

# The River Parrett Trail

## Section 2: Merriott to Ham Hill

### Overview

From Merriott the route is fairly level through fields to Lower Stratton, Wigborough and the approach to Norton sub Hamdon at Coleford Bridge. The route then climbs gradually to Norton sub Hamdon and Greenham's Cross.

It then takes a steep climb to the top of Ham Hill, with rewarding views across the Somerset countryside. The village of Norton sub Hamdon is worth exploring for its many fine buildings built from the local hamstone, including a visit to the church and the dovecote.

There may be livestock in fields, including on the summit of Ham Hill, so please keep dogs on a lead.

**Length of Walk:** 5.75 miles

**OS Explorer Map:** 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



**Parking:** Merriott Recreation Ground car park, roadside parking (please park sensibly) in Merriott and at the any of the Ham Hill Country Park car parks.



**Travel and Transport:** Visit [www.travelsomerset.co.uk](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk) or [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com) for help in planning your logistics.



**Toilets:** Toilets at the Ham Hill Country Park Rangers Office.



**Places to Eat and Drink:** Pubs in Merriott, Norton sub Hamdon and in Ham Hill Country Park. Shops and café in Merriott and Norton sub Hamdon.



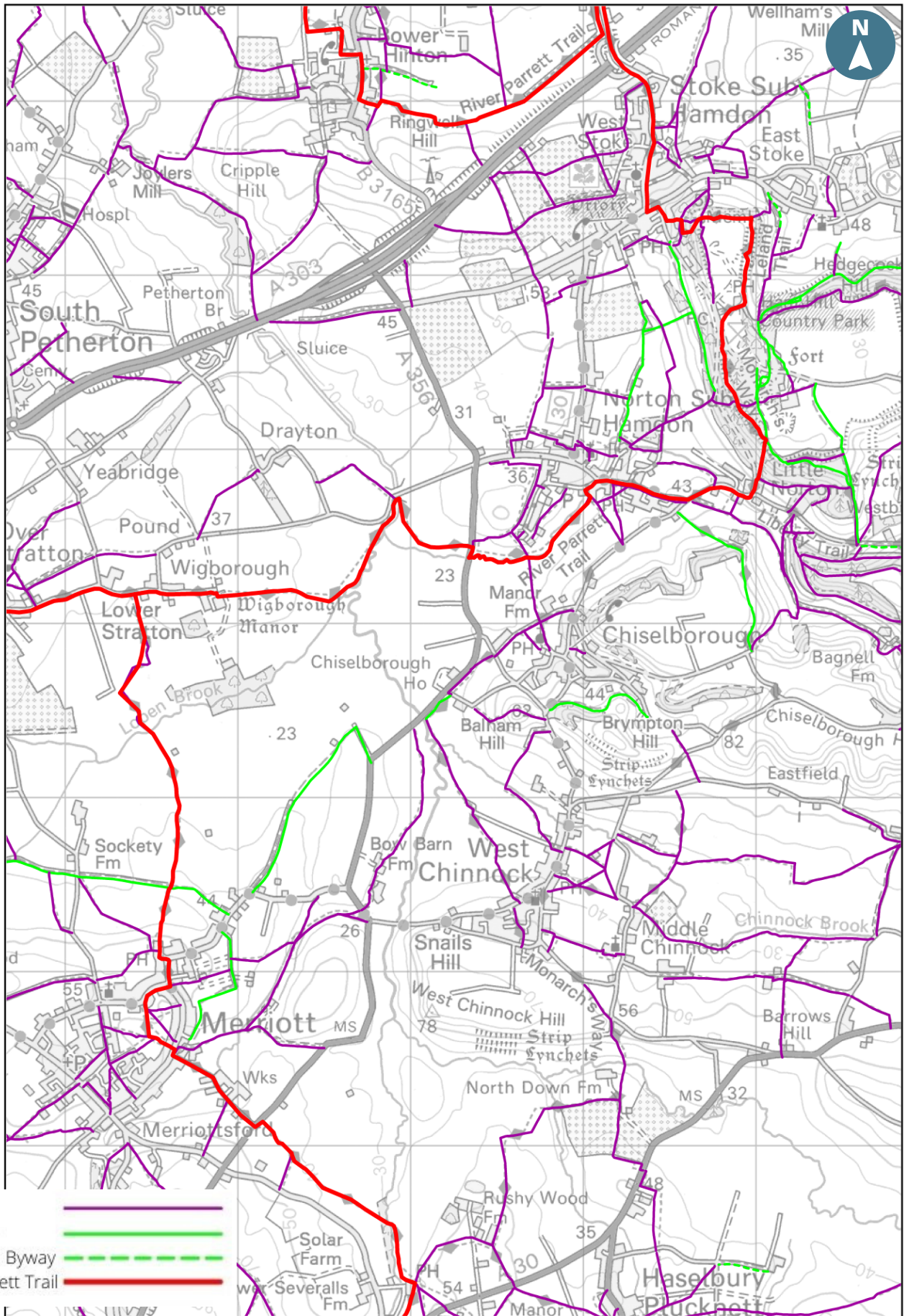
**Look out for:** The circular dovecote next to the church in Norton sub Hamdon that is the oldest building in the village. Admire the craftsmanship in many of the buildings along the walk, practically every building in the area is made from the hamstone quarried locally.



**While in the Area:** Explore Ham Hill Country Park, site of the largest Iron Age hill fort in the country. There are superb views of the Levels, Exmoor and the Mendip Hills and a striking war memorial, which can be seen from miles around.

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### 1. ST 445 128 MERRIOTT (from Section 1)

Turn **R** on road and pass pub on **L**. Turn **L** at T junction into Higher Street. Where road bends **R** turn **L** on track and then footpath signed to Garstone Lane. Where this enclosed path bends **R**, turn **R**, ignoring stile ahead of you.

At kissing gate continue on **R** hand edge of next two fields and then across the middle of next large field to reach kissing gate at Garstone Lane.

### 2. ST 446 135

Cross track, go through kissing gate opposite and follow **L** hand edge of next four fields. In fifth field go across middle of field, aiming for gate to **R** of large tree. Go through gate, cross stream and continue straight ahead to gap in hedge opposite. Keep to **L** hand edge of next field and on reaching end of trees on **L**, bear diagonally **R** across a grassy strip to a fingerpost.

Go to **R** of post and continue on **L** hand edge of next field which finally bends round to **R** to reach footbridge on **L**. Cross bridge and go straight ahead on path aiming for large hedgerow and then turn **L**, keeping hedge on **R** to reach kissing gate in top **R** hand corner. Cross and keep along **R** hand edge of field to reach road at Lower Stratton.

### 3. ST 444 152 LOWER STRATTON

From gate head east on road. After 150m at junction keep ahead (No Through Road) signed to Wigborough. Continue 250m and go through gate and pass Wigborough Manor on **R**. At end of high walls bear round to **R** and then **L** on waymarked path straight ahead across grassy field.

At brow of hill continue downhill towards hedge gap but go **L** before it to (often muddy) gate in corner. Cross gate and follow **L** hand edge of field for 500m to reach a kissing gate on **L** at road. Go **R** to reach Creedy Bridge over River Parrett.

### 4. ST 459 157 CREEDY BRIDGE

Immediately past the bridge turn **R** on footpath through metal squeeze gate. Bear **L** across field to squeeze gate in far **L** hand corner.

Go through and follow **R** hand edge of next field to kissing gate at the busy A356. Cross road with care to layby opposite, turn **L** for 10m and then turn **R** through gate onto footpath. Immediately turn sharp **R** along **R** hand side of field for 70m to reach stream and turn **L** to follow with stream on **R**. Continue to follow stream on **R**, ignoring two footbridges on your **R**. Eventually reach and cross a footbridge ahead of you and follow obvious path with stream now on **L** to reach road at Norton sub hamdon.





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### 5. ST 470 158 NORTON SUB HAMDON

Turn **R** for 80m to reach main road through village. Turn **R** along road for 550m passing pub on **L** and keeping to the raised path on **R**. Where road bends **R**, turn **L** into Greenham Cross, signed to Little Norton.

### 6. ST 478 158 LITTLE NORTON

Pass through Little Norton with mill on **R** then go **L** up road signed to Ham Hill. After 150m turn **R** up steps on footpath signed to Ham Hill and walk up steep path through bracken to reach crossing track. Continue ahead for 30m then turn **L** on broader track. Ignore gate on **R** and at crossroads of tracks go ahead on main path climbing gradually to reach parking area and information board. Keep to **L** of car park and take narrow undulating path to **L**, ignoring any down hill paths to **L**, to reach road at Ham Hill. Turn **L** and in 100m reach layby on **L** with stunning views and information boards.

### 7. ST 478 167 HAM HILL

At far end of layby cross road and turn **R** down steps to reach a picnic area. Cross picnic area to reach a tarmac road. (Toilets on **L** here). Turn **R** to reach pub on **L**. Bear **L** round the pub and go through pub car park to reach a gate opposite. Go through gate (excellent views out to **R** here) and follow main surfaced track, passing Ham Hill's version of Stonehenge on your **L** to reach the Memorial.

**Start here for Section 4 (Ham Hill to Langport via Western Link route)**

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**Protect the environment.**  
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