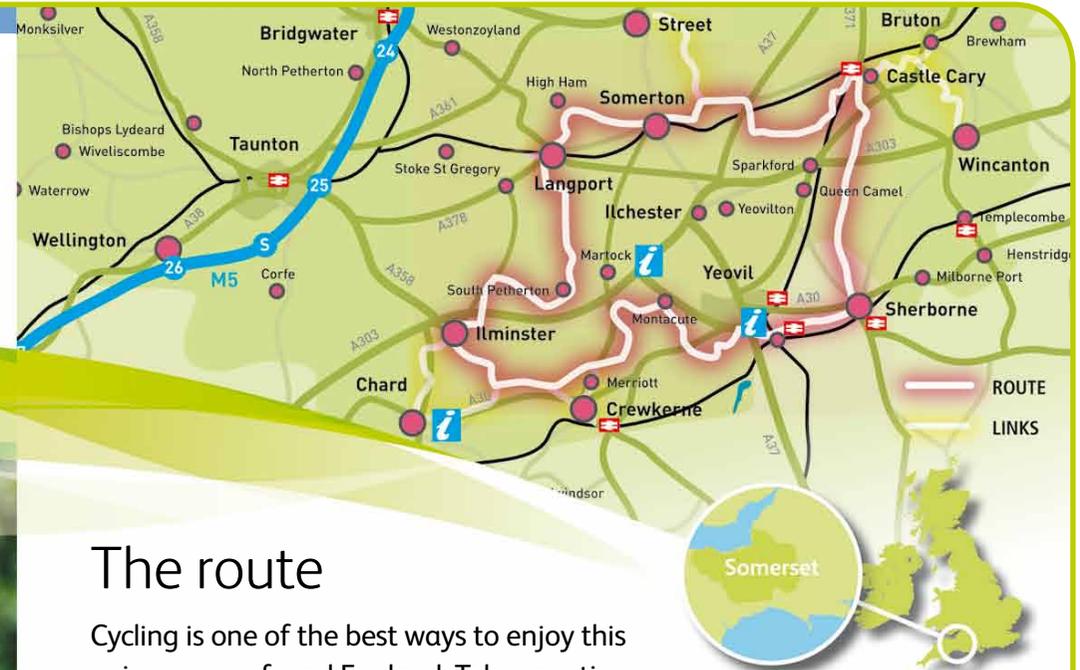


80 mile Cycle Route around South Somerset



follow 8 easy stages

Section 1 7.3 miles 11.8 km

Yeovil Junction to Sherborne

Section 2 11.8 miles 19 km

Sherborne to Castle Cary

Section 3 14.2 miles 22.8 km

Castle Cary to Somerton

Section 4 13.9 miles 22.3 km

Somerton to South Petherton

Section 5 8.7 miles 13.9 km

South Petherton to Ilminster

Section 6 7.3 miles 11.7 km

Ilminster to Merriott

Section 7 6.6 miles 10.6 km

Merriott to Montacute

Section 8 8.7 miles 14 km

Montacute to Yeovil junction

Follows Sustrans regional routes 30, 26 & 33

The route

Cycling is one of the best ways to enjoy this unique area of rural England. Take your time exploring the gentle hills and vales to the north east of Yeovil, the intriguing lowland Somerset moors and the hamstone villages and historic market towns.

The 80-mile route can be undertaken as a whole, in the eight stages described, or adapted using the maps listed below to plan your own short cuts. To visit more of the beautiful historic towns in South Somerset follow the links in the relevant sections to Wincanton, Bruton, Chard, Crewkerne and Yeovil. We have also indicated how to reach the West Country Way via Bridgwater or Glastonbury to extend your cycling holiday.

We begin at Yeovil Junction railway station so you can bring your bike with you on the train, but you can join the route at any point. The route described is anticlockwise, but it can be done either way. The direction at junctions should be indicated with brown "South Somerset Cycle Route" signs or Sustrans regional route 30, 26 or 33, or a combination of signs. Unfortunately, sometimes the signs go missing so, if you notice any gaps please let us know on (01935) 462462.

We recommend using **Ordnance Survey** maps in addition to our guide. The following maps cover the area of the route and can be ordered from the **Cartgate Tourist Information Centre** on 01935 829333

OS EXPLORER MAPS

- 129 Yeovil & Sherborne
- 142 Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East
- 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hill

OS LANDRANGER MAP

- 183 Yeovil & Frome
- 193 Taunton & Lyme Regis
- 194 Dorchester & Weymouth

The majority of the ride is along quiet country lanes where tractors and wildlife may well be the only hazards encountered. However, always be alert as the roads can be narrow and there may be some fast moving traffic. On the occasions where it is necessary to use short sections of busier roads to get to the tranquil countryside, this is indicated in the instructions. Likewise when there is a hidden or sharp junction we have marked the description with "easily missed".



Section

1

7.3 miles

11.8 km

Yeovil Junction to Sherborne

- 1** Exit Yeovil Junction Railway Station. At T-junction with the road turn left under the railway bridge then after ¼ mile take the first left "Bradford, Sherborne" following the red sign. Crossing the narrow bridge you enter Dorset.
- 2** At T-junction after 1½ miles, turn left "Bradford Abbas", cross the bridge over the river then turn first left "Bradford Abbas".
- 3** Follow the road through the village past the Rose and Crown PH and under the railway bridge. At the T-junction at the end of the road turn right following the blue sign.
- 4** Continue along this road for two miles. At the start of woodland (½ mile after going through a minor X-roads), turn right down a no through road. Go past a farm (Lenthay Dairy House) and through two gates close together. Go down the narrow field keeping left of the fence to a gate at

- the bottom and then turn left onto a rough track at the blue sign. This track leads to Lenthay Road.
- 5** Continue along Lenthay Road to the traffic lights at the junction with the A352. Go straight ahead on to Horsecastles. At X-roads at the end of Horsecastles carry straight on into Trendle Street. At the T-junction at the end of Trendle Street bear left.
- 6** Cycle past Sherborne Abbey and follow the road round to the left and then to the right. Take the second left up St. Swithin's Road. At the end of the road turn left into Newland and onto The Green.
- 7** Turn left (NS) before the bus shelter into Back Lane and turn right to continue down Back Lane, follow the road down the hill and around the right hand bend. Turn left at the junction of Back Lane with the A30.



YEovil



The major town of South Somerset with the best shopping centre in a very wide area, the Octagon Theatre (www.octagon-theatre.co.uk), Goldenstones Pools and Leisure Centre (www.goldenstones-leisure.co.uk) the Yeo Leisure Complex (www.yeoleisurepark.co.uk) and many other facilities and attractions.

BRADFORD ABBAS

Bradford Abbas is a large, mostly modern village but with a street of pleasant older houses, situated alongside the River Yeo. The Church of St Mary is one of the most beautiful in West Dorset and the heavily battlemented exterior is almost all from the 15th Century.

SHERBORNE



Sherborne is an historical and picturesque market town with a 15th Century Abbey (www.sherborneabbey.com) at its heart and two castles on the outskirts. One of these, Sherborne Castle, (www.sherbornecastle.com) was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and is surrounded by a lake, lawns and parkland. Also worth a visit are the museum (www.sherbornemuseum.co.uk) and 15th Century Almshouse. There is delightful and varied shopping in the town centre with handcrafted goods and elegant fashions. An excellent rest stop with several teashops and restaurants.

DETOUR TO ILCHESTER



Once a major Roman garrison town on the Fosse Way and the county town of Somerset until the 19th Century. Its past is echoed in the Georgian houses and town hall, which contains a fascinating museum. The Fleet Air Arm Museum (www.fleetairarm.com) at RNAS Yeovilton, Haynes Motor Museum (www.haynesmotormuseum.com) at Sparkford and the 14th Century Lytes Cary Manor and gardens (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) are nearby.



Yeovil Country Park cycle path

Section

2

11.8 miles

19 km



Sherborne to Castle Cary

- 8** Take the first right onto the B3148 "Marston Magna" Warning! This is a difficult right turn - wait for a gap in the traffic. Cross the main road onto the B3148 then after 150 yards turn first right. Follow this lane for 3 miles. Steady climb but windy descent. Take the first right after the Mitre Inn in Sandford Orcas, (approximately 300 yards). It is a sharp junction taking you back on yourself to "Holway, Corton Denham". At the T-junction after ½ mile fork left "Corton Denham".
- 9** Follow this road for 2½ miles, passing through Corton Denham with the popular Queens Arms (www.thequeensarms.com). ¼ mile after passing the no through road

- to Witcomb Farm on your right, take the next right "South Cadbury". At the T-junction turn right.
- 10** Go through South Cadbury, past the Camelot PH, cross the bridge over the A303. Go through North Cadbury, past the Catash Inn (www.catash.com). On a sharp left-hand bend (with chevrons) bear right.
- 11** After 1½ miles, at T-junction turn right. At T-junction at the end of Hearn Lane, turn left then shortly right onto Frog Lane.
- 12** At X-roads with the A359 go straight ahead onto Small Way Lane "Castle Cary". At T-junction with B3152 turn right in to Castle Cary. Warning! Busier road.

DETOUR TO BRUTON



Picturesque little town on the river Brue, founded in Saxon times and retaining many intriguing glimpses of its past including Jacobean almshouses, abbey remains and the famous dovecote (NT). Narrow alleyways - called Bartons - link the High Street with the riverside walk, 15th Century Packhorse Bridge and magnificent twin-towered church. A small museum tells much of the town's history. The watermill at Gant's Mill (www.gantsmill.co.uk) has been restored and is occasionally open to the public.

SHERBORNE - see section 1 for details

CADBURY CASTLE



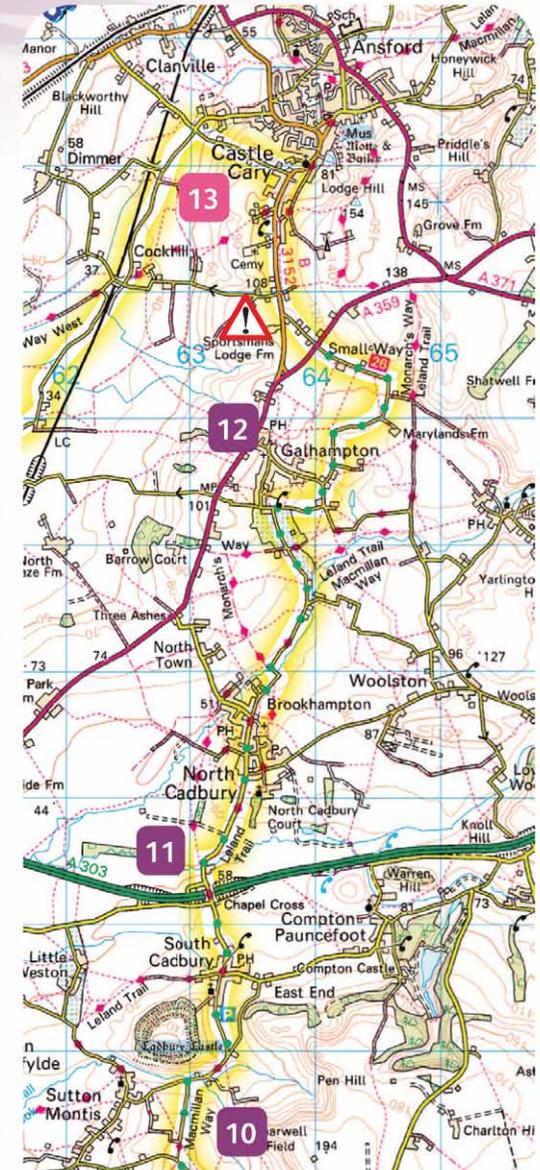
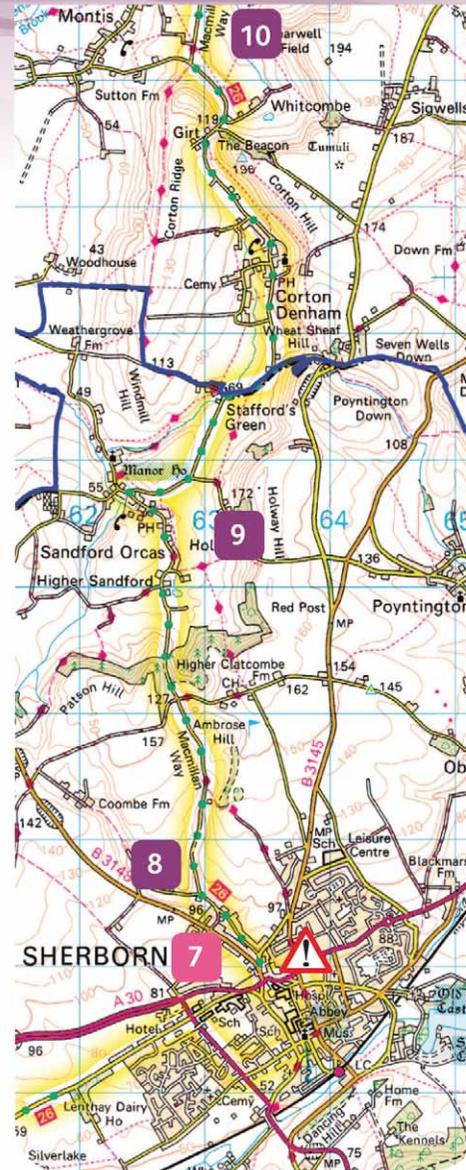
The route passes the foot of Cadbury Castle, the Iron Age hill fort, reputedly King Arthur's 'Camelot'. It is worth leaving your bike to climb the track to the summit. Although nothing remains of the fortifications, the impression of a great fortress lingers and the views of the Somerset countryside extend to Glastonbury and beyond

DETOUR TO WINCANTON



Wincanton is a charming market town overlooking the Blackmore Vale. Elegant Georgian houses and coaching inns record its importance as a staging post on the main road from London to Plymouth. Horses still contribute to the town's economy, thanks to Wincanton racecourse, which has a full National Hunt programme.

MAP: Explorer 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and Explorer 142 Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East



Alternative start point

JOINING THE ROUTE FROM WINCANTON AT CASTLE CARY

- From the clock tower in the centre of Wincanton, take the B3081 "Bruton". After ½ mile, opposite a petrol station, turn left onto Verrington Lane.
- Easy to miss! Follow this road for 3 miles then opposite a red-brick house take the first right by a triangle of grass (NS).
- At a T-junction by a triangle of grass turn left downhill. Go past the church and take the next right "Redlynch". Go beneath railway bridge. At T-junction turn left (NS)
- After ¾ mile, at offset X-roads with A359 turn left then right "Pitcombe". Pass beneath the railway, twice. At T-junction in Pitcombe, at the top of a short hill, turn left (NS)
- Follow this road for 2½ miles, following signs for Castle Cary. At X-roads with A371 go straight ahead onto North Street "Town Centre". Follow the one way system. At T-junction with the B3152 turn right to join the South Somerset Cycle Route.

DETOUR TO CASTLE CARY



Vibrant market town with winding main street of thatch and golden stone below Lodge Hill where the 11th Century castle stood. The museum in the Market House has a display on diarist Parson Woodforde who lived at neighbouring Ansford. On Bailey Hill stands the 18th Century 'pepper pot' lock up, one of only four in the country.



Section 3

14.2
miles

22.8
km

Castle Cary to Somerton

13 In Castle Cary, at the T-junction of Lower Woodcock Street and the B3152 turn left. After ½ mile turn left onto Torbay Road "North Barrow".

14 Follow this road for 3 miles. At T-junction turn right and go through North Barrow. At X-roads go straight-ahead "Babcary".

15 After 2 miles, at T-junction (in Foddington) turn right "East Lydford, Keinton Mandeville."

16 At T-junction with B3153 turn left. At traffic lights with A37 go straight ahead, Warning! Busier road.

17 In Keinton Mandeville, turn left onto Queen Street. After ¾ mile, on a sharp left-hand bend turn right by a telephone box onto Church Street "Charlton".

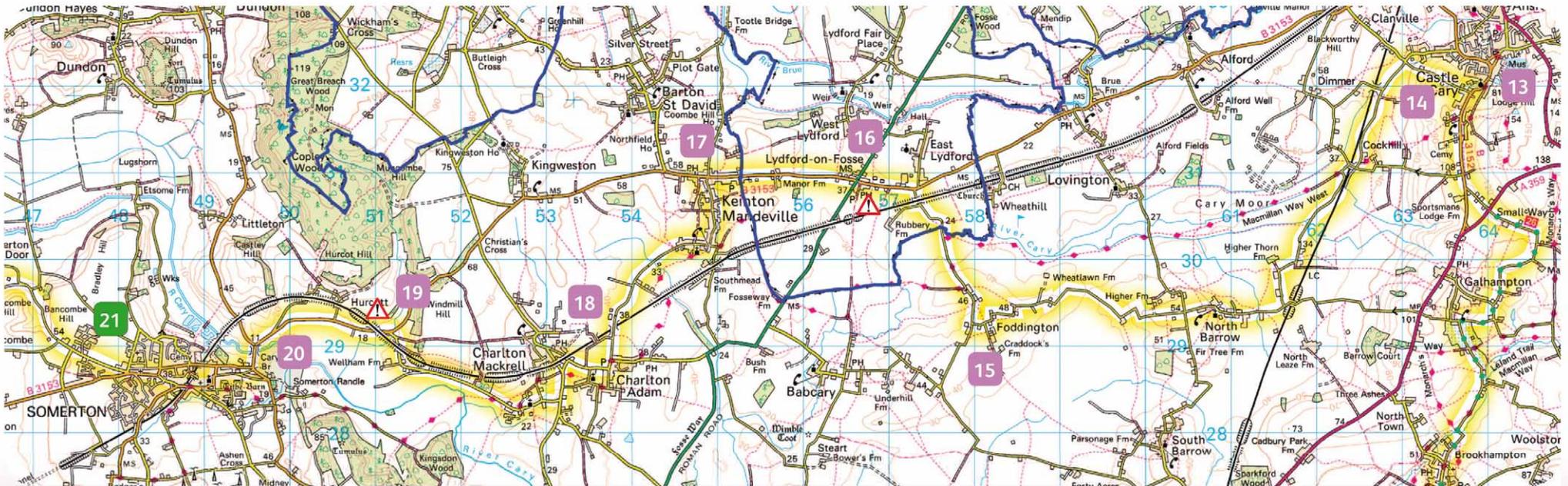
18 After 1½ miles, at a T-junction on a sharp bend in Charlton Adam bear right and follow the road round a sharp right-hand bend then after ½ mile round a sharp left-hand bend. At T-junction turn left "Somerton" then first right "Somerton", follow for 2 miles.

19 At T-junction with the B3153 turn left "Somerton". Warning! Busy section. At T-junction with B3151 (NS) turn left again "Somerton" then after crossing the bridge take the second right, climbing uphill.

20 At T-junction with New Street bear right. At T-junction with B3153 (Broad Street) turn left "Langport, Taunton". At The Triangle follow the road bearing right along the B3153 "Langport" to Somerton.



MAP: Explorer 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and Explorer 142 Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East



Alternative start point

JOINING THE ROUTE FROM GLASTONBURY AT KEINTON MANDEVILLE

1. With back to the abbey turn left. At the roundabout bear left "Frome, Shepton Mallet". Shortly, on a sharp left-hand bend go straight ahead onto Butleigh Road then take the second left onto Bretenoux Road.
2. Follow Chalice Road round to the left then shortly turn right through fence/metal barrier and right onto a minor road. After ½ mile take the first lane to the right.
3. Lovely section. At T-junction with a wider road in Coxbridge turn right (NS). Go through Baltonsborough following signs for Barton St. David.
4. After 2 miles, cross bridge over the River Brue and turn left "Yeovil, Somerton". After 1 mile, at the X-roads with the B3153 in Keinton Mandeville, go straight ahead onto Queen Street to join the South Somerset Cycle Route.

CASTLE CARY - see section 2 for details

SOMERTON



Reputedly the 7th Century Royal Capital of Wessex. The 17th Century square, market cross, town hall, elegant houses and inns create an attractive townscape of outstanding architectural and historical interest. Somerton Arts Festival takes place annually in July. In the valley of the river Cary, north of the town, are the trout lakes of Viaduct Fisheries. Also home to the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen www.somersetsguild.co.uk



Market House, Castle Cary

Section 4

13.9
miles

22.3
km

Somerton to South Petherton

21 Follow B3165 East out of Somerton. At mini-roundabout by telephone box bear left "Langport" (NS) then after ¼ mile take the second of two closely spaced right turns (Bancombe Road) "Westcombe, Low Ham". Follow this road for 4½ miles.

At T-junction turn right "Langport". At next T-junction turn left "Langport" then shortly first right "Wearne" (NS). Ignore a no through road to the left. Take the next left by The Old Farm House. At X-roads with main road turn right. Warning! Follow this busier road through Langport.

22 Immediately after crossing the bridge over the River Parrett turn left onto Westover Trading Estate (past the Langport and River Parrett Visitor Centre) and follow in the same direction as the tarmac turns to track. Continue along the dismantled railway for 1½ miles. (This section has

a rougher surface). Go through gates. At the T-junction with lane turn left. At the next T-junction (NS), by the abbey (www.english-heritage.org.uk) in Muchelney turn right "Kingsbury Episcopi".

23 Follow this road for 3 miles, through Muchelney and Kingsbury Episcopi. Immediately after the Wyndham Arms PH www.wyndhamarms.com turn left "Martock, Yeovil". Shortly, as the road swings sharp left, bear right.

24 At T-junction turn left. At next T-junction, at the end of Southay, turn right "West Lambrook" then left "South Petherton".

25 After 1½ miles, at the T-junction turn right "South Petherton". At the end of Prigg Lane turn right into St James Street.

SOMERTON - see section 3 for details

LANGPORT



Formerly a river port on the Parrett, this ancient market town is noted for its distinctive houses on Bow Street and the 'hanging chapel' gatehouse in the old town wall. Beyond the wall is the handsome parish church of adjacent Huish Episcopi with its magnificent Norman doorway. Kelways Nursery (www.kelways.co.uk), famous for peonies, is east of the town. Stop off at the Langport and River Parrett Visitor Centre to find out more about walking and cycling in this fascinating landscape.

MUCHELNEY



In medieval times Muchelney was an influential Benedictine Abbey. Excavations of the 10th Century abbey and the preserved remains of the 15th Century cloister and abbot's house (English Heritage - www.english-heritage.org.uk) can all be seen. There is also an interesting parish church and the National Trust thatched priest's house (www.nationaltrust.org.uk). Nearby is the potter John Leach (www.johnleachpottery.co.uk) and a trout fishing lake at Thorney. (www.thorneylakes.co.uk)

KINGSBURY EPISCOPI



Hamstone village boasting an ancient lock-up on the green, magnificent church and numerous small orchards. A traditional cider farm on Burrow Hill is home to the famous Somrset Royal Cider Brandy (www.ciderbrandy.co.uk) and prize-winning ciders.

EAST LAMBROOK

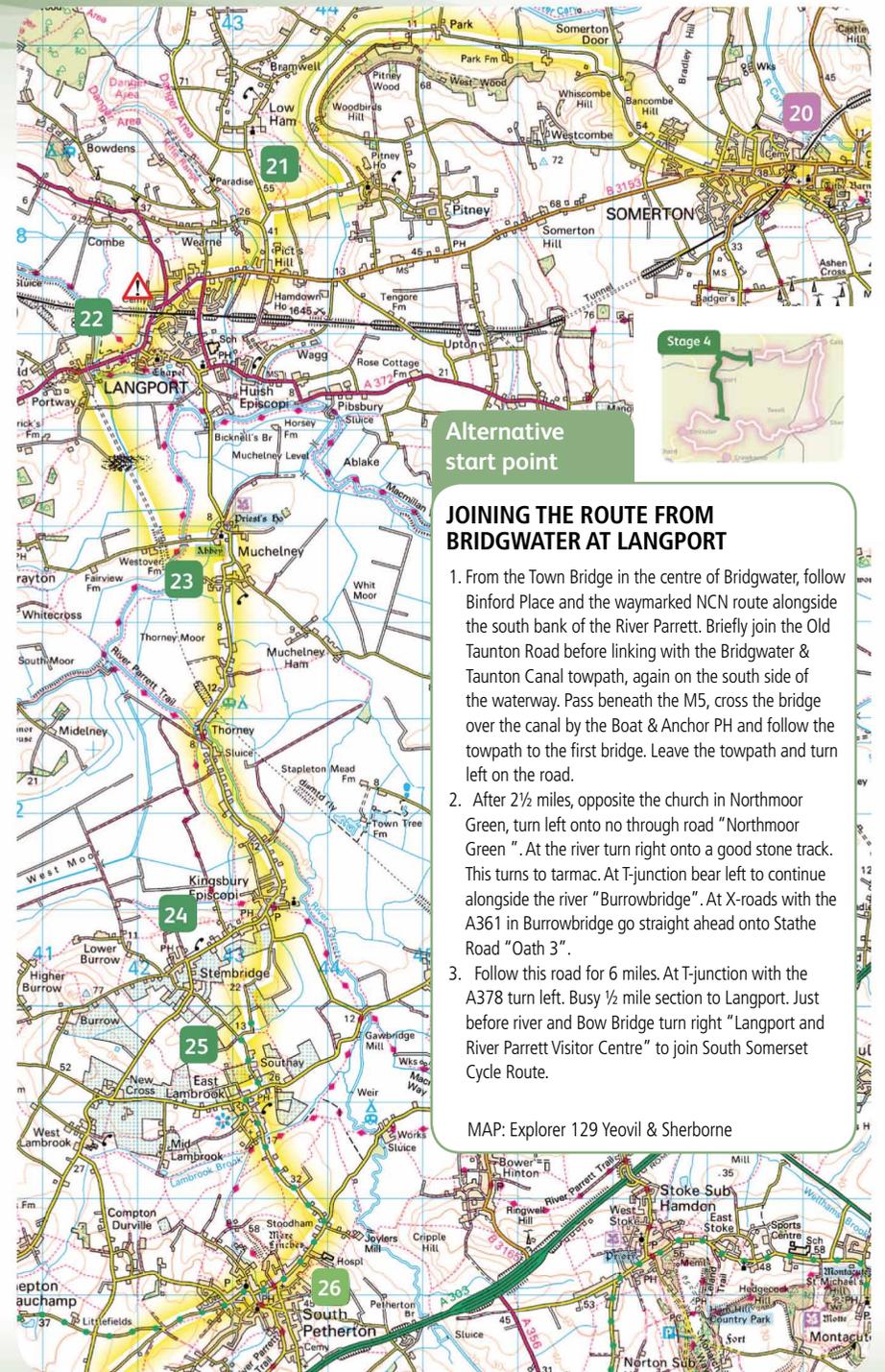


South of the village is East Lambrook Manor, once home of the late Margery Fish and one of England's best-loved gardens (www.eastlambrook.co.uk). Now a Grade II listed garden, it continues to inspire and delight with many rare plants.

SOUTH PETHERTON



You can buy all the essentials in this thriving village with a post office, wide range of shops and lively cultural life based on the David Hall Arts Centre. Many interesting buildings and the church of St Peter and St Paul in a lovely, elevated position.



Alternative start point

JOINING THE ROUTE FROM BRIDGWATER AT LANGPORT

1. From the Town Bridge in the centre of Bridgwater, follow Binford Place and the waymarked NCN route alongside the south bank of the River Parrett. Briefly join the Old Taunton Road before linking with the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal towpath, again on the south side of the waterway. Pass beneath the M5, cross the bridge over the canal by the Boat & Anchor PH and follow the towpath to the first bridge. Leave the towpath and turn left on the road.
2. After 2½ miles, opposite the church in Northmoor Green, turn left onto no through road "Northmoor Green". At the river turn right onto a good stone track. This turns to tarmac. At T-junction bear left to continue alongside the river "Burrowbridge". At X-roads with the A361 in Burrowbridge go straight ahead onto Stathe Road "Oath 3".
3. Follow this road for 6 miles. At T-junction with the A378 turn left. Busy ½ mile section to Langport. Just before river and Bow Bridge turn right "Langport and River Parrett Visitor Centre" to join South Somerset Cycle Route.

MAP: Explorer 129 Yeovil & Sherborne

Section 5

8.7 miles 13.9 km

South Petherton to Ilminster

- 26** Follow the road North through South Petherton. On a sharp right-hand bend towards the end of the village bear left onto a continuation of Palmer Street. Climb, emerge from cutting, then bear right "Shepton Beauchamp". At X-roads by "Stop" sign go straight ahead.
- 27** At the T-junction in Shepton Beauchamp turn right then on a sharp right-hand bend by the Duke of York PH (www.thedukeshepton.co.uk) turn left onto "Great Lane". Shortly, at X-roads turn right "Barrington".
- 28** ½ mile after passing the Royal Oak PH in Barrington turn left on to Shelway Lane. At T-junction by a triangle of grass turn right. At the next T-junction turn sharply left "Stocklinch" and follow the road through the village.
- 29** Cross the bridge over the A303. At T-junction (NS) with busier road turn right and immediately right

- again sharply back on yourself "Dillington House" (www.dillington.com).
- 30** Keep on the drive cycle past the house and to the T-junction with B3168 by a thatched lodge house, turn left uphill. Warning! Busier road.
- 31** At T-junction at the bottom of the hill (NS) in Ilminster (with a church opposite) turn left. After 400 yards, opposite the Bell Inn PH, turn right on to North Street "Town Centre". At X-roads by the Market Cross turn left on to East Street.



MAP: Explorer 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hill



SOUTH PETHERTON - see section 4 for details

BARRINGTON

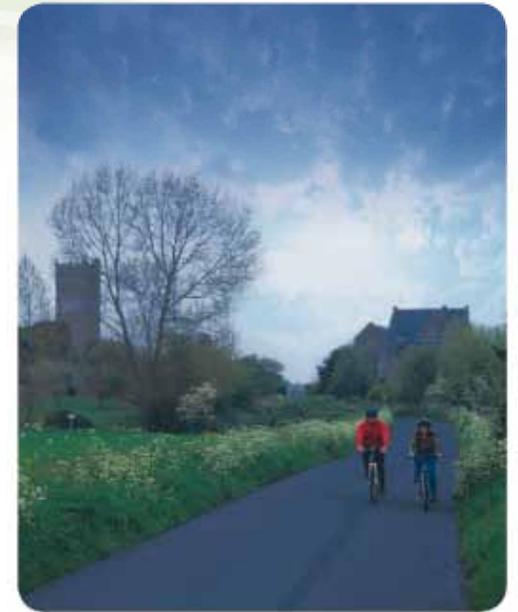


Cottages of hamstone and thatch, old and new, line the village street to 16th Century Barrington Court (www.nationaltrust.org.uk), a National Trust property, restored earlier this century. The parish church dates from the 13th Century.

ILMINSTER



The fine Minster church that gave the town its name towers above small shops and narrow streets. Climb nearby Herne Hill for extensive views over this charming market town and the Isle valley. Attractions include the Warehouse Theatre (www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk), the Meeting House Arts Centre (www.themeetinghouse.org.uk) and the annual Ilminster Experience Festival.



Cycling at Muchelney

Section

6

7.3 miles

11.7 km



Ilminster to Merriott

- 32** Heading East out of Ilminster, at T-junction turn right "Seavington St Michael" then shortly bear right "Kingstone, Crewkerne".
- 33** After 1 mile, on a sharp left-hand bend in Kingstone, on the brow of the hill, turn right "Dowlish Wake" (NS) then immediately left (NS).
- 34** Go past the church in Dowlish Wake. On a sharp right-hand bend near to a stone bridge bear left "Chillington". At T-junction turn left uphill "Ludney, Allowenshay".
- 35** At X-roads by a triangle of grass turn right "Crewkerne" then after 300 yards, as the road swings right, bear left "Dinnington".
- 36** At T-junction bear left then take the second right "Hinton St George, Merriott". Shortly, at T-junction turn right.

- 37** Follow this road for 3 miles, passing through the village of Hinton St George. At T-junction turn right (follow road down the hill from Merriott).

JOINING THE ROUTE FROM CHARD AT ILMINSTER

- 1. Start in Stringfellow Park at the toucan crossing over the Crewkerne Road.
- 2. Follow the Stop Line Way, (www.sustrans.org.uk) a walking and cycling route, partly following the Taunton 'Stop Line' constructed in 1940 as a defence against invasion of the South West.
- 3. In Ilminster the route finishes at the toucan crossing on Canal Way.

Alternative start point

JOINING THE ROUTE FROM CHARD AT DOWLISH WAKE

- 1. From the clock tower in Chard turn right downhill. At the first roundabout go straight ahead on the A30 "Yeovil" At the second roundabout go straight ahead then after 150 yards take the first left onto Alvishayes Road.
- 2. After ½ mile, and shortly after passing a small block of shops on your left, take the next road left (NS). At the bottom of the hill, just beyond the "Touches Meadow" signpost, go straight ahead between the concrete bollards and turn left. After ½ mile, at the T-junction turn right.
- 3. Follow this road for 2¼ miles into Dowlish Wake. On a sharp left-hand bend at the start of the village, just past a low old stone bridge on your left, turn right "Chillington" to join the course of the South Somerset Cycle Route

MAP: Explorer 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hill

ILMINSTER - see section 5 for details

DETOUR TO CHARD



The spacious High Street of this vibrant town is flanked by two streams and a wide variety of good shops. Its history since the 13th Century is imaginatively recounted in the museum at Godworthy House (www.chardmuseum.co.uk), which also has the Stringfellow Collection celebrating the inventor of powered flight. Chard Reservoir nature reserve (www.southsomersetcountryside.com) and Hornsbury Mill (www.haselburymill.co.uk), with its working wheel and landscaped water garden, are not far from the town.

DOWLISH WAKE



Home of Perry's Cider Mills (www.perryscider.co.uk) with orchards, stream, ford and the ancient New Inn (www.newinn-ilminster.co.uk). The churchyard contains the tomb of John Hanning Speke, the 19th century explorer, who discovered the source of the Nile.

MERRIOTT

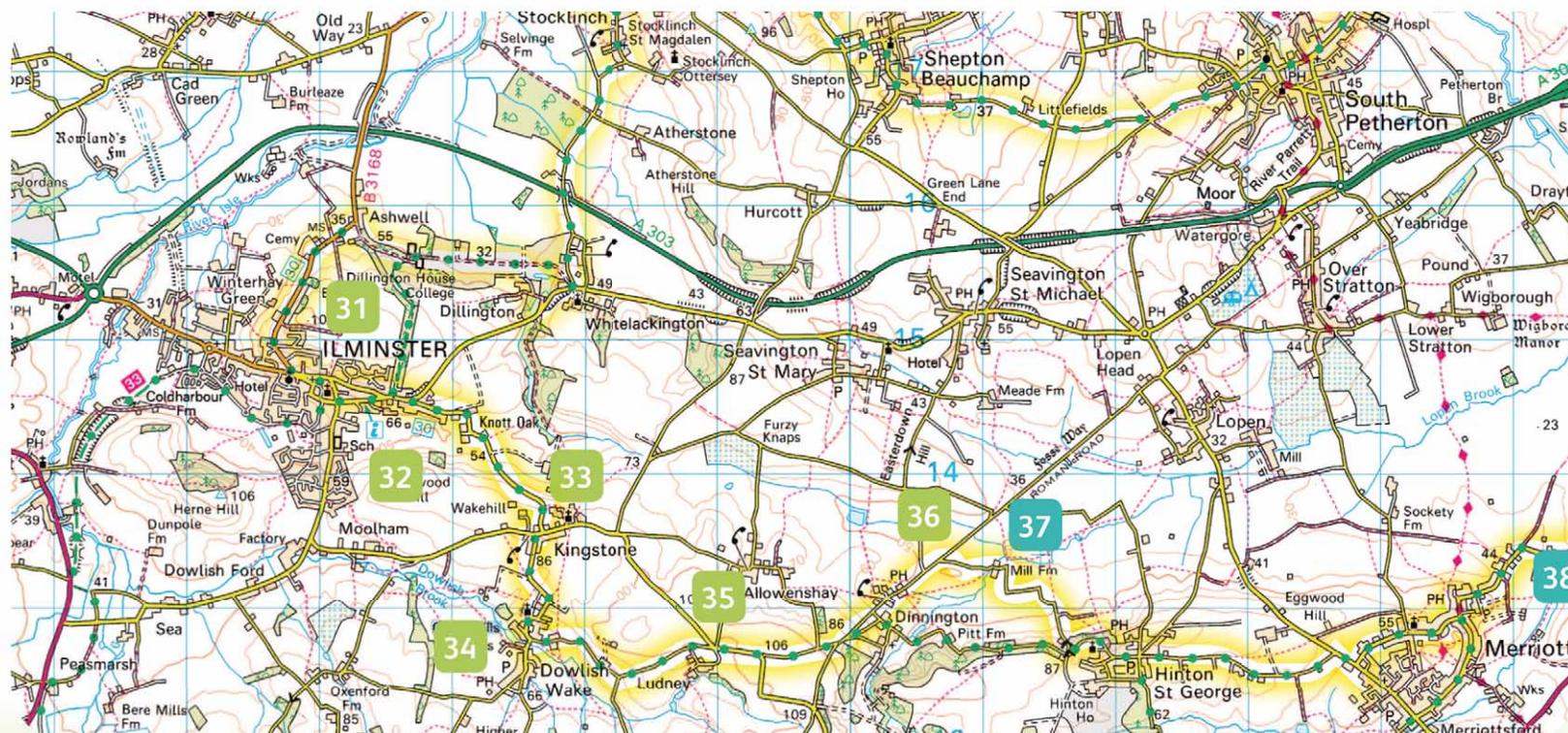


Two miles from Crewkerne, this large village has a pub and general stores. The fertile soil here led to Merriott having the first recorded use of the word nursery as a horticultural term, in 1369. Look out for unusual place-names around the village.

HINTON ST GEORGE



Beautiful Hamstone village with cottages dating from 14th century. The quintessential 17th century thatched village pub (www.lordpoulettarms.com) boasts the remains of a Pelota Wall dating from Napoleonic times and there is also a tearoom serving coffees, teas and light lunches (www.dorothystearoom.co.uk).



Section

7

6.6
miles

10.6
km

Merriott to Montacute

38 Head out of Merriott via Church Street. At T-junction at the end of Church Street turn left (NS) onto Higher Street "Martock". At T-junction (NS) with main road (A356) turn right then first left at the bottom of the hill "West Chinnock".

39 At T-junction at the end of Scotts Way turn left and follow for 1½ miles. Easily missed! On the descent into Chiselborough take the second of two closely spaced right turns "Norton, Ham Hill". Follow road around a sharp left hand bend.

40 Shortly after the Lord Nelson PH (www.thelordnelson.biz) in Norton Sub Hamdon turn 3rd right onto New Road "Stoke Sub

Hamdon".

41 At T-junction in Stoke Sub Hamdon turn right "Montacute." Turn right at Half Moon pub up "Ham Hill". Steep climb. After 2 miles, at the start of the decent take the first left (NS) down a hollow lane. At T-junction at the bottom of the hill in Montacute, turn left to visit village and Montacute House (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) or, for continuation of route, turn right. **Alternative Route. To avoid steep climb over Ham Hill follow busier road out of Stoke Sub Hamdon (do not turn right 'Ham Hill') for 2 miles into Montacute.**

DETOUR TO CREWKERNE



An important town since before the Norman Conquest with some fine old buildings reflecting its prosperous cloth-making past. There is a magnificent 15th Century church to explore and Aqua Centre swimming pool for relaxing the muscles. (www.aquacentre.co.uk)

HAM HILL



Ham Hill Country Park (www.southsomersetcountryside.com) is a well-known beauty spot covering some 400 acres of woodland and grassland rising to over 300 feet and with extensive views of the Mendip Hills to the north-east, the Quantock Hills to the north-west and the Dorset Downs to the south. Once an Iron Age hill fort, it has been quarried since Roman times for its famous honey-coloured stone - giving distinctive character to many of the surrounding villages.

MERRIOTT

see section 6 for details



MAP: Explorer 129
Yeovil & Sherborne

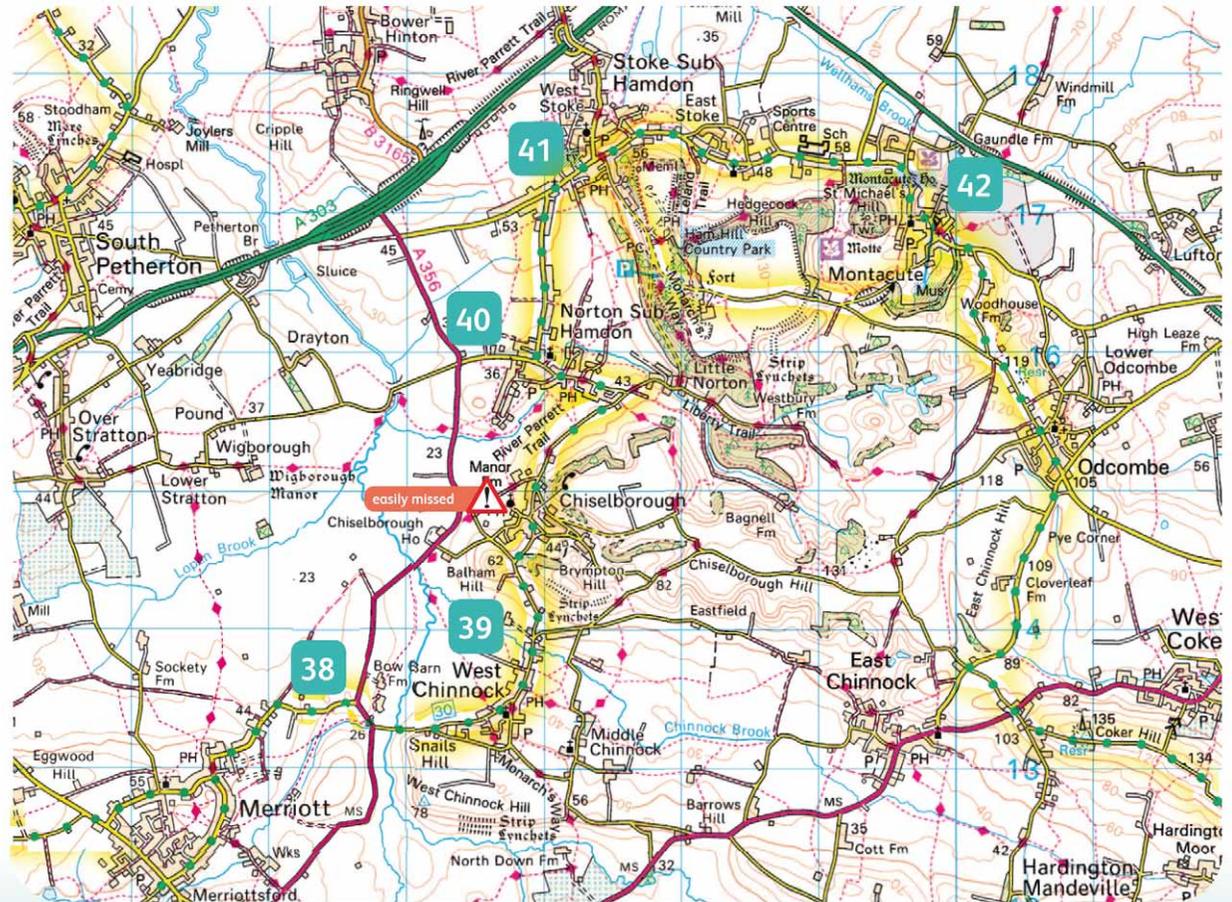
Cycling over Ham Hill, Stoke sub Hamdon



Alternative start point

JOINING THE ROUTE FROM CREWKERNE AT MERRIOTT

1. From the Market Square in Crewkerne, take the street to the left of the main entrance to the Town Hall then shortly turn left onto Abbey Street "To the 15th Century Parish Church".
2. After 1½ miles, at the top of the second climb, turn right "Merriott" After 1 mile, at X-roads on the outskirts of Merriott go straight ahead and join the South Somerset Cycle Route



MONTACUTE



Beautifully laid out village of hamstone houses, famous for its National Trust property - Montacute House and garden. Also home to Montacute TV Radio and Toy Museum and tea rooms (www.montacutemuseum.co.uk)

Section 8

8.7 miles 14 km

Montacute to Yeovil junction

- 42** Easily missed! Shortly after the petrol station on the edge of the village turn right onto Woodhouse Lane. Steep climb. At T-junction at the top by a triangle of grass turn left.
- 43** Go into and through Odcombe. At the X-roads at the end of the village turn right onto Chinnock Road "East Chinnock".
- 44** Easily missed! At X-roads (NS) at the bottom of a long descent turn left "West Coker, Hardington". Cross the bridge over the sunken A30 then after 200 yards bear left (NS) uphill past Ridge Cottage.
- 45** After 2 miles, at T-junction (NS) turn right then shortly at X-roads turn left (NS). At next X-roads turn right "East Coker".

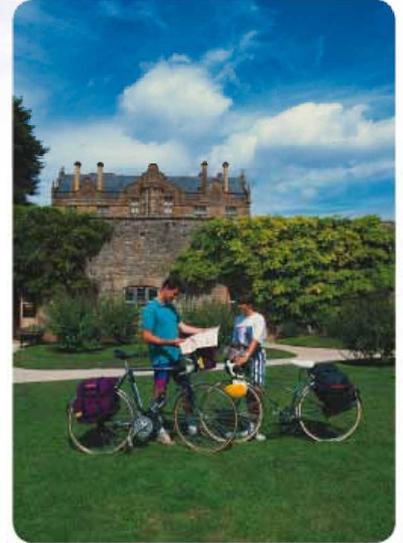
- 46** At T-junction in East Coker turn left (NS) "North Coker" then first right by a traffic island "Yeovil". Warning! Busier section.
- 47** Easily missed. After 1 mile take the first right "Stoford, Dorchester". At the roundabout at the main road (A37) go straight ahead, using the cycle facility to cross each lane separately.
- 48** Descend through cuttings. On a sharp right-hand bend bear left onto Rex's Lane. At T-junction turn right to return to Yeovil Junction Railway Station.



MAP: Explorer 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Dowlish Wake



Montacute House

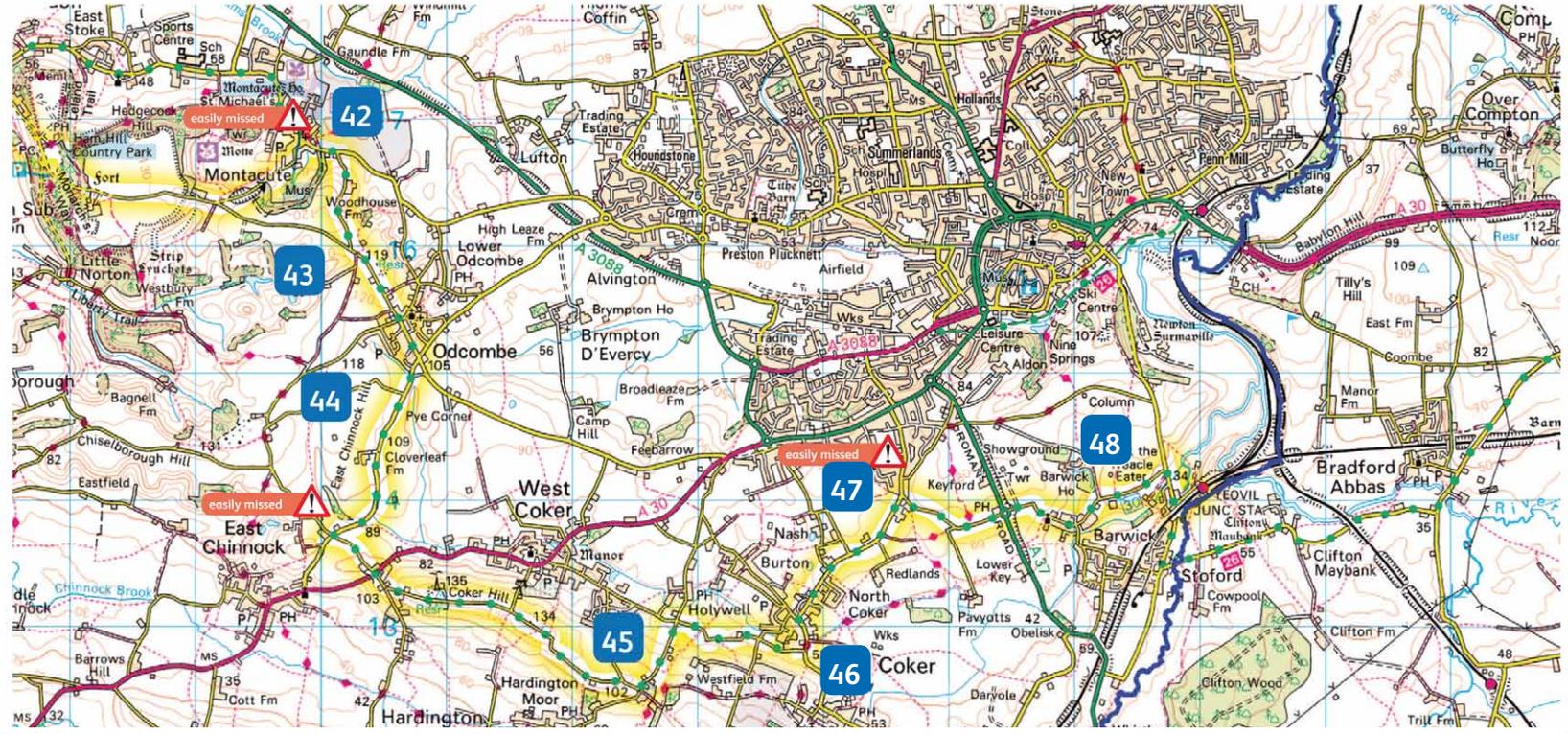
MONTACUTE - see section 7 for details

EAST COKER

 Picturesque 16th and 17th Century farmhouses and almshouses gathered below the manor and church. Ancestors of the poet T S Eliot emigrated from here and his ashes are interred in the parish church. Down the lane is the Sutton Bingham reservoir and church with its fine medieval wall paintings and further on is Pen Wood with a nature trail and superb views.

BARWICK & STOFORD

 Four great follies stand at the compass points of Barwick Park. Jack the Treacle Eater - the most easily seen (GR564 143) - is reputed to depict a messenger for the Messiter family of Barwick who sustained himself with treacle. Stoford by the River Yeo, is close to the mainline Yeovil Junction Station and has a village green, pretty houses and a pub.



Getting more from your holiday in South Somerset



The local Tourist Information Centres have information on a wide range of places to stay including campsites, farmhouses, self-catering cottages, village inns and country house hotels.

Some properties offer additional services or facilities for cyclists and have been awarded the Cyclists Welcome accolade from Visit England.

Cycling builds up a healthy appetite and you can't go far along the route without passing a country pub serving local produce and our famous Somerset cider! Towns and villages along the route have pubs, cafes and shops but it is always advisable to carry some basic rations.

There are numerous attractions in the area and those on or near the route are mentioned. Please check the opening hours before making a detour.

Tourist Information

For more information on cycling and holidaying in South Somerset please contact the following Tourist Information Centres.

YEOVIL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE,

Petters House, Petters Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1SH
Telephone: (01935) 462 781 Fax: (01935) 462 783
Email: yeoviltic@southsomerset.gov.uk

CHARD TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE,

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
Telephone (01460) 260 051 Fax: (01460) 65710
Email: chard.tic@chard.gov.uk

Getting to South Somerset

South Somerset is only a little over 100 miles west of London and is easy to reach by train. London (Waterloo) to Exeter trains call at Templecombe, Yeovil Junction and Crewkerne and the London (Paddington) to Penzance trains serve Castle Cary. The Bristol to Weymouth train stops at Bruton, Castle Cary and Yeovil Pen Mill. On some of the train companies or services, bike reservations are compulsory, so please check with the individual companies. For information about train services call 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

SOUTH SOMERSET TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE,

Cartgate, A303 / A3088, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6RA Telephone: (01935) 829 333 Fax: (01935) 824 644 Email: cartgate.tic@southsomerset.gov.uk

or visit the local information centres in **BRUTON, CASTLE CARY, CREWKERNE, ILMINSTER, LANGPORT, SOMERTON** and **WINCANTON**. These are usually run by volunteers and have limited opening hours.

For 24 hour information visit our website www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Key

- Accommodation
- Camping within 3 miles
- Pubs
- Restaurants
- Tea shops
- Convenience shops
- Bike repair
- Public Convenience
- Railway Station
- Take Care Here
- Off Road section
- TIC Tourist Information Centre
- LIC Local Information Centre
- (NS) Not signposted

Bike Hire

BIKE-VET (mobile service) 01935 473034

BOW BRIDGE CYCLES (also offer bicycle repairs).

Langport & River Parrett Visitor Centre, Westover Trading Estate, Langport. TA10 9RB Tel: (01458) 250 350
www.southsomersetcycling.co.uk

Bike Repair

BANCOMBE RECOVERY & AUTO SERVICES

Unit 5, Wessex Building, Somerton Business Park, Bancombe Road, Somerton. TA11 6SB Tel: (01458) 274 411

BIKE-VET (mobile service) 01935 473034

BOW BRIDGE CYCLES (also offer bicycle hire).

Langport & River Parrett Visitor Centre, Westover Trading Estate, Langport. TA10 9RB Tel: (01458) 250 350
www.southsomersetcycling.co.uk

BRIAN HOPPE CYCLES Trendle Street, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 3NT Tel: (01935) 812 038

CRUISING COGS (mobile service)
07807 249 659 www.cruisingcogs.co.uk

CYCLELIFE CREWKERNE 10 Market Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LA www.cyclelifecrewkerne.co.uk
01460 76191

Cycle safety

Follow the Highway Code.

Don't jump red lights and don't ride on pavements (unless they are shared paths).

Don't ride the wrong way in one-way streets (unless signs say that cyclists are permitted to do so), or ride across pedestrian crossings.

Think ahead. Anticipate drivers' actions. Catch their eye.

Be visible. Ride well clear of the kerb, wear bright clothing and always use lights after dark or in poor daytime visibility.

Show drivers what you plan to do. Always look and signal before you start, stop or turn.

Ride a straight line past parked cars rather than dodge between them.

Move over, when it's safe and convenient. Two-abreast is often OK, but try not to hold up other traffic.

Ride positively and decisively. It helps motorists to understand what you plan to do.

Always pass horse riders wide and slow and let them know you are about to pass, especially from behind.

HALFORDS Houndstone Retail Park, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8YQ www.halfords.com

ILMINSTER CYCLES AND LEISURE

Frog Lane, Ilminster. TA19 0AP Tel: (01460) 52400

ROCK AND ROAD LTD Unit 12, Bartlett Court,

Sea King Road, Lynx Trading Estate, Yeovil. BA20 2NZ
Tel: (01935) 431 937 www.rockandroaduk.com

TRI UK 76 Lyde Road, Yeovil. BA21 5DW

Tel: (01935) 422 000 www.triuk.com

WHEELS IN MOTION 86 Holyrood Street, Chard.

Tel: (01460) 63223

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