

## Walk 170718

Our circular walk around Lawrenny was led by Stackpole Ranger Alex Shilling and was the first time he has acted as our guide. The NT land at Lawrenny comes under the management responsibility of Stackpole.

The first part of the walk took us through woods on NT land. They are a protected wood with mainly Sessile oaks with an under-canopy of Service trees, which are related to Rowan trees. Both these trees are rare in West Wales but have thrived at Lawrenny for a long time. The Service trees look very ordinary at this time of year but apparently their leaves go bright red in the autumn. As with all woods, there are competitor trees at Lawrenny. Holly trees and Rhododendron contend with the Service trees to create the understorey. They have to be managed to stop them becoming dominant. Interestingly bracken is the enemy of the Sessile oaks. It grows well in the woodland and can stunt the Sessile saplings. The woodland is also an SSI with lichens, moss and liverwort thriving in the damp environment. We then moved out of the woodland and walked along the River Cleddau shoreline. Alex was relieved he had calculated the tidal timetable correctly. The eye catching feature, along the little cliffs, were the huge Sessile oaks just hanging onto the edge with all their roots growing inland.

We joined the road taking us back to Lawrenny but then took a path which cuts back to Lawrenny Quay. Standing near the site of the demolished Lawrenny House there was a wonderful view where the tributaries of the Cleddau split to follow their ways as the Carew River and Cresswell River.