

## STAGE 4

### THORVERTON TO BICKLEIGH

6KM/4 MILES

This stage is also suitable for cycling and is waymarked with the Exe Valley Way logo.

#### DESCRIPTION

The southern half of this stage climbs high up the sides of the Exe Valley, giving superb views over the valley and beyond, as far as the sea on a clear day.

The northern half follows the valley floor. The floor is relatively flat

and the sides make the valley quite a distinct feature here. The route passes Bickleigh Castle, a medieval fortified manor house, open to the public at certain times.

The villages at either end, Thorverton and Bickleigh, are both very picturesque.

#### FACILITIES

There are pubs and shops in the villages at both ends; there is also a car park at Thorverton and parking may be available at Bickleigh by permission of the owners of the Devonshire's Centre, a craft and farm centre.

There is a regular bus service between Exeter and Tiverton which passes Bickleigh; some buses divert into Thorverton.

#### ▲ NORTHBOUND ▲

From the small green in the centre of Thorverton take the minor road which climbs gently from the main road. Keep on the lane, going left at the first farm track, climbing then descending to a crossroads.

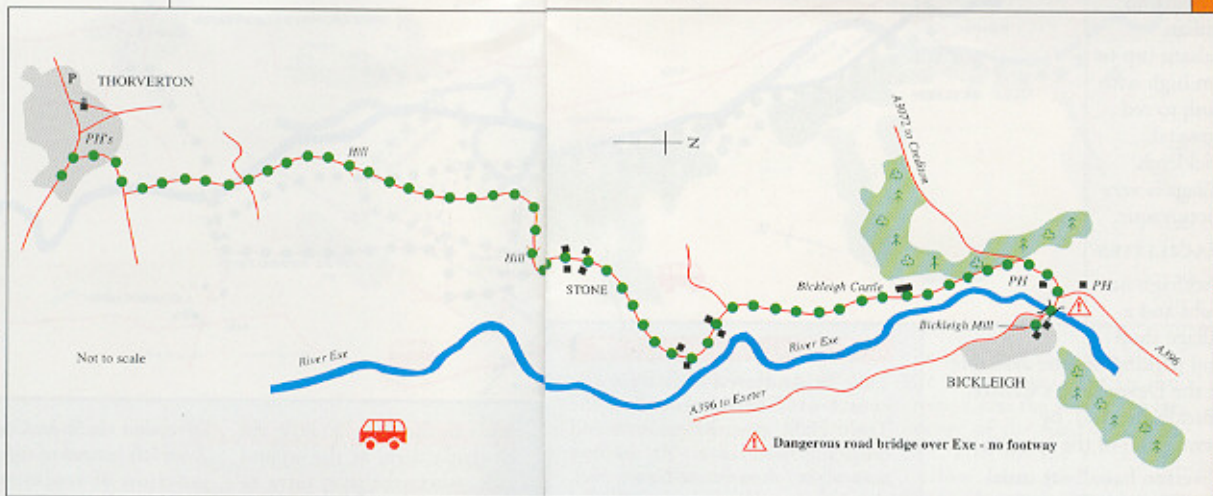
Go straight across at the crossroads, climbing steadily then, keeping on the lane, descend steeply back to the floor of the Exe Valley. Pass Bickleigh Castle, and at the road junction continue ahead. Be wary of traffic on this stretch.

Cross the bridge to the main road at Bickleigh. Cross the Exe on Bickleigh Bridge then fork left down the minor road to Bickleigh Mill (Devonshire's Centre).



Bickleigh village shop is straight on beyond the Mill.

*The Bickleigh area is much photographed throughout the year.*



#### ▼ SOUTHBOUND ▼

With your back to Bickleigh Mill, turn right to the main road. Be wary of traffic on this stretch. Cross the Exe on Bickleigh Bridge, then immediately fork left (signposted Crediton). Cross the next bridge, then fork left on a minor road (signposted Bickleigh Castle) and go along the lane past the castle.

Keep to the lane as it climbs out of the valley bottom, then descends to a crossroads. Go straight across at the cross roads, climbing then descending; bear right at the farm

track and go on into the village of Thorverton.

### *Make use of the Buses!*

Frequent and regular bus services operate near to the walking route on Stages 1 to 5 providing opportunities to plan walk and ride options.

Phone Devon TRAVEL-LINE

0870-6802608 for up-to-date information.

