

Tuesday 11th June ‘ Musbury Castle Walk’ with Paul and Fran Dike

Despite the torrential early morning rain, 8 of us joined Paul and Fran at Musbury for what proved to be a wonderful walk.

We followed the East Devon Way from Musbury and then continued steeply up to the Castle; the rain gradually eased, and we were rewarded by long-reaching views when we reached the top. This Iron Age hill fort commands views across to Somerset and Dorset, and of course wonderful East Devon, then out to sea past Axmouth and the white chalk cliffs of Beer Head.

Paul is a geographer and a mine of information about the area. We could clearly see the areas of housing of Seaton, Colyford and Colyton – with only a few green fields separating them – a separation local people are keen to maintain!



We could just spot Colyton church, a rare “lantern church” which had a lantern in the tower to guide in the ships from Axmouth in times when the Axe was more navigable than it is now. In the valley the Axe now meanders its way calmly to the sea.

From Musbury Castle we continued our circular route along quiet lanes (ignoring the aptly names Pudleylake Lane) past farms and through fields of cattle. We had a coffee stop and all enjoyed Fran's delicious flapjacks.



Fortified, we decided not to take the short option, but to keep to the planned 6 miles. We were rewarded with more glorious views and as we walked through an extensive farm area some interesting finds including a horse with a very impressive mane.



We were intrigued by a sign in the field offering a taxi pick up (there had been a wine festival there last weekend with live music, feasting and glamping) but we carried on walking.



Soon we rejoined the East Devon Way and a very steep climb back up to the Castle. The view to Seaton had by now cleared. Then it was down to Musbury where pub lunches awaited, pausing to enjoy the banks of gloriously scented roses near the church, the views, and the lovely houses.

A real treat of a walk, even in the rain – we agreed we should return on a clear sunny day sometime.

Penny Kurowski