

The River Parrett Trail

Section 3 : Merriott to Langport via Western Link

Overview

This route follows the west link via South Petherton and is a shorter route to East Lambrook than the east route over Ham Hill. From Merriott the route is fairly level crossing fields to Lower Stratton. It then follows mainly minor roads to South Petherton and across meadows to East Lambrook where it re-joins the east route shortly after passing East Lambrook. The route then continues via Kingsbury Episcopi and Muchelney in to Langport. The latter part of the route runs alongside the Parrett.

Some sections of the riverside walk can become very muddy after wet weather. The section from Westover Bridge to Langport is particularly prone to mud.



Length of Walk: 6.25 miles

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Parking: Roadside parking in Merriott and car parks in South Petherton, Kingsbury Episcopi and Langport.



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



Toilets: Public toilets in South Petherton.



Places to Eat and Drink: Pubs in Merriott, Over Stratton, South Petherton, East Lambrook, and Langport. Shops, restaurants, and café in South Petherton and Langport. Village shop and café in Kingsbury Episcopi.

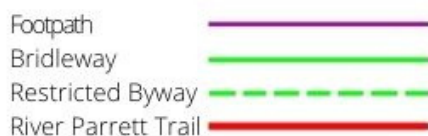


Look out for: Majestic polo horses in the fields of the attractive Wigbrough Manor built in 1585. Chukkas, matches and training sessions can be watched from the footpath through the property. Brightly coloured kingfishers regularly dart along the river and cuckoos have been heard around Gawbridge Mill.



While in the Area: East Lambrook Manor gardens, famous for snowdrops in February but an attractive garden all year around. Montacute House and Barrington Court are both National Trust properties and very popular with the visitors. Thorney Mill is not on the trail itself but once used the water of the Parrett to grind corn.

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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.

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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 next stile 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 go straight ahead on path aiming for large hedgerow and then turn **L**, keeping hedge on **R** to reach stile 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

Turn **L** along road. At junction turn **L** and continue along road into Over Stratton. At next junction turn **R** on road signed to South Petherton. Walk past pub and after 150 yds turn **L** down Fosse Lane. At end of lane turn **R** into Northfield Lane, signed Watergore. Follow track to its end at a road.

4. ST 432 158

Cross road with care to track opposite. At T junction turn **R** on road and then at crossroads turn **L** on road crossing A303.

This bends **L** and then **R** signed to South Petherton. Keep on this road which becomes South Street in to South Petherton.

5. ST 434 169 SOUTH PETHERTON

Turn **L** downhill on Knapp Hill and bear **L** uphill on St James's Street through town. Pass Market Square on **L** and continue straight ahead until reaching Silver Street. Turn **R** and follow road to T junction. Bear **L** uphill and after 80 yds turn **L** on footpath signed to East Lambrook. Go past Woodland Trust site on **L**. Pass through two metal gates and continue straight on. Over stile, through gate and proceed with fence on **R**. Ignore stile and bridge on **L**. Continue straight over private drive and carry on with stream on **L**. Go through stone squeeze stile, over two bridges and stile, and follow **L** hand edge of field. At metal footbridge cross and follow short enclosed section to reach road. Turn **R** and follow Water Street to end, ignoring Church Lane on **L**.

6. ST 433 186 EAST LAMBROOK

At T junction turn **R**, cross bridge and turn immediately **L**. Go through two kissing gates and keep stream on your **L**. In the middle of the second field bear **R** towards kissing gate. This is where the East Link via Ham Hill joins. Do not pass through the kissing gate but bear **L** back towards the stream. Walk with stream on **L**. At metal footbridge on **L**, cross and turn **R** heading for tall trees ahead. Pass through two kissing gates to reach road.

7. ST 443 196 GAWBRIDGE MILL

Turn **R**, go past the mill, and follow the road. Before the road bridge crosses the river, turn **L** following the road for approx. 50m, before passing through a kissing gate and out onto the bank of the Parrett.



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8. ST 443 196 GAWBRIDGE MILL cont.

Follow the riverbank until you cross a bridge. After crossing the bridge, turn slightly **L** and head for the gate in the treeline on the far side of the large field. Pass through the gate, over a bridge and come out onto the road.

9. ST 435 210 KINGSBURY EPISCOPI

Turn **L** and walk along road to reach T junction. Turn **R** along road to reach village green with its octagonal lock up. Turn **L**, going straight on at next two junctions. Just after second junction (road called West End) bear **L** between houses. Follow enclosed path to reach a kissing gate and footpath sign to Thorney Bridge. Follow path, cross stile and then turn **R**, signed to Thorney.

10. ST 431 211

Walk across the fields to a bridge and continue ahead across fields, through gates. After crossing the third bridge, keep the stream on your **R**. Continue on **R** hand edge of fields until reaching fingerpost at a crossing track.

11. ST 426 224

Continue straight ahead signed to Thorney. Keep along **R** hand edge of fields with brook on **R** until reaching a wooden footbridge onto a track with fingerpost. Turn **R** on track signed to Thorney Bridge. On reaching road turn **L** and walk to road bridge across River Parrett.

12. ST 427 229 THORNEY BRIDGE

Just before road bridge turn **L** on footpath signed to Westover Bridge. Walk along bank of River

Parrett for one mile, passing through several gates, to reach Muchelney Pumping Station on your left, where several waterways meet.

13. ST 418 236 MULCHELNEY PUMPING STATION

Bear round to **L**, cross bridge and pass to **R** of Pumping Station. Pass a group of trees, turn **R** to cross bridge and turn **R** again to pass Pumping Station on your **R** to reach a metal gate. Go through and continue along bank of River Parrett for 1.2 miles, passing through several metal gates, heading towards Muchelney church, ahead to reach road at Westover Bridge.

14. ST 425 248 WESTOVER BRIDGE, MUCHELNEY

Go straight across road and continue on **L** hand bank of river signed to Huish Bridge, passing through several metal gates. At a point where there is a wooden kissing gate on the river bank, ignore this and continue straight ahead through waymarked metal gates slightly away from the river but with a ditch on your **R**. After passing through two gates in quick succession turn **R** on track and cross Huish Bridge across River Parrett. Immediately after crossing bridge turn **L** keeping the River Parrett on **L** and ditch on **R**. Follow the river bank for 400 yds, ignoring footbridges on **R**. Continue straight on along river bank, passing picnic area. Do not cross the river and turn **R** along Bow Street.

Start here for Section 5 (Langport to Bridgwater)

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