

## **17 June 2023: Walk Report - Three Choirs Way: Munderfield Row - Hereford**

This was the second leg of the Worcester to Hereford section of the Three Choirs Way. The weather report had settled down to a moderate risk of showers amid a pleasant temperature and ample sunshine. The morning started with a 50 minute drive to Munderfield Row thanks to Judith.

The four of us expected another 22km amble across gently rolling farmland. The 10km to the picnic lunch stop was just as before, lush farmland, growing crops and picturesque old farmsteads. It is a route that threads together the tiniest of villages but with medieval churches at St Mary the Virgin, Much Cowarne and St James, Ocle Pychard.

Margaret joined us at lunchtime thanks to our backup driver Lesley. The going after lunch became quite rough and slow. Despite being a national trail on the OS map, it has suffered multiple insults to its integrity. Most of it is not walked, the waymarks are gone, the long grass is untouched and one huge field deep-ploughed. There was a particularly derelict section overgrown to shoulder height. The sticky grass seeds have ensured my best walking socks will never be the same again. Navigating was more of a puzzle than usual as there wasn't a trace of a path on the ground. We resorted to maps, compass and GPS numerous times.

The ground conditions eased off by Withington but the air was hot and steamy with humidity until a brief splatter of refreshing rain. The last straight crossing of Lugwardine Bridge over the flood meadows east of Hereford felt a long way without a turning. Fortunately, as we reached Hereford, we passed a Londis for ice lollies and extra cold drinks before arriving at the Bus Station well in time. The National Express then whisked us back to Gloucester in air-conditioned comfort.

Bruce