

Walk Report – 9 June 2025 Otter to Peak

Thirteen of us, including a new walker to the OVA, joined Ross Hussey on The Green in Otterton on a sunny morning. We walked north beside the River Otter before taking a track that led into Rydon Lane towards North Star; after crossing the Ottery Road, we followed a track which became Checkenhole Lane and crossing Ladram Road, we paused at Sea View Farm.



Looking around at Sea View Farm (another of Mark Rolle's buildings).

At this point we noticed, a rusting horse sculpture on a hill overlooking Ladram Bay - this was a new sight for many of us.



The rusting horse sculpture

We followed Barr's Lane gradually ascending and finding an excellent coffee stop with two excellent views: over the rolling fields and over the sea. Austin made sure that he claimed the best seat for Jenny and himself.



Austin claims the best coffee-stop seat.

We walked alongside the High Peak Plantation and stopped at the track for the short hike up to the trig point at the top of High Peak - some of the group didn't take the challenge to go up but were happy to talk to a woman and her 10 year old child about their camping walk along the Jurassic Coast to Bournemouth: they had completed 10 miles the day before.

On the way up we spotted a slowworm - unfortunately, it was injured. Nine of us went up to the top to 'bag a trig' as well as a great view. The way down was a bit skittery on the loose stones.



The injured slowworm



Nine of us went up: here's eight of them ... I was behind the camera!

We continued along the coast path - a workman from the EDDC was replacing a post in the kissing gate down from the woods as we descended towards the Ladram Bay caravan park. As there have been cliff/rock falls, the path cuts inland before emerging into the centre of the complex with the welcome relief of the toilets.



The view from the coast path of the impressive sea stacks including Hern Rock before Ladram Bay.

We left the caravan park walking along Lower Larderham Lane to cross Ladram Road and continuing on Bredon Lane where we saw wonderful barley fields 'waving' in the breeze. At one stop, someone spotted a dragonfly ... no-one could identify it from four metres away with the naked eye - it took me ages before I spotted the distinctive large and impressive dragonfly.



Golden-ringed Dragonfly

Having crossed Ottery Road, we went up the path behind Anchoring Farm, across Anchoring Hill passing the back of gardens and The King's Arms to drop down to the start point. We had completed the walk - bang on the allotted three hours!

Well done to Ross for a great walk, which included some paths that I have not gone along before. The company was excellent and the weather was great - all in all a wonderful morning in the fresh air and gaining more "leg miles"!

Paul Kurowski