

South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

South
Somerset
Cycleway



**The South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway
will take you on a journey through idyllic country
villages and bustling market towns.**

You will have opportunities to admire fine buildings and productive orchards all distinctive to this area of Somerset.

The route has been broken down into eight sections to enjoy at your pace meaning you can soak up the local hospitality and great views along the way!

www.VisitSouthSomerset.com



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

How to get the most from your South Somerset cycling adventure



These descriptions are written to be followed anti-clockwise.

Please beware of the one-way systems in Castle Cary, Somerton and South Petherton if cycling the route clockwise.

For downloadable route descriptions, please visit

<https://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/listings/cycling/eighty-mile-cycle-route.htm>

Signage - occasionally the route follows sections of the Sustrans National Cycle Network. To avoid confusion, please follow the brown South Somerset Cycleway signage.

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Key to abbreviations

SP = Signpost

TR = Turn Right TL = Turn left

Revised and updated route descriptions based on information kindly supplied by a local user - June 2023

Distance table		KM	Miles
Section 1	Yeovil Junction to Sherborne	10.82	6.72
Section 2	Sherborne to Castle Cary	20.44	12.7
Section 3	Castle Cary to Somerton	21.55	13.39
Section 4	Somerton to South Petherton	24.02	14.93
Section 5	South Petherton to Ilminster	12.02	7.47
Section 6	Ilminster to Merriott	11.72	7.28
Section 7	Merriott to Montacute	11.03	6.85
Section 8	Montacute to Yeovil Junction	13.17	8.18
	TOTAL (NB - these distances differ from previously advertised to reflect updated route around Ilminster)	124.77	77.52

Need bike repair or accessories?

There are bike shops in Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Langport, Sherborne, Taunton and Yeovil (as of July 2023).

Sources of help:



VisitSouthSomerset



VisitSS@Somerset.gov.uk



South Somerset Visitor Information Centre & Gift Shop, Cartgate Picnic Site, A303/A3088, Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset, TA14 6RA

Please share your experiences on our Social Media Accounts!



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How to get the most from your South Somerset cycling adventure

South Somerset Visitor Information Centre

and

Visit South Somerset website

*is packed with advice about
accommodation and places to
eat plus interesting detours!*

*Please get in touch...
contact details are below.*

**Looking for somewhere to stay? We have
options to suit all budgets, including
campsites, farmhouses, self-catering cottages,
village inns and country house hotels.**

*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! All the towns and many villages along the
route have pubs, cafes and shops but it is always
advisable to carry some basic rations.*

*The area is rich in attractions, many on or near the
route. Please check opening hours before making a
detour.*

**South Somerset is just over 100
miles west of London and easy to
reach by train.**

- London (Waterloo) to Exeter trains stops at Templecombe, Sherborne, Yeovil Junction and Crewkerne.
- London (Paddington) to Penzance trains stops at Castle Cary.
- Bristol to Weymouth train stops at Bruton, Castle Cary and Yeovil Pen Mill.
- Bristol to Taunton line stops at Bridgwater.

Bike reservations are compulsory on some train services, please check with the individual companies.

For more information call 08457 48 49 50 or visit
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Please cycle safely and always follow the Highway Code.

- Check bike tyres are at the correct pressure and that the bike is road worthy, with working bike lights.
- Wear a well-fitting helmet that is within its expiry date.
- Ensure the saddle height has been correctly adjusted for the rider.
- Be visible and dress appropriately for the conditions, particularly after dark or in poor daytime visibility.
- Carry plenty of fluids, food rations, a spare inner tube and a basic bike tool kit.
- Be confident on the road, keep 1m from the kerb and clearly indicate to other road users what you plan to do.
- Treat other road users with respect and care, where possible catching their eye and anticipating their actions.
- Always follow the Highway Code, particularly regarding red lights, pavements and one-way streets.
- Pass horses slowly with consideration and let riders know you are approaching.
- Be considerate of the needs of other road users when riding two abreast or in a group.

Sources of help....:

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Section 1: Yeovil Junction to Sherborne

Overview

This section is a relatively flat and easy section with a small but steady incline as you leave Bradford Abbas.

After leaving Yeovil Junction Railway Station you are very quickly into the rural countryside with quiet lanes and just birdsong for company. There is one short offroad section as you approach Sherborne.

YEovil is the major town of South Somerset with a great shopping centre and bustling high street and markets. Also home to The Octagon Theatre, Goldenstones Leisure Centre, the Yeo Leisure Complex and the very popular Yeovil Country Park.

SHERBORNE is a historical and picturesque market town with a 15th Century Abbey at its heart and two castles on the outskirts. One of these, Sherborne Castle, was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and is surrounded by a lake, lawns and parkland. Also worth visiting are the museum 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.

Length of route: 6.72 miles 10.82 km

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: Car parking in Yeovil and Sherborne town centre plus limited parking at Yeovil Junction and Sherborne Railway Stations



Toilets: Public toilets at Yeovil Junction and Sherborne Stations plus town centres



Places to Eat and Drink: Lots of independent and national cafes and restaurants in Yeovil and Sherborne plus a pub in Bradford Abbas



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW

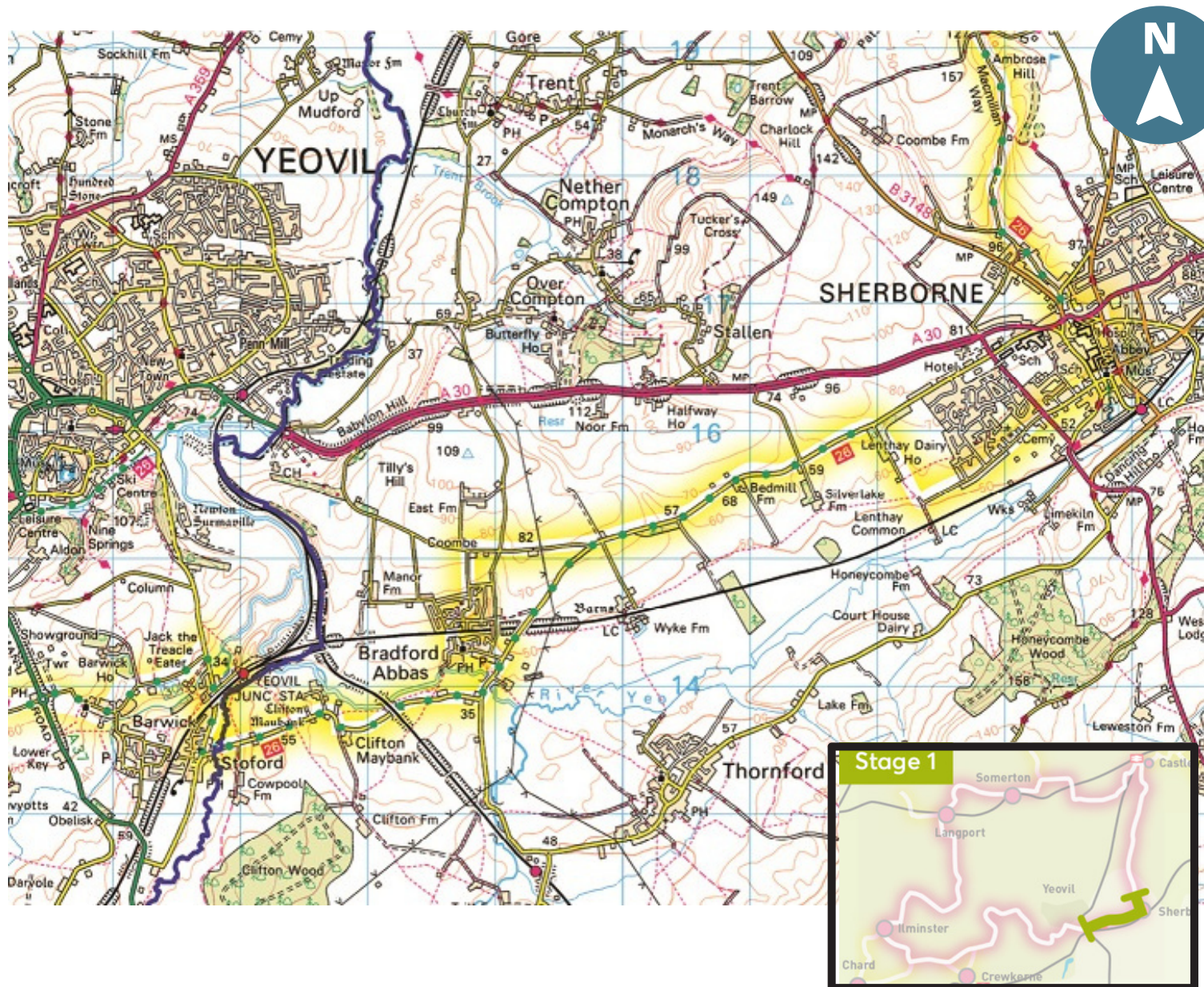


While in the Area: Detour to ILCHESTER, once a major Roman garrison town on the Fosse Way and the county town of Somerset until the 19th Century. You can also visit Haynes Motor Museum at Sparkford and the 14th-century Lytes Cary Manor and gardens.



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 1: Yeovil Junction to Sherborne



Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Map 129 Yeovil and Sherborne.

The route is waymarked with brown South Somerset Cycleway signs and stickers. Please note the route occasionally follows the Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes 26 and 33 - to avoid confusion, please only follow the brown signs.

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South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 1: Yeovil Junction to Sherborne

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	El. (m)
1	Start	Start of route at Yeovil Junction Railway Station			0
2	Straight	From the station descend to the exit	0	0	41.6
3	Left	Exit Yeovil Junction Railway Station. At the T-junction TL passing under the railway bridge.	0.25	0.16	41.3
4	Left	Turn left, SP Bradford Abbas 2, Sherborne 5 3/4	0.73	0.45	38.5
5	Left	Turn left at T-junction, SP Bradford Abbas, Sherborne	3.13	1.94	36.8
6	Left	Cross bridge to turn left, SP Bradford Abbas. It is worth taking this detour round the village	3.5	2.17	45.3
7	Right	Pass the pub on the right to bear right. Basically follow the road out of the village as it goes right, left, right, left (no junctions)	3.83	2.38	40.9
8	Right	Turn right at T-junction, no SP. Pass the Stables on the right. This turns into a lovely flat road with views along the wide valley	4.79	2.98	75.2
9	Right	Look for a small woodland on the right. Turn right, along dead end road, SP Somerset Cyclepath (on a Sherborne sign), descend through woods, pass a small farm LHS	8.18	5.08	74.4
10	Straight	The tarmac runs out and you pass a walking gate and gate on the right. Carry on straight keeping the fence line close on your right. It's rough and lasts about 100m (don't take the walking track that goes left)	8.68	5.39	56.3
11	Left	When you reach the track, go left along the track that is easily cycled, litter bin RHS (ahead takes you to the railway line)	8.91	5.54	49.1
12	Straight	Reach tarmac. Pass school RHS. Follow this as it passes houses to the left and right, there are speed bumps	9.19	5.71	52.5
13	Straight	Cross the A352 at the traffic lights, along Horsecastles that turns into Trendle Street and into the centre of Sherborne	10.12	6.29	56
14	Left	Turn left at the T-junction, along Half Moon Street. Pass Sherborne Abbey on the left	10.67	6.63	59.3
15	Left	Bear left passing the Monks washing place on the left then right along Long Street. Take a rest here to enjoy some Sherborne hospitality.	10.82	6.72	59.2

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Section 2: Sherborne to Castle Cary

Overview

An attractive route through a number of pretty villages before reaching the thriving market town of Castle Cary. This section is a bit longer than some and involves some hills, possibly the most strenuous section but worth the effort.

SHERBORNE is a historical and picturesque market town with a 15th-century abbey at its heart and two castles on the outskirts. One of these, Sherborne Castle, was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and surrounded by a lake, lawns and parkland. Also worth visiting are the museum 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.

CASTLE CARY is a vibrant market town with a winding main street of thatch and golden stone buildings. There is no castle now but the museum in the Market House has interesting displays about local history and residents. On Bailey Hill, there stands the 18th-century "pepper pot" lock-up known as the Round House, one of only four in the country and now a wedding venue!

Length of route: 12.7 miles 20.44 km

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



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: Car parking in Sherborne and Castle Cary town centre plus limited parking at Sherborne and Castle Cary Railway Stations



Toilets: Public toilets at Sherborne and Castle Cary Stations plus town centres



Places to Eat and Drink: Good selection of cafes and pubs in Sherborne and Castle Cary plus village pubs on the route. Also Teals Farm Shop at South Cadbury and local cider and fruit presses producer in Little Weston.



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW

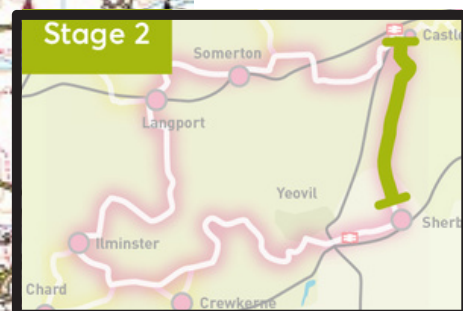
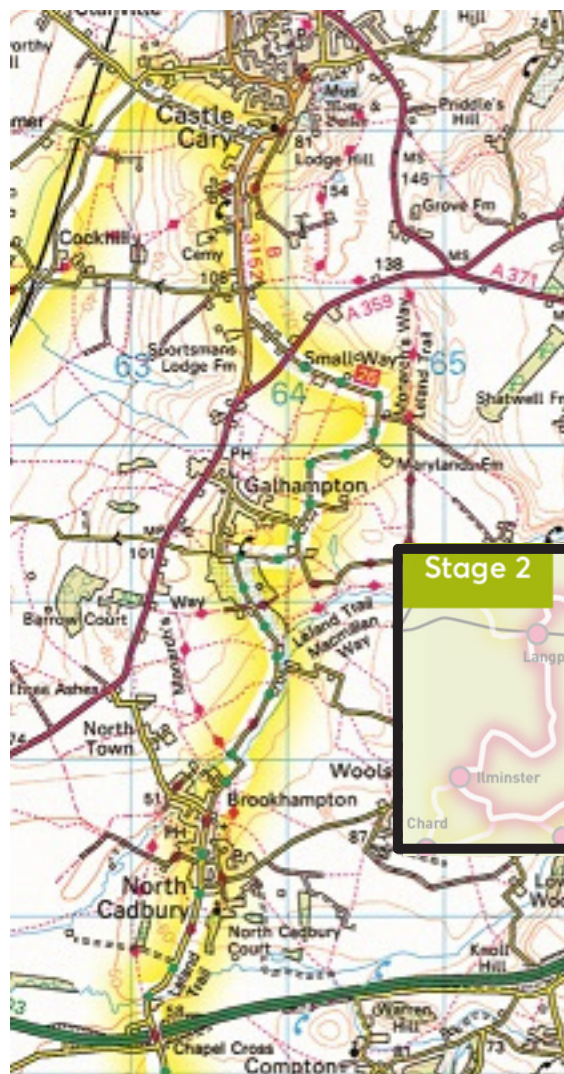


While in the Area: Leave your bike in the carpark and climb the Iron Age hill fort of CADBURY CASTLE to admire what remains of the impressive fortress and views across the Somerset countryside towards Glastonbury. Also, interesting detours are the towns of BRUTON and WINCANTON



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 2: Sherborne to Castle Cary



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Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Maps 129 Yeovil and Sherborne and 142 Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East

The route is waymarked with brown South Somerset Cycleway signs and stickers. Please note the route occasionally follows the Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes 26 and 33 - to avoid confusion, please only follow the brown signs.

Disclaimer - The Public Rights of Way shown on the map are only intended as an indication of the general route. To determine the exact route of a Public Right of Way, the Definitive Map (1:10560 scale) should be consulted.



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 2: Sherborne to Castle Cary

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	El (m)
16	Left	In Sherborne, TL SP All through traffic, along St Swithins Road, gently climb	0.3	0.19	59.4
17	Left	Turn left at cross roads, SP Town Centre. Small park on the right	0.55	0.34	71.3
18	Right	Turn right at T - junction, along Cheap Street/The Green, passing the White Hart on the left	0.87	0.54	73.3
19	Left	Turn left just before larger road, SP Hospital, then TR to descend Back Lane heading towards carpark at which point bear right	0.95	0.59	75.4
20	Left	At the road, head left along the short cycle lane to the traffic lights	1.15	0.71	69.8
21	Right	Cross the road at the lights (cycling crossing) then again heading left. Go right, along Marston Road, SP Sandford Orcas	1.22	0.76	70.6
22	Right	Take the first right turn along Coombe. This is a lovely gradual uphill climb along a lane heading north	1.34	0.83	73.7
23	Right	Bear right along Sandford Orcas Road	2.13	1.32	86.5
24	Right	Turn acutely right (almost back on yourself) SP Holway 2, Corton Denham, opposite village Hall	5.65	3.51	61
25	Left	Bear left, SP Corton Denham 1 1/2	6.2	3.85	80.9
26	Right	Turn right, SP South Cadbury, Compton Pauncefoot. Descend with a good view of Cadbury Castle (Hill Fort) ahead	10.19	6.33	108.1
27	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP South Cadbury, C Pauncefoot	10.84	6.74	77
28	Straight	Cross A303	12.59	7.82	58.3
29	Straight	Turn right in effect straight on as road bears left, SP Galhampton	14.09	8.76	61
30	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP South Somerset Cycleway	16.02	9.95	93.7
31	Left	Turn left at T-junction, SP South Somerset Cycleway, opposite Manor Farm Cottages	16.44	10.22	85.7
32	Right	Turn right along Frog Lane. (No SP) There are 3 large stone balls at this junction	16.61	10.32	87.7
33	Straight	Straight over at cross roads along Smallway Lane, SP Castle Cary crossing A359	18.45	11.46	111.4
34	Right	Turn right at T-junction, along central lined road (B3152) no SP.	18.85	11.71	107.9
35	Left	Take the left hand filter lane to head left, SP Station, by Staffordshire House. Take time here to explore Castle Cary	20.44	12.7	83.2

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Section 3: Castle Cary to Somerton

Overview

The route is a gentle, predominantly downhill section to Somerton across the Cary Moor and through attractive woods.

CASTLE CARY is a vibrant market town with a winding main street of thatch and golden stone buildings below Lodge Hill, where the 11th century castle once stood. The museum in the Market House has interesting displays about local history and residents. On Bailey Hill stands the 18th-century "pepper pot" lock up, one of only four in the country and now a wedding venue!

SOMERTON is 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. The Somerton Arts Festival takes place every July and the town has a number of interesting art galleries.



Length of route: 13.39 miles 22.55 km

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



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: Car parking in Castle Cary and Somerton town centre plus limited parking at Castle Cary Railway Station



Toilets: Public toilets at Castle Cary Railway Station plus in the town centres



Places to Eat and Drink: Lots of independent cafes and pubs in Castle Cary and Somerton plus a pub in Lydford on Fosse and village stores in Keinton Mandeville



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW

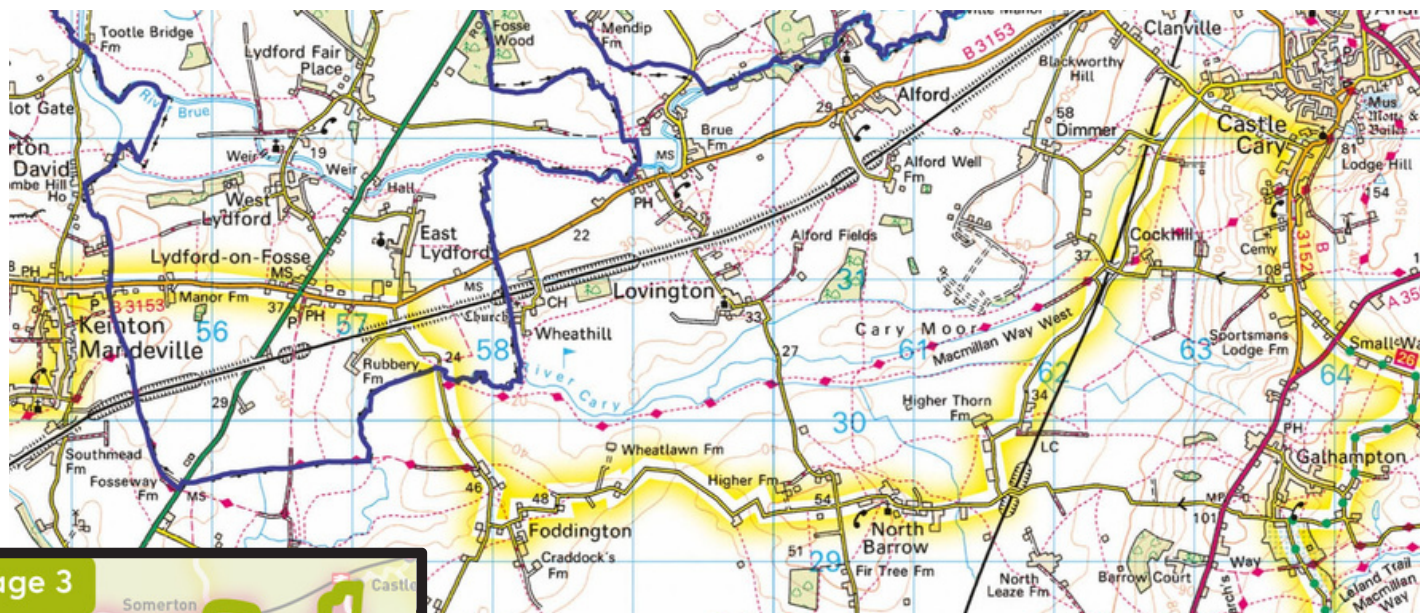


While in the Area: Take time out to visit Fleet Air Arm Museum, with an extensive display of aircraft history over the years, including the first British Concorde and the award-winning Aircraft Carrier Experience. Clarks Village, the retail outlet, is not far from this section in Street.



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Section 3: Castle Cary to Somerton



Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Maps 129 Yeovil and Sherborne and 142 Shepton Mallet & Mendip Hills East.

The route is waymarked with brown South Somerset Cycleway signs and stickers. Please note the route occasionally follows the Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes 26 and 33 - to avoid confusion, please only follow the brown signs.

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South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 3: Castle Cary to Somerton

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	El. (m)
36	Left	In Castle Cary, TL, SP Veterinary Centre, North Barrow 3, Lovington, along Torbay Road, descend and follow this for 3 miles	0.4	0.25	72.3
37	Right	Bear right, cross railway, then bear left	2.48	1.54	36
38	Right	Turn right at T-junction, enter North Barrow	4.58	2.85	35.7
39	Straight	Straight over at the cross roads, SP Babcary 3, pass except for access signs	5.81	3.61	53
40	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP Keinton Mandeville 2 1/2, East Lydford 1 1/2	8.77	5.45	44.4
41	Left	Pass under the railway to turn left at T-junction, SP South Somerset Cycleway. Care this is a fast road	10.58	6.57	26.9
42	Straight	Straight over at the traffic lights on A37, SP Keinton Mandeville, Somerton 6.	11.28	7.01	38.4
43	Left	Enter Keinton Mandeville. Turn left along Queens Street, SP South Somerset Cycleway	12.96	8.05	53.8
44	Right	Turn right, SP Charlton 1 1/2, pass the telephone box on the left	13.84	8.6	40.8
45	Straight	Cross the railway	15.5	9.63	38.7
46	Straight	Carry straight on at the T-junction in Charlton Adam	15.89	9.87	35.3
47	Right	Bear right along Top Road, nice view back to church on the left	15.98	9.93	35.9
48	Left	Bear left by Station Road	16.51	10.26	38.7
49	Left	Turn left at T-junction, SP Somerton 3 1/4	16.67	10.36	33.4
50	Right	Turn Right, SP Low Bridge, pass school then Low Bridge sign on the left. This is a lovely lane as it passes a church and heads along a valley	16.99	10.56	28.2
51	Left	Pass under the railway to descend to a T-junction where you go left, SP Somerton, along B3153	19.41	12.06	19.3
52	Left	Turn left at T-junction, no SP (sharp bend arrows on left). Cross River Cary	21.1	13.11	13.4
53	Right	As the road bears left and climbs, take the second of two roads that go right. This is narrower and less busy than the other right turn. This heads into Somerton	21.37	13.28	19
54	Right	At the top of the hill, T R at T-junction along New Street and into the centre of Somerton	21.55	13.39	32.8

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Section 4: Somerton to South Petherton

Overview

Gentle climbing when leaving Somerton and approaching Langport otherwise easy cycling through the pretty and interesting villages of Muchelney and Kingsbury Episcopi. There is a short offroad section when leaving Langport, which rejoins country roads just west of Muchelney.

SOMERTON is 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. The Somerton Arts Festival takes place every July and the town has a number of interesting art galleries.

SOUTH PETHERTON is home to the David Hall Arts Centre and award-winning Holm restaurant. There is also a selection of smaller cafes and interesting buildings including the fine St Peter and St Paul Church with a rare octagonal central tower, reputed to be the tallest in the country.

Length of route: 14.93 miles 24.02 km

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: Car parking in Somerton and South Petherton



Toilets: Public toilets in Somerton and South Petherton



Places to Eat and Drink: Selection of independent cafes, pubs and restaurants in Somerton and South Petherton. Full range of facilities in Langport and village shop in Kingsbury Episcopi



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW



While in the Area: Stop and explore LANGPORT with its distinctive Bow Street and "hanging chapel" gatehouse. MUCHELNEY ABBEY is definitely worth a visit to explore the site of the influential Benedictine Abbey and the internationally famous MUCHELNEY POTTERY is just further down the road. EAST LAMBROOK MANOR GARDENS was home of Margery Fish and still a delightful garden to visit.



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Section 4: Somerton to South Petherton

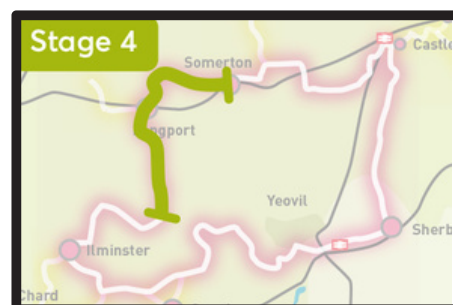


Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Map 129 Yeovil and Sherborne.

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Section 4: Somerton to South Petherton

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	El.(m)
55	Left	Turn left at the T-junction in the centre of Somerton, SP Langport 4 1/2, Taunton 18, along B3153. Then bear right to pass the war memorial on the right.	0.27	0.17	41.9
56	Straight	Turn right at T-junction (in reality straight) passing car park RHS	0.59	0.37	37.9
57	Right	Bear right along B3153, SP Curry Rivel, Taunton. Admire the old-fashioned road sign	0.75	0.47	38.3
58	Left	At the mini Roundabout bear slightly left, SP Langport, along B3153 passing post box and telephone box on the left	1.04	0.65	41.5
59	Right	Look for 2 bollards just after zebra crossing. Cross the pavement to the right onto the very short cycle path with bollards, along Bancombe Road	1.43	0.89	42.3
60	Straight	Turn left (in effect straight) at T-junction, along Russel Road	1.64	1.02	44.8
61	Straight	Straight on at the middle roundabout along Bancombe Road. Follow this road for 4 miles	2.14	1.33	53.9
62	Right	Turn right at T-junction SP Langport 2, High Ham, opposite West End Barn. Climb	7.84	4.87	18.8
63	Left	At the top of the hill, turn left at T-junction, SP Langport 1 1/2 and descend. Shortly afterwards TR , SP Wearne 1/2	8.8	5.47	49.6
64	Left	Turn left, with Old Farmhouse on the left, along narrower road, descend and bear left.	9.57	5.95	36.5
65	Right	At the large roundabout take the 4th exit (effectively going right), no SP, but pass Wearne Lodge on the right. Follow this as it twists and turns and passes through Langport	10.11	6.28	24.2
66	Left	At the end of town, cross the bridge over the River Parrett, then TL, SP Westover Trading Estate. Enter the estate, passing parking on the left.	11.79	7.33	9.8
67	Left	Keep left and look for the gates to prevent motorbike access (high sided metal) and onto a rougher path	11.99	7.45	10.2
68	Right	Through the wooden gate, head right, SP Huish Drove, 10 metres later go left and onto the Parrett Cyclepath, pass through gate, SP Route 30/339. This is an old railway path and quite a rough surface, just about OK for road tyres	12.21	7.59	7.8
69	Left	At the end of the track, bear right, go through 2 gates, at the road head turn left at T-junction	13.8	8.57	7.9
70	Right	Enter Mulchelney to bear right, SP Mulchelney Abbey, then by the church, TR at the T-junction, SP Kingsbury Episcopi 3. Entrance to Abbey on the right	14.48	9	10.8
71	Left	Opposite the Wyndham Arms (spot the winged wheel on the wall, an early cafe stop for the Cyclists Touring Club) TL, SP Martock, Yeovil 9	19.11	11.87	16
72	Right	Turn right, SP East Lambrook 1 1/4	19.41	12.06	13.1
73	Left	Turn left at T-junction, no SP	20.65	12.83	14.4
74	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP West Lambrook 1 1/4. Enter East Lambrook	21.25	13.2	24.6
75	Left	Turn left onto Silver St, then TR at T-junction, along Silver Street	21.47	13.34	28.1
76	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP South Petherton, enter South Petherton	23.1	14.35	25.3
77	Left	In South Petherton, bear left along Prigg Street, allow time to explore the town	24.02	14.93	39.4

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Section 5: South Petherton to Ilminster

Overview

A shorter and relatively easier section through interesting villages and the parkland of Dillington Estate before descending into the town of Ilminster. The original route continued down the drive and along the B3168, however, route now follows a path up to join the Stop Line Way, part of the Second World War defence system.

SOUTH PETHERTON is home to the David Hall Arts Centre and award-winning Holm restaurant. There is also a selection of smaller cafes and interesting buildings including the fine St Peter and St Paul Church with a rare octagonal central tower, reputed to be the tallest in the country.

ILMINSTER takes its name from the fine minster church which towers above the small shops, independent cafes and narrow streets. Nearby Herne Hill offers fine views over this charming market town and the Isle Valley. The town is home to the Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster Arts Centre and Phoenix Studios Somerset - the fashion house of designer Alice Temperley

Length of route: 7.47 miles 12.02 km - new distances to reflect new route through Dillington Estate

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hills



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: Car parking South Petherton and Ilminster town centres.



Toilets: Public toilets South Petherton and Ilminster



Places to Eat and Drink: Lots of independent cafes, pubs and restaurants in South Petherton and Ilminster plus a pub in Shepton Beauchamp and Barrington



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW

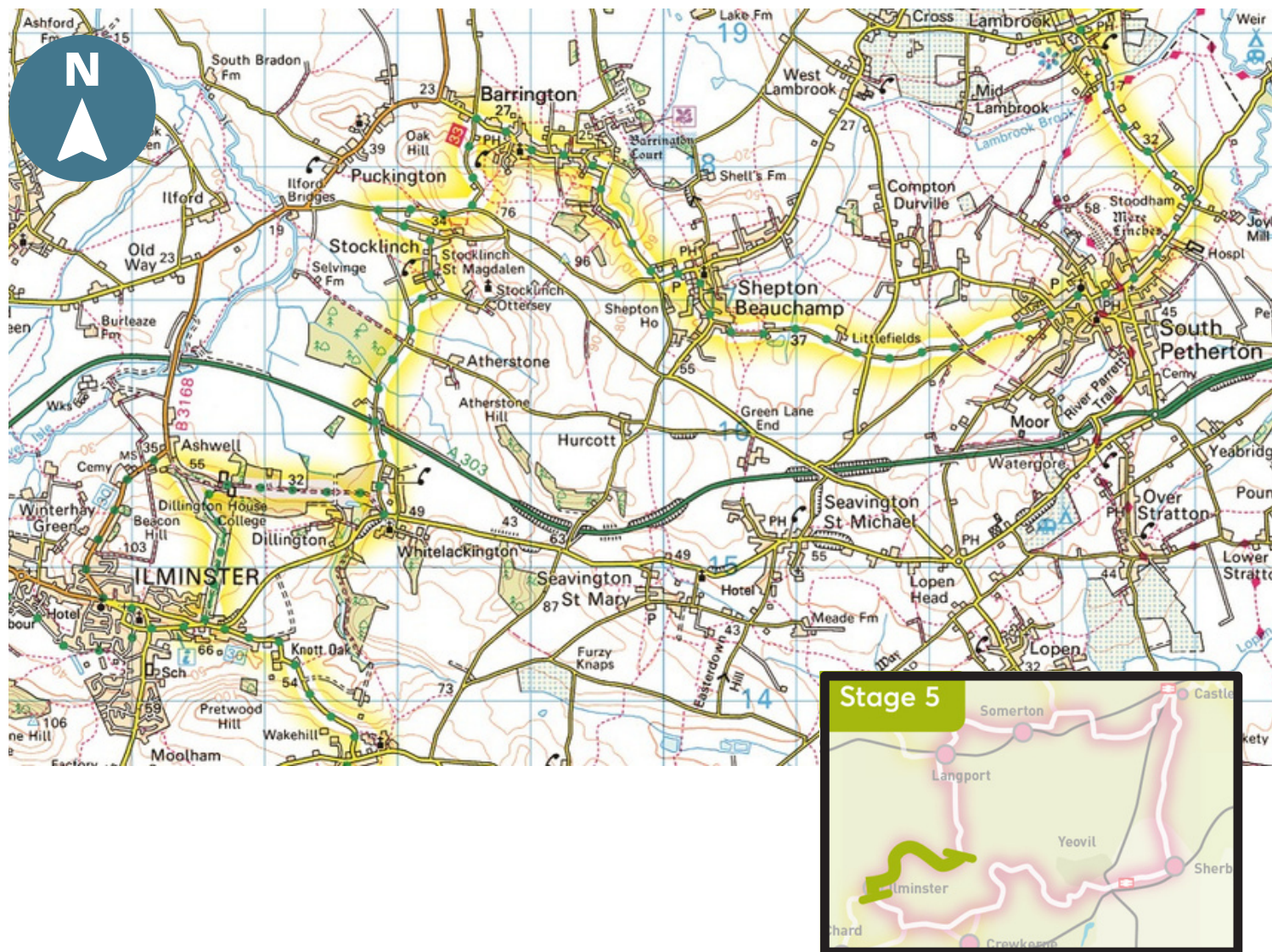


While in the Area: Take time to explore BARRINGTON with the 13th-century parish church and cottages of hamstone and thatch. The National Trust property includes an empty fine Tudor manor house, formal walled gardens and extensive parklands.



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 5: South Petherton to Ilminster



Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Maps 129 Yeovil and Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hills.

The route is waymarked with brown South Somerset Cycleway signs and stickers. Please note the route occasionally follows the Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes 26 and 33 - to avoid confusion, please only follow the brown signs.

**South
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South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 5: South Petherton to Ilminster

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	El.(m)
78	Right	Turn right at the T-junction, head towards the church along the shopping street. Pass the Blake Memorial Hall on the left, keep climbing gently and bear left along Palmer Street	0.19	0.12	39.3
79	Straight	As the road swings right, carry straight on along the narrower Palmer Street, climb shortly. The next few km are quite sandy	0.78	0.48	50.1
80	Right	Bear right at the top of the climb, SP Shepton Beauchamp, turns into a dark steep-sided road	1.51	0.94	68.7
81	Straight	Straight over at the cross roads, pass unsuitable for heavy goods vehicle sign	2.24	1.39	62.6
82	Right	In Shepton Beauchamp, turn right at T-junction, along Middle Street	3.54	2.20	50.9
83	Left	Turn left opposite the Duke of York Pub, along Great Lane	3.95	2.45	52.9
84	Right	Turn right at cross roads, SP Barrington, pass the 'except for access sign'. Dark area here. This road will drop into Barrington, a pretty village	4.25	2.64	66.1
85	Left	Turn left and climb Shelway Lane, SP Football Club	6.34	3.94	30.2
86	Right	At the top of the climb, turn right at the T-junction for a fast descent with good views ahead	7.1	4.41	70.5
87	Left	At the bottom TL at the T-junction, SP Stocklinch. Pass through this pretty village	7.81	4.85	30.6
88	Straight	Cross the bridge over the A303	9.92	6.16	27.9
89	Uturn	Pay attention here. At the top of the climb, opposite entrance to St Mary's Church, you reach a major road. Look to the right and there is a footpath doubling back on the right that passes to the right of the house, take this path. Effectively follow the wall to the right	10.64	6.61	54.8
90	Straight	At the end of the path, head straight (passing the tree trunk) to descend and bear left through the park after which the road goes straight. (Don't take the road to the left) You know you are OK as lake on the left	10.78	6.70	49.1
91	Left	Passing the gardens on the left, follow the sign left for Visitors Car Park that leads left then right. At this point stop and check out the glorious facade of Dillington House	11.9	7.39	49.5
92	Left	The original route 30 went straight on, but this is the new way. Take the gate to the left that leads to a narrow tarmacked path leading uphill around the park. Through another gate to descend an old driveway. Care as it's overshadowed and does hide a few bumps. At the gatehouse, you can turn right to explore Ilminster.	12.02	7.47	60.8

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Section 6: Ilminster to Merriott

Overview

Gentle short section through pretty Dowlish Wake and Hinton St George. You will pass productive cider orchards and agricultural fields. There are lovely views to be had across the South Somerset countryside as you approach Hinton St George, including looking down on the site of a Roman villa which featured on the Time Team in 2002.

ILMINSTER takes its name from the fine minster church which towers above the small shops, independent cafes and narrow streets. Nearby Herne Hill offers fine views over this fine charming market town and the Isle Valley. The town is home to the Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster Arts Centre and Phoenix Studios Somerset - the fashion house of designer Alice Temperley

MERRIOTT Manor was first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. The good quality fertile soil led to the development of market gardening locally, with the first use in England of the word nursery (noresire) occurring at Merriot in 1369. There is still evidence of this horticultural history, and some very unusual street names, such as Boozer Bit Lane.

Length of route: 7.28 miles 11.72 km - distance differ from previously advertised due to changes in route around Ilminster

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hills



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: Car parking in Ilminster and street parking in Merriott



Toilets: Public toilets in Ilminster town centre



Places to Eat and Drink: Cafes and pubs in Ilminster, village pub and Perry's Cider Farm Shop in Dowlish Wake, pub in Dinnington, pub and village shop in Hinton St George and the cycling cafe, The Feed Station, plus a pub and shop in Merriott.



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW



While in the Area: Detour to CHARD, with its wide high street flanked by two streams, a good variety of shops and an interesting museum. The route passes through Dowlish Wake which is home to Perry's Cider Mills and churchyard with the tomb of John Hanning Speke, the 19th-century explorer who discovered the source of the Nile.



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 6: Ilminster to Merriott

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	Elev. (m)
93	Left	At the gatehouse in Ilminster turn left at the T-junction along the road. After 50 metres, TR, SP Kingstone, Crewkerne. Be careful, narrow road	1.23	0.76	66.8
94	Right	TAKE CARE HERE. At the top of the hill as the road bears left, TR, SP Dowlish Wake 1/2, very shortly afterwards turn left, SP Dowlish Wake 1/2 and descend	2.88	1.79	92.8
95	Left	Turn left, (effectively straight) SP Chillington 1 1/2	3.89	2.42	63.3
96	Left	Turn left at T-junction, SP Ludney 1/2, Allowenshay 1. Pretty bridge LHS	4.68	2.91	79.2
97	Right	Turn right at cross roads, along central lined road. SP 4 1/2	5.44	3.38	97.1
98	Left	Turn left (effectively straight) onto smaller road, SP Public House, Dinnington. Pass unsuitable for heavy goods vehicle sign	5.8	3.60	106.9
99	Left	Descend to TL at T-junction in a shaded area, SP Dinnington	6.39	3.97	94.5
100	Right	Care here. There are 2 right turns, you need the second one, SP Hinton St George, Merriott. Stay flat through trees then descend	6.54	4.06	85.6
101	Right	In Dinnington, turn right at T-junction, keep descending	6.77	4.21	63.7
102	Straight	Enter and pass through Hinton St George	8.43	5.24	90
103	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP Crewkerne, Yeovil, along more major road	10.62	6.60	64.1
104	Left	First Left, SP Kings Head, West Chinnock, along Church Street	10.81	6.72	58.9
105	Left	Turn left at T-junction, SP Martock, Ilchester, along Higher Street. A visit to the cycle themed cafe - The Feed Station is a must!	11.72	7.28	51.6

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South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 6: Ilminster to Merriott



Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Maps 129 Yeovil and Sherborne and 128 Taunton & Blackdown Hills.

The route is waymarked with brown South Somerset Cycleway signs and stickers. Please note the route occasionally follows the Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes 26 and 33 - to avoid confusion, please only follow the brown signs.

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Section 7: Merriott to Montacute

Overview

This section is not far but does include a long steep climb up to the summit of the Ham Hill Country Park. The views are definitely worth the effort, but there is an easier option if your legs cannot face the climb.

MERRIOTT Manor was first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. The good quality fertile soil led to the development of market gardening locally, with the first use in England of the word nursery (noresire) occurring at Merriot in 1369. There is still evidence of this horticultural history, and some very unusual street names, such as Boozer Bit Lane.

MONTACUTE is a beautifully laid out village of hamstone houses. It is famous for the National Trust property, Montacute House. There is a fine Elizabethan house, extensive gardens and parklands to explore and a popular cafe. Montacute is a popular filming location, including Sense and Sensibility and in 2014 Wolf Hall.



Length of route: 6.85 miles 11.03 km

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.



Parking: On street parking in Merriott and Montacute



Toilets: Public toilets at the Ham Hill Ranger Centre



Places to Eat and Drink: Pub and The Feed Station in Merriott, pub in Chiselborough, Norton sub-Hamdon and Stock sub-Hamdon and Montacute. There is a small supermarket in Montacute and pub on top of Ham Hill.



Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW

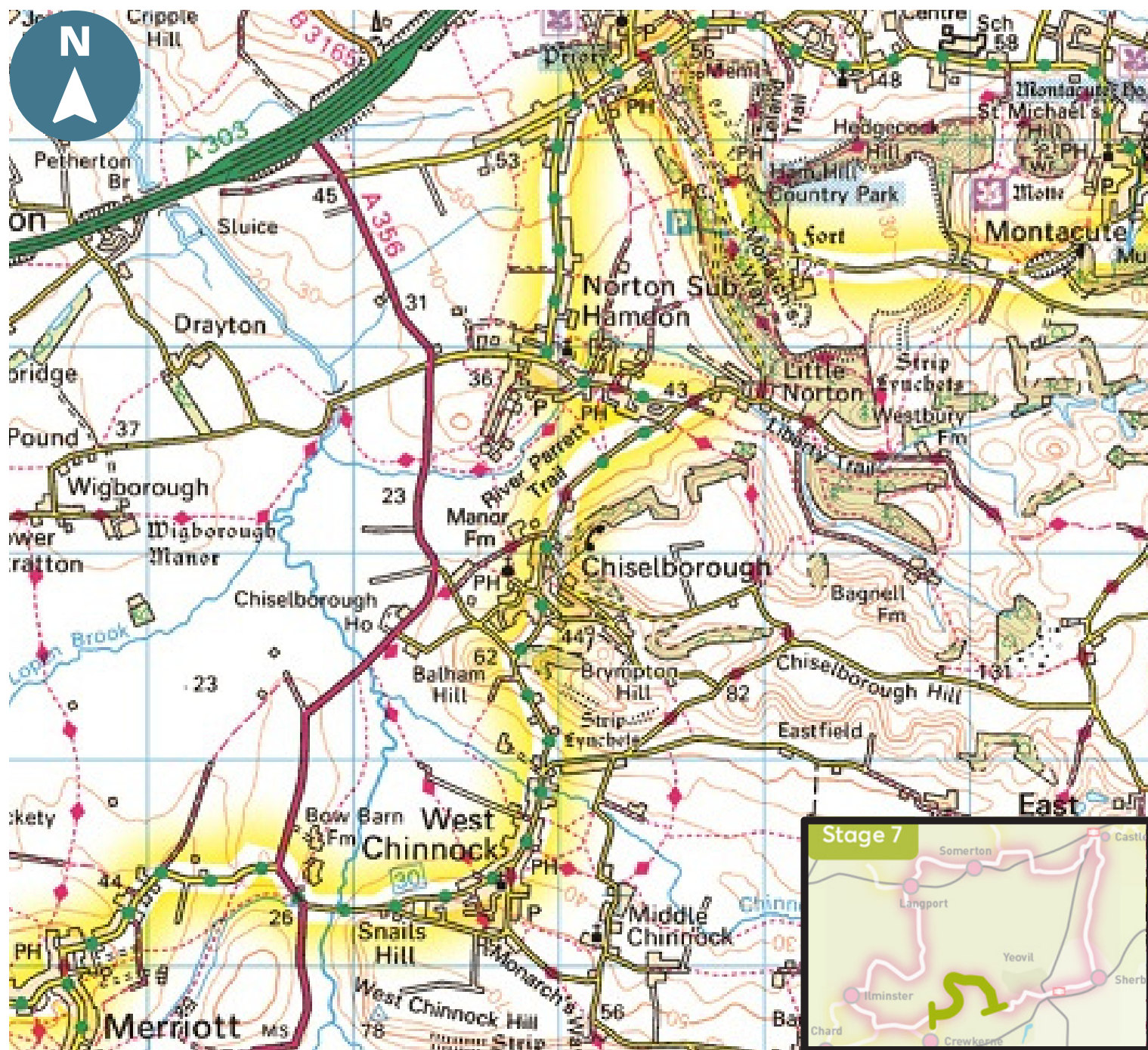


While in the Area: Visit CREWKERNE which has been an important town since the Norman Conquest with fine buildings reflecting its prosperous cloth-making past. A visit to the local museum is a must to find out more. Allow time to discover the network of footpaths over the Iron Age hill fort on HAM HILL, many offering amazing views over Somerset.



South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 7: Merriott to Montacute



Route guidance.

Please use these directions in conjunction with OS Explorer Map 129 Yeovil and Sherborne.

The route is waymarked with brown South Somerset Cycleway signs and stickers. Please note the route occasionally follows the Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes 26 and 33 - to avoid confusion, please only follow the brown signs.

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South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

Section 7: Merriott to Montacute

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	El. (m)
106	Right	At the end of Church Street leaving Merriott, TR at T-junction along A356, SP Crewkerne - care here as busy road	1.38	0.86	35.3
107	Left	Turn left, SP Middle Chinnock, West Chinnock. This lane may be flooded so take care, then climb Snails Hill	1.61	1.00	26.5
108	Left	Turn left at T-junction by the school in West Chinnock, along Lower Street. Briefly descend then climb	2.68	1.67	33.5
109	Right	In Chiselborough, TR, SP Norton, Ham Hill, just before church hall and large wooden signpost on the right	4.13	2.57	42.3
110	Left	Bear left, SP Stoke Sub Hamdon	5.37	3.34	44
111	Right	In Norton-sub-Hamdon, turn right, SP Stoke-sub -Hamdon, along New Road	6.09	3.78	34.7
112	Right	Turn right at T-junction, SP Montacute, Yeovil, in Stoke Sub Hamdon	7.32	4.55	52.5
113	Right	Turn right, SP Ham Hill. It is a steep climb but it's not that far to the top and definitely worth it for the views	7.8	4.85	57.8
114	Left	About 1/3 mile after you start to descend TL, along Hollow Lane and descend to Montacute along narrow lane	10.11	6.28	114.4
115	Right	At the bottom of the hill, TR at T-junction, no SP, along Yeovil Road. If you want to visit Montacute House turn left here and take the right in about 1/2 mile	11.03	6.85	53

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Section 8: Montacute to Yeovil Junction

Overview

The final section leaves the pretty village of Montacute heading towards Yeovil, but there are more villages to enjoy en route, and tall follies to look out for! There is a steep climb out of Montacute and then a gentle decline to our destination, Yeovil Junction Railway Station.

MONTACUTE is a beautifully laid out village of hamstone houses. It is famous for the National Trust property, Montacute House. There is a fine Elizabethan house, extensive gardens and parklands to explore and a popular cafe. Montacute is a popular filming location, including *Sense and Sensibility* and in 2014 *Wolf Hall*.

YEovil is the major town of South Somerset with a great shopping centre and bustling high street and markets. Also home to The Octagon Theatre, Goldenstones Leisure Centre, the Yeo Leisure Complex and the very popular Green Flag award-winning Yeovil Country Park.

Length of route: 8.18 miles 13.17 km

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help planning your logistics.

Parking: On street parking in Montacute, car parking in Yeovil town centre plus limited parking at Yeovil Junction Railway Station

Toilets: Public toilets at Yeovil Junction Railway Station and Yeovil Town Centre

Places to Eat and Drink: Selection of pubs, a small supermarket and the National Trust cafe in Montacute, pubs in Odcombe and Hardington Moor, plus a pub, cafe and farm shop in East Coker and a wide choice of hospitality options in Yeovil

Where to stay: There are lots of accommodation options to suit all budgets in the STAY section on visitsouthsomerset.com, click MAP VIEW

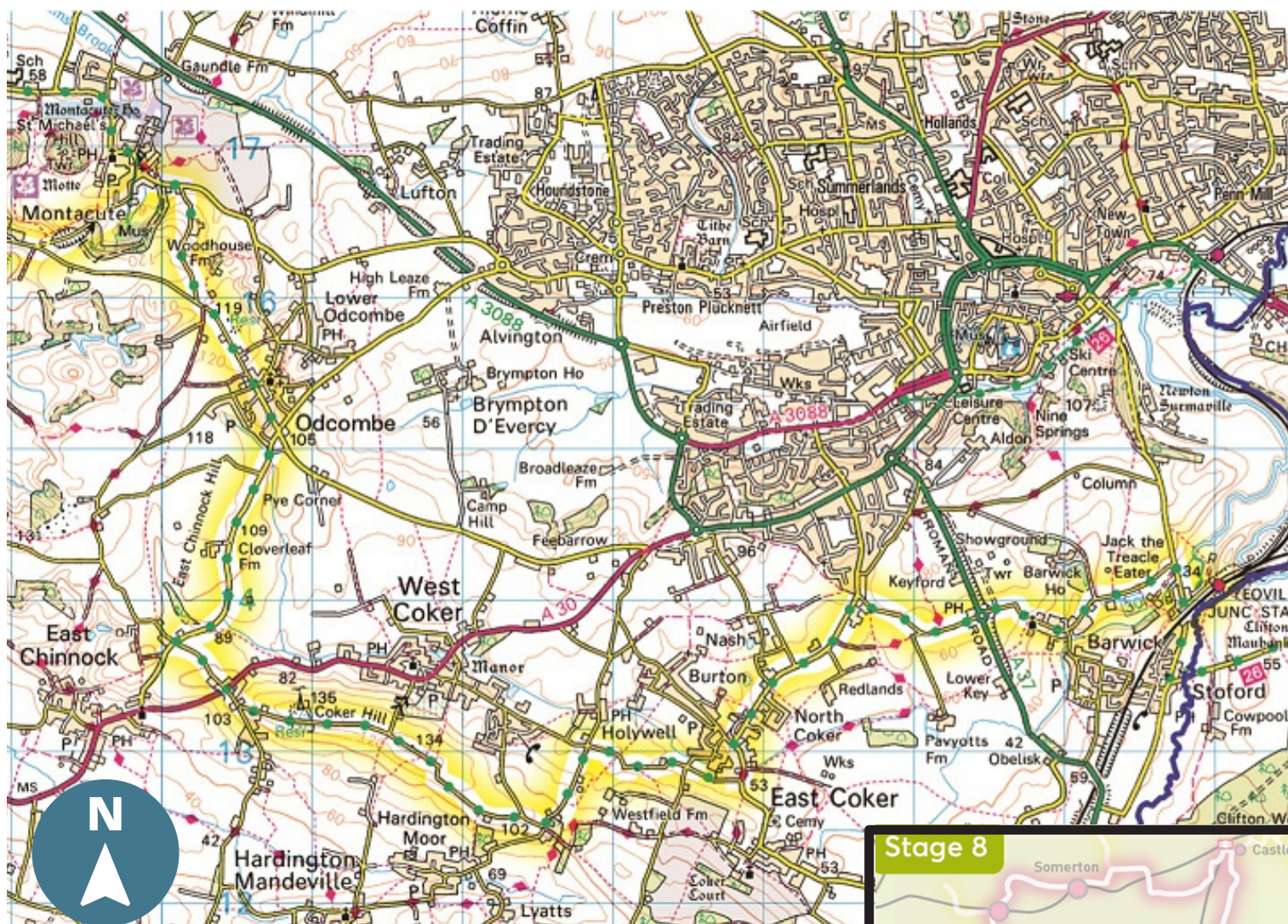
While in the Area: Allow time to explore EAST COKER, including the parish church with associations to the poet TS Elliot, Sutton Bingham reservoir for excellent bird-watching and Pen Wood with a nature trail and superb views. Look out for the four follies around Barwick Park - Jack the Treacle Eater is the most obvious, reputedly named after an estate messenger that sustained himself by eating treacle





South Somerset 80-mile Cycleway

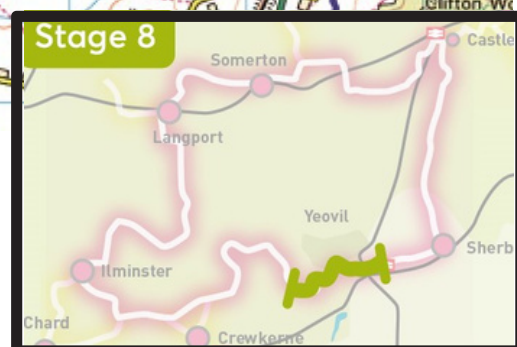
Section 8: Montacute to Yeovil Junction



Route guidance.

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Section 8: Montacute to Yeovil Junction

Point	Type	Notes	KM	Miles	Elev. (m)
116	Right	Leave Montacute on the Yeovil Road. Having passed the garage, TR and climb Woodhouse Lane, passing unsuitable for HGV sign. As steep as Ham Hill and narrow, but quiet	0.28	0.17	58.2
117	Left	At the top, TL at T-junction, no SP	1.12	0.70	115.2
118	Straight	In Odcombe, straight on at cross roads, along Ham Hill Road	1.8	1.12	116
119	Right	At the end of the village, TR at cross roads, SP East Chinnock 1 1/4	2.14	1.33	107.7
120	Left	Turn left at cross roads, SP West Coker, along narrow lane. Descend to cross over A30 on a narrow bridge	3.81	2.37	95.6
121	Left	Soon after crossing bridge, turn left and uphill along lane, opposite yellow grit bin. This is a lovely escarpment road	4.42	2.75	101.1
122	Right	Turn right at T-junction, no SP. There is a drain ahead	6.57	4.08	107.4
123	Left	Short descent to TL at T-junction, along Primrose Hill, SP Yeovil	6.73	4.18	104.8
124	Right	Descend to TR at cross roads, along Halves Lane, SP East Coker 1	7.35	4.57	69.3
125	Left	Turn left at T-junction, SP North Coker	8.48	5.27	54.7
126	Right	Turn right, SP Yeovil at tree centred junction, along Yeovil Road	8.76	5.44	58.7
127	Right	Turn Right, SP Barwick, Dorchester	10.1	6.28	68.2
128	Straight	This is a large roundabout on the busy A37, so take care. There is a cycle path across the pavements. Go straight across (second exit) flat then descend a high banked lane into Barwick	11.02	6.85	64.6
129	Left	As the lane bears right, TL and climb along Rexes Hollow Lane	11.66	7.25	41.5
130	Right	Turn right at T-junction, no SP	12.53	7.79	42.9
131	Left	Turn left, just before the railway bridge and return to the start	12.85	7.98	41.3
132	Control	End back at the station, we hope you enjoyed the ride	13.12	8.15	42
133	End	End of route at the Yeovil Junction Railway Station	13.17	8.18	42

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