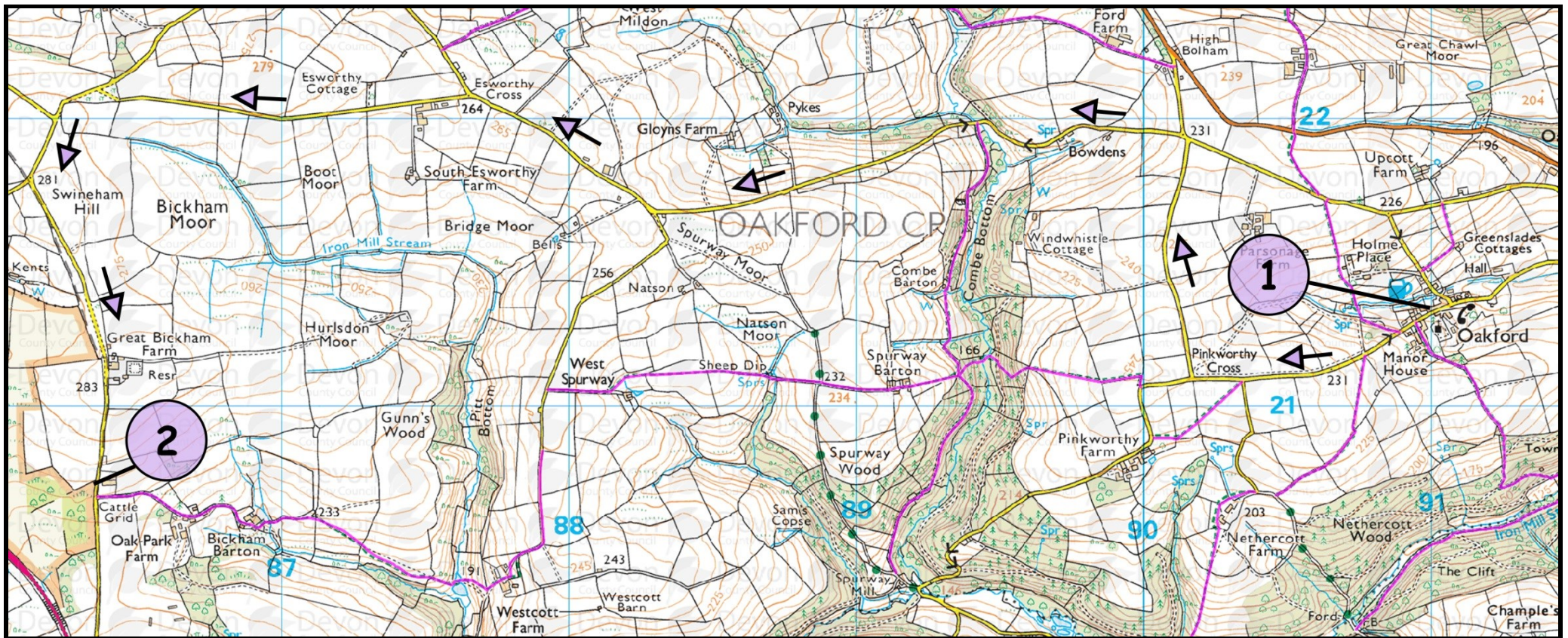


Walk 7

Time 90 minutes Distance 5.5km (3.4 miles)

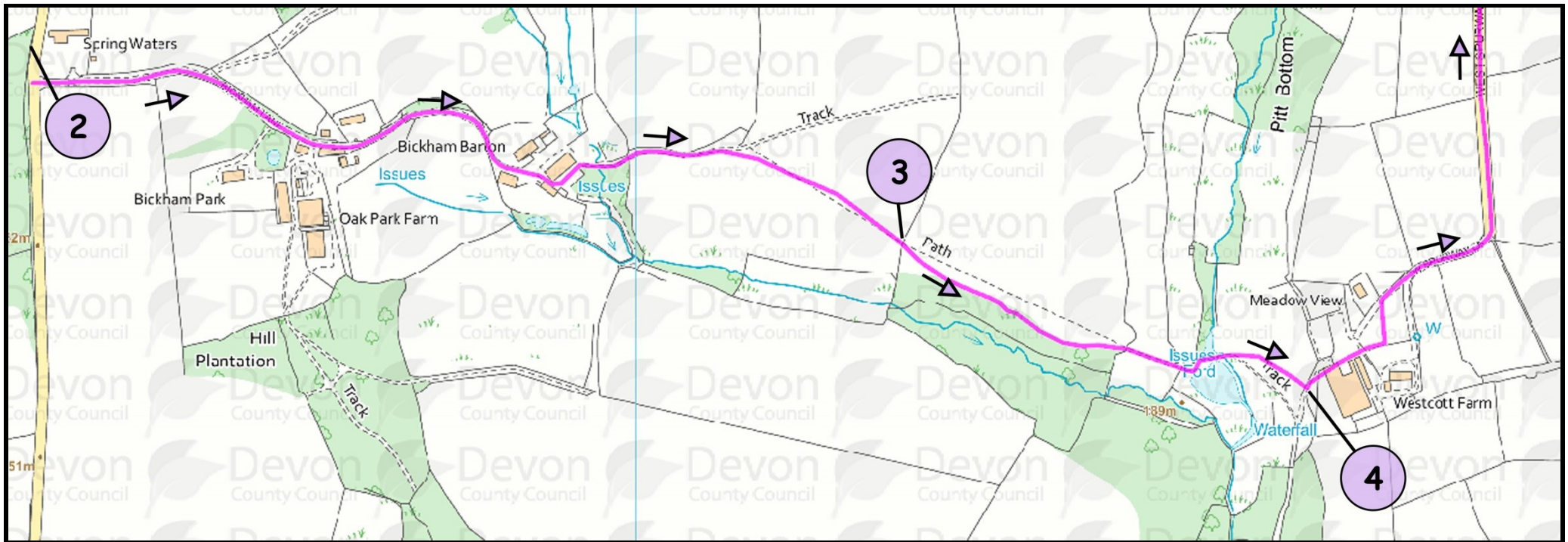
This is a “one way” walk, starting from the western edge of Oakford parish. It is best tackled with a group of people with more than one vehicle, unless you are happy to do an 11km (7 mile) there-and- back walk.

1. Leave one vehicle in Oakford village **①**, and then drive via **Fordmoor Cross** and **Esworthy Cross** to the driveway to **Bickham Barton** (OS map grid reference SS864206) **②**. There is a convenient layby to leave the vehicles a few yards back along the road. The distance from the village by road is about 7.5km (4.5 miles).



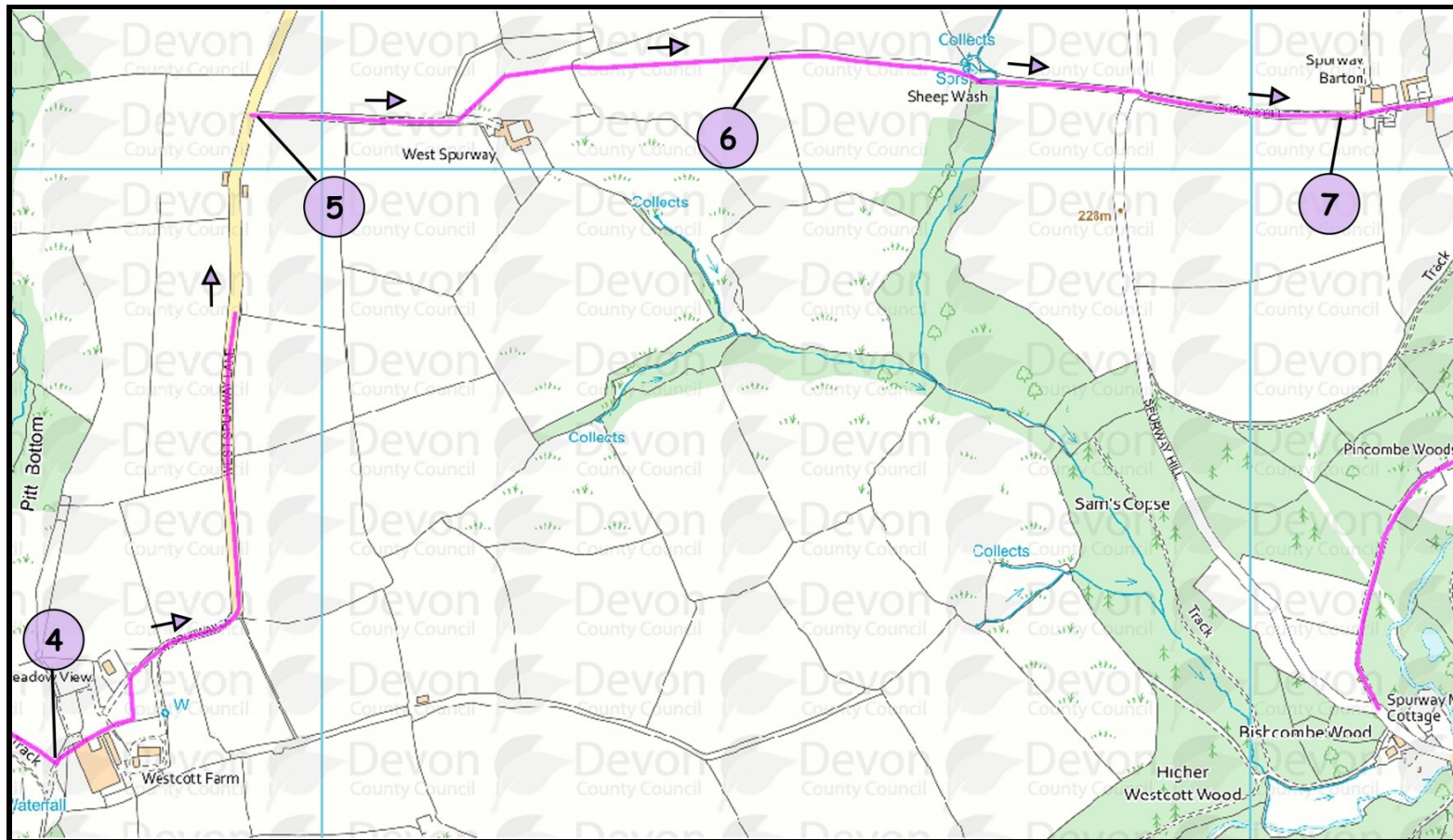
Walk 7, Continued...

- Walk down the drive to **Bickham Barton**. Follow the waymarks through the farmyard and out into the lane the other side. The lane leads into a big field, where you will see a waymark on a post directing you diagonally down to a gate at the far corner of the field (3).
- Go through this gate and walk straight on, keeping the wooded area to your right. At the far end of the field, go through a gate into the grounds of **Westcott Farm**. Follow the waymarks down to the bottom of the valley, across Iron Mill Stream and climb steeply up the other side to a stile at the top of the field.
- This takes you into the yard where you turn left (4), past the farm buildings and farmhouse on your right. Remember to leave all gates as you find them. Continue up the lane, which turns into a tarmacked road, for about 500 metres until you see a lane on your right to **West Spurway**.



Walk 7, Continued...

5. ⑤ Follow this lane for about 200 metres, but before you approach the farmhouse you will see a waymark directing you through a gate on your left into a field. Cross the field diagonally, leaving the farmhouse on your right, to the next gate, and continue close to the left hand field boundary to yet another gate ⑥.
6. Keep straight on downhill along the left hand field boundary to a gate which takes you into the lane with Sheep Dip at the bottom. Follow this lane uphill and go straight across the lane at the top.
7. You now go past **Spurway Barton** on your left ⑦. Continue straight on down the field, keeping a hedge on your right, to a gate into woodland. Immediately after you go through this gate, take the waymarked track left which leads steeply down to the bridge over **Combe Water** ⑧.



Walk 7, Continued...

8. Go over the bridge into an area which has been replanted with mixed deciduous trees. Keep going towards the flights of steps straight ahead. The first flight of about ten steps takes you to a forest track. Cross this track, going left for a few yards. You now have a long climb up the “hundred steps” to the edge of the wood. At the top of the long flight, cross another forest track, climb ten more steps and continue to a gate at the top of the woods (9).
9. Go into the field and go across it slightly to the left, aiming for the second electricity pole from the right, with a small tree to the left of it, until you reach the far hedge. If you have got your angle right you should find a marked gate, go through and keep to the right hand side of the field, until you reach another gate in the right hand hedge (10).
10. Go through it, follow the left hand hedge for a few yards and go through the gate on the road. Turn left and go up the road, to **Pinkworthy Cross**, where you take the right hand fork. Carry on along the road until you get back to the village where you have parked the vehicle to take the drivers back to retrieve their vehicles at **Bickham Barton**. Meanwhile, if you have timed it to correspond with opening hours, the rest of your party can enjoy the welcome hospitality of the **Red Lion**.

