

The River Parrett Trail

Section 4: Ham Hill to Langport

Overview

A steep descent from Ham Hill to Stoke sub hamdon followed by a level walk mainly across meadows and fields to Bower Hinton, Kingsbury Episcopi and then onto Thorney Bridge. Thereafter the route follows the grassy bank of the River Parrett to Langport.

There may be livestock in fields, please keep dogs on leads. Some sections of the riverside walk can become very muddy after wet weather particularly between Weston Bridge and Langport.

Length of Walk: 10.75 miles

OS Explorer Map: 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



Parking: Ham Hill Country Park, Kingsbury Episcopi Community Centre and a good selection of free carparks in Langport, including long stay.



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



Toilets: Public toilets available at Ham Hill Country Park and in Langport beside the library.



Places to Eat and Drink: Pubs on Ham Hill and in Stoke sub hamdon, Bower Hinton and Langport. Café in Bower Hinton, village shop and café in Kingsbury Episcopi, and selection of cafés, restaurants and shops in Langport.



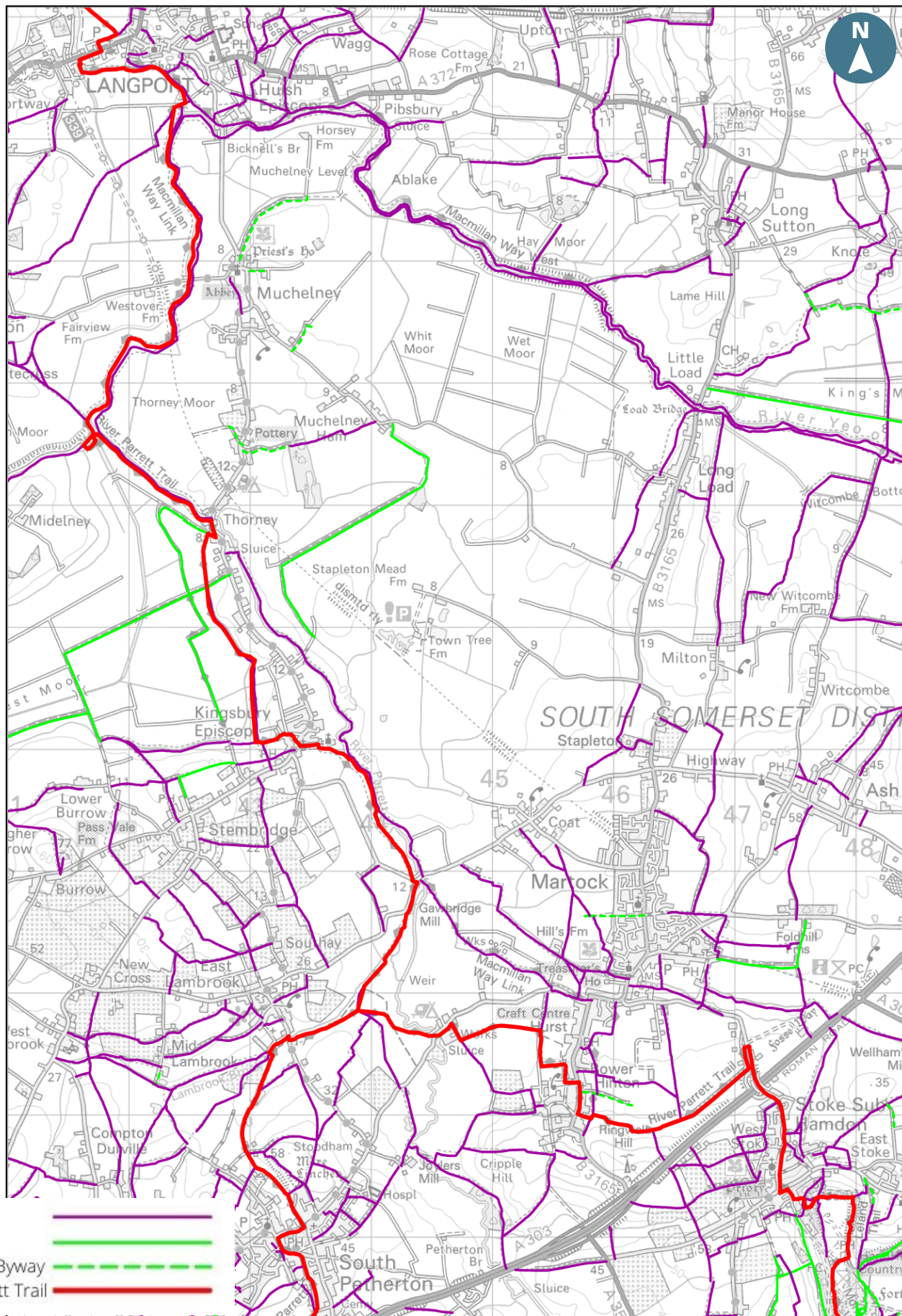
Look out for: Productive orchards laden with pale pink blossom in the spring and fruits in the autumn, ready for harvesting and making into Somerset Cider. Colourful willows grown in Withy beds ready for hand crafting into coffins, hot air balloon baskets and domestic and garden products.



While in the Area: Visit the majestic Benedictine Muchelney Abbey (English Heritage), complete with Tudor monks' quarters. The John Leach Muchelney Pottery is close and allow time to explore Langport with an interesting selection of galleries, gift shops and independent cafes.

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1. ST 477 173 HAM HILL MEMORIAL (from Section 2)

Go to **R** of memorial and bear **L** down slope passing seat on **R**. Continue steeply downhill on well trodden path (with Stoke sub hamdon to **R**) to reach a gate. Go through and then turn **R** to reach a grassy path with fence on **R**. At junction of paths turn **L** on steps downhill to reach a road, then **R** on road downhill to reach main road through Stoke Sub Hamdon.

2. ST 474 174 STOKE SUB HAMDON

Turn **L** into village and then next **R** into North St, signed to Martock. Walk along road with care for 0.7 miles to cross over main A303 dual carriageway. After 130m, ignore the A303 sliproad signed to Andover, but 200m beyond turn **L** on road and after 20m turn **L**, SP Bower Hinton. Continue on tarmac road through metal kissing gate onto a track after last house on **R**. Turn **R** on track signed to Bower Hinton. After 600m track reaches a gate. Continue ahead and keep to **R** hand edge of field, ignoring stile on **R**, to reach gateway. Continue on **L** hand edge of next field and on reaching far end bear **R** to kissing gates in corner. Continue on **R** hand edge of next two fields. At end of second field path bears **L** then turns **R** along an enclosed path to reach road at Bower Hinton.

3. ST 457 180 BOWER HINTON

Turn **R** on road and follow for 400m. Pass church on **R** and 50m beyond go **L** on narrow lane which soon becomes a rough track. Follow this as it bears **R** and then bends **L** to reach a fingerpost signed Parrett Trail.

Turn **L** through allotments and walk along **L** hand edge of field. At corner turn **R** and follow **L** hand edge of field. In far corner cross bridge to meet a farm track. Turn **R** for 100m to next gate on **L**. Go through and walk along **R** hand edge of next two fields aiming for the distinctive chimney of Parrett Works. Cross bridge and walk along **L** hand edge of next field to kissing gate in **L** hand corner. Pass through and follow narrow path to next gate and then turn **R** with wall on **L** to reach a gate onto road. Turn **L** on road for 150m to reach bridge over River Parrett.

4. ST 446 187 PARRETT WORKS

Immediately past the bridge turn **R** on footpath keeping to **R** hand edge of field with river on **R**. On reaching last large bend in river, bear **L** to kissing gate in hedge line. Turn **R** along Drove and then at open field turn **L** across middle of field aiming for a stile in the corner of the hedgerows. On reaching stile, do not cross but bear **R** with hedge on **L** to reach a kissing gate in far **L** hand corner.

5. ST 443 196 GAWBRIDGE MILL

Turn right, 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. 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.



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6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 **L**, where several waterways meet.

10. 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.

11. 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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