

Walk 120618

Mark Underhill, the NT Countryside Manager for North Pembs took over as walk leader as James Roden, the Ranger for the area, had gone on a Project Management course.

On another lovely evening we assembled at Abermawr beach where Mark talked of the Trust's strategy for land management Driven by the statistics that show a serious drop in most of the fauna species in the UK, the Trust is developing an active programme to improve the biodiversity of the flora growing on its land. This should provide a better environment for fauna. In Pembrokeshire there is a common agreement on this strategy between the Trust and the National Park. However, although they control a significant length of coastline, this in many places is very narrow which limits the impact they can have.

Mark's walk, as we left Abermawr, took us past a sandstone' cliff in which there were many active sand martin nests. Apparently sand martins are some of the earliest birds to migrate back to the UK summer. We then walked across Aberbach beach where, as we climbed the cliff, there was a NT sign saying we were entering Treseissyllt. (I have still not found anyone who can pronounce this at a normal speaking rate). Here Mark explained that 'Treseiss...' is a farm of about 150 acres on which the Trust would like to experiment to see if it is possible to run a coastal farm in a way that meets its guidelines and would allow the farmer to make a living from it. He then introduced us to Ian and Nia, both with familiarity to farming in Pembrokeshire and in good environmental practice, who have just taken on the challenge. We had a long chat about the problems and opportunities of the farm. These include soil depth, acidity, use of fertilisers and pest control. We wished them well as we returned to Abermawr.

PS. If anyone conquers the pronunciation of Tre.....yllt, try your luck on 'The Leith Police dismisseth us'.