



Life in the SLOW LANE



- 5** Go through the metal gate and follow the blue arrow. Go through another metal farm gate and veer right (sp blue arrow), past the 'Caution - Hazardous Airfield Activities' sign. The meadow up here is almost alpine in appearance with its backdrop of pine trees. Pass the static caravans and the glider trailers and follow the road past the clubhouse and café (where non-members are welcome).
- 6** Go through the gate beside the cattle grid and continue ahead. At the end of the road turn right along another lane, passing the entrance to Golden Cleave. A little farther on, just past the black and white road bollards, turn right following a public bridleway '1' sign, through a wooden gate marked 'No Parking'.
- 7** Go along the grassy path that now descends the hill. Go through another wooden gate marked with a blue arrow and continue along the footpath that runs along the edge of the field. Continue to the next gate - pass through this and continue, heading through another gate as you go. At the lane turn right and continue down the hill back into the village, taking care as this lane is busy and there's no footpath. Return to your vehicle.

The Caravan Club Magazine recommends the use of Ordnance Survey maps - your ideal passport to navigating Britain

Jo Vaughan seeks out a sleepy Devon village that makes a great base for a quiet ramble



Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 192

THE VILLAGE of Broadhembury seems an unlikely setting for one of our walks - especially as it takes about 30 minutes to get there from the Club's Exeter Racecourse site, but this tiny little hamlet is worth the drive. There's nothing much here but a small post office-cum-shop, a church and a pub, with many of the thatched cottages remaining unchanged since the 16th century. If it weren't for the smattering of parked cars, you would feel like you were stepping back in time.

This walk does take in a few lanes, but it's all extremely quiet and peaceful, and the views from the top of North Hill, as you

approach the gliding club, are spectacular. Once you've started to descend, it's downhill all the way!

The roads leading to the village are very narrow, but I did come across several small lorries and delivery vans, so brave members with smaller motor caravans should be fine.

Be careful where you park though - please be considerate and don't block any windows or driveways. There are some spaces on the road up to the church (although this leads to a dead end) and another couple beside the children's playground (signposted from the humped-back bridge). Don't say I didn't warn you about the roads in advance!



DIRECTIONS

1 With your back to the post office situated in the centre of the village, turn right and walk along the road until you cross the humped-back bridge. Keep left and continue walking along the road, beside the small stream. Pass some beautiful thatched cottages.

2 Upon passing 'Rafters', the penultimate house on your left, turn right up a grassy track following a public signpost that's partially hidden in the bushes. This is marked with a yellow arrow and a number '6'. Very soon veer left at a farm gate and cross the stile. Head right to continue along the right edge of the field. At the top corner, cross the stile and then veer very slightly left to walk diagonally across the next field towards a gap between two big clumps of trees.

3 As you crest the hill there is a wire fence ahead - keep this fence to your right until you reach the end of the field. Go across the stile via the steps and turn right to walk along the lane. At a crossroads, where there's a sign to the left stating 'Hembury Court', turn right along a narrower lane that immediately starts to ascend. Continue past the farm buildings and the farmhouse's fascia where there's a green public bridleway sign marked '2'. Follow this along the now stony track.

4 Ignore the right bend where the track goes into a field through a gate - instead continue straight ahead up a narrower path between two hedgerows. Continue up the hill, ignoring the stile and the public footpath sign marked '4', still keeping to the same track. You soon come across a wire fence on your right - follow this as it leads you up the hill.

INFORMATION

- Club site:** Exeter Racecourse Caravan Club Site, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7XS. Call 01392 832107. Open 27 March to 2 November
- Distance:** 5.1 miles/8.2km
- Terrain:** mostly good footpaths, some lanes
- Number of stiles:** 3
- Essential equipment:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 115
- Level of difficulty:** moderate
- Refreshments:** Gliding Club café
- Toilets:** Gliding Club café

