

22 October 2017: Magor Marsh, Redwick, and Coast Path

On a lovely bright autumn morning the day after Storm Brian had lashed the UK, ten LWR members and two guests set off from Magor Marsh Reserve car park for a six-mile walk.

The group first went to the hide to check out the bird life on the pond; unfortunately, apart from a few mallard, there was little to see, so the walk continued through the reed beds and meadows in the reserve before branching off to follow a track between the reens known to some locals as the “Bus Stop” because, so the story goes, a bus once took a wrong turn and ended up getting stuck in the marsh; here, the group came across over a dozen swans, some miniature ponies and their foals, and some very inquisitive bullocks. After a short stretch along lanes, the walkers reached the village of Redwick, where they stopped for a coffee break outside St Thomas the Apostle Church. Before resuming the walk, the group had a look around the church, at the entrance to which is a mark noting the level of the 1606/07 flood, which killed over 2000 people.

What should have been an easy part of the walk, the track down to the coast wall, proved to be a slippery and rather smelly experience as the previous day’s rain and the local farmer’s muck-spreading activities combined to produce a thick layer of slurry over the path—needless to say, everyone took great care not to slip and fall!

On reaching the coast wall, the group paused to take in the view across the Channel: curlews were probing the sand for food, and a peregrine was spotted flying across the water. Along the coast path, it was good to see quite a few butterflies still active. The long grass on the coast path proved an effective boot cleaner, so by lunch time, the smell of slurry was a distant memory. Just as they were finishing lunch, the group were treated to a “mini-murmuration” of starlings over the coast wall.

Leaving the coast path just before Magor Pill, the final leg of the walk took the group along the lanes back to Magor Marsh Reserve.



