

STAGE 5

BICKLEIGH TO TIVERTON

6 1/2 KM/4 MILES

Much of this stage is waymarked with the Exe Valley Way logo.

DESCRIPTION

This stage closely follows the east bank of the Exe, much of it through woodland. These rich woodlands of oak and ash are characterised by violets, early purple orchid and Indian balsam (up to 3m high with pink to red flowers). Bickleigh village is very picturesque.

FACILITIES

Bickleigh has pubs and a village shop and parking may be available at the Devonshire's Centre (Bickleigh Mill) by permission of the owners. Tiverton has all the usual facilities including a Tourist Information Centre in Phoenix Lane. Regular buses connect Bickleigh and Tiverton to each other and to Exeter.



▲ NORTHBOUND ▲

Take the road into Bickleigh Mill (Devonshire's Centre) and turn left immediately before the house "Millhayes". Go through the gates to a field edge beside a stream, then head for a wooden gate to a woodland path.

Follow this sometimes muddy path parallel to the river. Turn left off the path shortly after descending to the riverside. Follow this permissive path, courtesy of the landowner, across a ditch and alongside the Exe to an open field.

Continue alongside the Exe to a stile, cross and turn left, still parallel

to the river. Cross the stile at the end and walk ahead into the wood.

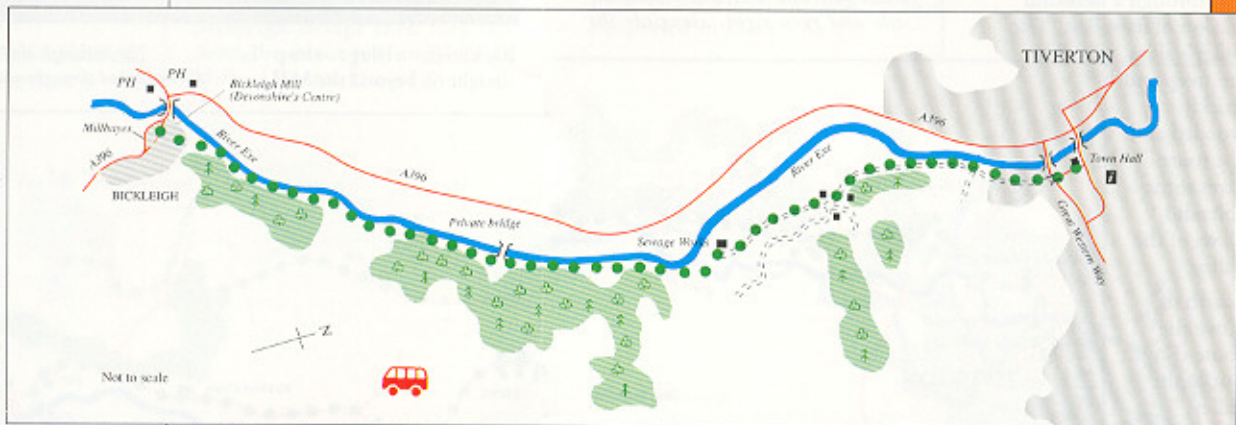
Keep to the path, passing a private suspension bridge on the way. From the stile just after the bridge head diagonally left uphill to another stile. Follow the woodland path and at the gate turn left, then right at the stile into a field.

There may be changes here. If in doubt follow the waymarks to the waterworks. Cross the ditch, then go ahead next to the wood on the right to a gap

in the hedge. Continue ahead and head for the right hand side of the waterworks. Aim for the stile in the far corner.

Cross the stile, pass the waterworks and continue on the track straight ahead. Keep going for 1 1/2 km (1 mile) and at the road junction turn left into St Andrew Street. Cross the footbridge and pass the museum to arrive in Tiverton.

The town centre is to the right at the Town Hall; turn left to continue north on the Exe Valley Way.



▼ SOUTHBOUND ▼

Take St Andrew Street from the centre of Tiverton (next to the Town Hall), pass the museum and cross the footbridge. At the end turn right, then immediately fork right on to a lane running parallel to the river. Continue for 1 1/2 km (1 mile) to the waterworks.

Cross the stile next to the waterworks entrance and take the path past the works. *There may be changes here. If in doubt follow the waymarks to the woodland path.* Cross the next stile and continue ahead parallel to the hedge and head for the gap at the far end of the field. Pass through and keep ahead, with the wood on the left, to a stile at the far end of this next field.

Cross the stile and turn left. Go through the gate on the right and soon after fork right on to a woodland path. At the end of the

wood cross the stile and go diagonally right downhill to another stile. Cross and continue along the riverside past a private suspension bridge, on to a woodland path.

At the end of the woods cross

the stile and continue along the field edge, next to the river. Cross the stile at the far corner of the field and turn left, still on the riverside. Follow the Exe on the permissive path, courtesy of the landowner, to the far end of this large field.

Cross the stile and continue on the riverside; cross a ditch and bear to the left to meet a path. Turn right along this sometimes muddy path through woods, parallel to the river.

At the end go through a gate and along the field edge, next to a stream to the Bickleigh Mill complex. Go through the gates to the lane and turn right to continue on the Exe Valley Way south.



Angel Hill, Tiverton