

Friday 1st March, “Branscombe to Beer” with Rosemary and David Hatch

It was a rather cloudy day as we all met up in the car park at Branscombe Mouth. We were told we would be walking along the Hooken Undercliff path, an area where in 1790 a large portion of the chalk cliffs fell away separating a 10 acre piece of land. We were also to look out for a peregrine falcon as we walked east along the undercliff path.

We set off past the beach and up towards the few mobile homes close against the cliffs.



Then it was into the undercliff area with its mix of exposed cliff faces and surrounding woodland. Birds were seen flying above us but no peregrine falcon. We headed upwards towards an area where a chalk pinnacle could be seen and then there it was, the peregrine falcon perched right on the top and confirmed with binoculars.

After enjoying this spectacle we continued climbing via a steep set of steps to the top of East Cliff where we stopped for a coffee break.



Here we enjoyed the spectacular views to the west and could see the sun breaking through over the cliffs of Peak Hill and beyond, hopefully heading our way.

We wandered around the cliff top taking in the views in both directions before turning back along the cliff top path past the old Coastguard Lookout. The sun came out as we stopped to admire the view as we started the descent back to Branscombe. I glanced backwards and saw two paragliders float over the cliffs.



From Branscombe we took the coast path to the west climbing up West Cliff and stopping to peak at the sheer drop to the beach below. A footpath into the woods brought us back down into Branscombe by St Winifred's church. It is one of the oldest parish churches in Devon founded in 995 probably on Saxon foundations and with a 12th century square Norman tower.



We then passed the The Forge and St Branoc's Well before taking the footpath through the valley back towards the beach. Once here the majority stayed for an enjoyable lunch in the Sea Shanty.

Thank you Rosemary and David for taking us on an invigorating walk with such beautiful views.

Stella French