortunately, it had been dry for a while, so the field paths were not too muddy, even though the cattle were still out grazing.

As usual Paul had done some research on the route and had a wealth of interesting facts at various points of interest, such as the Littleham Brook and Maer Farm. The 'Mark Rolle' buildings have now been converted to residential use, and form an attractive and sympathetic courtyard development.

We carried on down towards the seaside, stopping to look at the rare Edward VII postbox at the bottom of the lane. Paul quizzed us on little-known facts relating to postal matters and pointed out that the letter opening was in the door, which stopped problems of letters being stuck in the top part of the box. The route then took us along to the promenade and up the zigzag path and on along the coast path. Paul pointed out the field which is full of early purple orchids in the spring. At the Geoneedle, we stopped for a coffee break and to consider the geology of the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage Site designated in 2001.



Then it was on to the Devon Cliffs Holiday Park at Sandy Bay passing the Straight Point Firing Range. This caravan site is one of the largest in Western Europe and has over 2,000 mobile homes but seems to be falling into the sea. We walked up through the site to Littleham, where Paul told us about the lovely church and its huge 12-acre burial ground. From there it was just a short walk along a muddy path past the historic and listed Green Farmhouse and back to the start.

Many thanks to Paul and Penny for such a pleasant and varied walk.

Dee Woods (photo by Paul)