

# River Plym Sea to Source

## Walk 3 Plym Valley and Bickleigh Bridge

From Plymbridge there was until a few years ago a path that went along the river bank all the way to Bickleigh Bridge. Sadly this now does not exist as the permission for the permissive path was withdrawn and in very recent years the river has flooded such that the riverside path has been all but washed away.

Park in either of the car parks at Plymbridge to walk to Bickleigh Bridge and back on this 5.5 mile walk. 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.



The walk starts at the large Plymbridge car park which we walked through on Walk 2. To reach the start from the Wrigley's roundabout at Estover follow Plymbridge road for the quarry car park and walk over the bridge. To reach the start 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 and walked over the river bridge**



**now go under then over the railway bridge.**



**Setting off from the large car park walk up the ramp and over the bridge to reach Route 27 cycle track which is also part of the 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 can get up quite a speed.**



**Keep going when you reach this opening with the bridge in front of you but 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.)**

**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 river banks are now so eroded it really is a struggle to get through. Suggest you stick with the described route.**



**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. On the other side you will find 4 large logs lying on the ground which is a good place to stop for a snack. A few yards past the logs 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. This as far as you go on this section and now return to Plymbridge although still within the Plym Valley.**



**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 route 27 and the West Devon Way.**

**The route back however only uses part of the cycle track.**



**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.**



**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.**



**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 where you parked your car.**