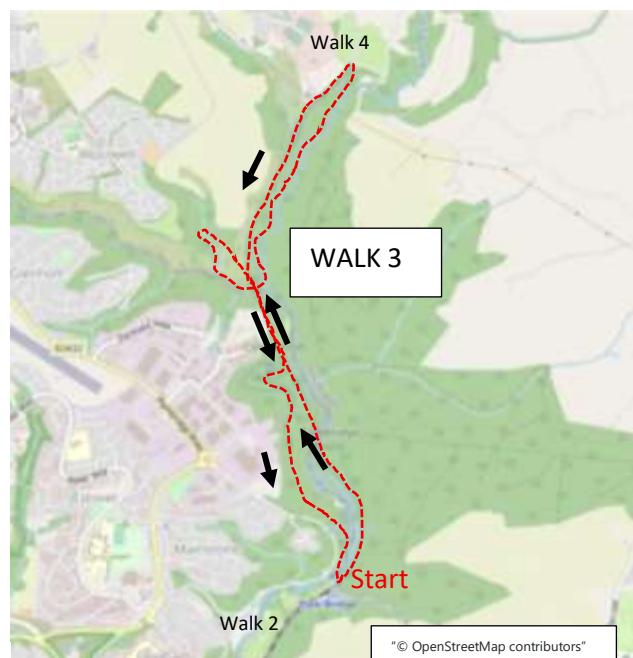


Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 3 Plymbridge to Bickleigh Bridge

From Plymbridge the West Devon Way now continues all the way to Goodameavy on the old railway line now a cycle track which is a bit over 4 miles. It does go through a tunnel and over several impressive viaducts but so as you can visit the countryside on either side of the railway the 4 miles of railway track cycle path is split into two walks with Walk 3 only going as far as Bickleigh railway Bridge for a 4.5 mile circular walk.

Park in either of the car parks at Plymbridge. If you time it right you could park at Marsh Mills where Walk 2 started from and catch a delightful tourist train which is sometimes pulled by a steam engine to Plymbridge Halt. Part way along the cycle track we are going to drop down to the river Plym this is because a path at the Bickleigh railway bridge end down to the river is steep and could be slippery if wet so it is much safer to walk up than down. Consequently for a short stretch of the West Devon Way you will be walking back in a southerly direction to do what might be loosely described as a figure of 8 walk.



The walk starts at the large Plymbridge car park which we walked through on Walk 2. From Wrigley's roundabout Estover follow Plymbridge road for the quarry car park. From

Plympton follow NT signs to Plymbridge for the main car park.



If you have parked in the quarry car park on the West side of the river Plym walk over the river bridge



and under then over the railway bridge.



Setting off from the large car park walk up the ramp and over the bridge to reach the cycle track and West Devon Way.



It's a lovely walk along the cycle track but do keep in to the right hand side to face the cyclist as they are silent and can get up quite a speed.



Keep going when you reach this opening with the bridge in front of you. However, it is important that you remember this turning and the bridge in front of you because we are

going to return here and go over the bridge on the way back to Plymbridge.)

At one time it was possible to turn right here and go down to the river and then follow it all the way up to the next viaduct but the way is now blocked.



Having gone over the viaduct immediately on the other side fork left up a steep bank that quickly levels out to a narrow path.



When the narrow path reaches a wide dirt road turn left and follow this road all the way down hill ignoring any tracks that lead off to the right.



When you reach this T junction turn left and keep walking down hill and under the viaduct. Ignoring the little bridge under the viaduct keep on going to follow the river Plym which will soon be on your right. Now walk along the river bank.



Quite some way along the river bank you will reach a rock outcrop that borders the river which is a good place to stop for a snack. A few yards past the outcrop the path splits left and right. The paths both end up at the same place but although steeper

the left fork is the one to use as it is quite likely the river has flooded the lower path.



Soon after the paths re-join they split again but this time you must ignore the narrow riverside path and fork left to walk up the steep rocky path to get back on to the railway line. Halfway up you will see the smooth rocks which is why we walk up and not down.



At the top, and just a few paces before stepping out on to the road, go sharply left and take the path that leads down to the railway line cycle track. When you

reach it turn left. You are now back on the West Devon Way but this time walking in a southerly direction.



In just over a mile you will arrive back at the bridge you walked under an hour or so ago. Go back under the bridge and turn left to go up the slope and then walk over the bridge.



Go through a wooden gate and walk up the path, through another gate and up the steps to reach a wide level track. You have reached the Plymouth and

Dartmoor Tramway which opened in 1823 and which mostly took granite from Princetown to Sutton Harbour. Most of the rails were removed in 1916.



**When you reach the wide level track
turn left**



**Stay on the track for nearly a mile
until you see some tall fencing
enclosing a protected area of
woodland on your left. Turn left and
follow the fence line downhill
ignoring the downhill cycle track
through the woods. *(If you have
reached a bridge you have gone a bit
too far. Go back to the fencing)***



At the bottom of the hill turn right and walk along the level track to a gate.



Go through the gate and out on to the road and walk back to your car.



The next walk in the series will take you through a tunnel.