

The River Parrett Trail

SECTION 6: Bridgwater to Stert Point

Overview

Leaving Bridgwater Docks and following the banks of the Parrett which does some big meanders, on its way to Combwich. This is an easy section to follow as the path follows the top of the riverbank all the way to the outskirts of Combwich. After passing through the village of Combwich the route continues to follow the river bank. On reaching Steart Marshes Nature Reserve, the route follows the boundary bank to the community of Steart and to the bird hide tower at Steart Point.

Please follow local signage at Steart Point, areas may be closed to protect nesting birds or fragile habitats.

Length of Walk: 11.5 miles

OS Explorer Map: 140 Quantock Hills & Bridgwater



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Parking: Street parking in Russell Place and other car parks in Bridgwater. Roadside parking in Combwich, please park considerately. Car parks at Steart Marshes Nature Reserve and at the start of the Somerset Coast Path at Steart.



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



Toilets: Blake Gardens, Bridgwater and the main Steart Marshes Nature Reserve car park.



Places to Eat and Drink: Pubs and shops in Combwich and Cannington. High street and independent restaurants, pubs, cafés and shops in Bridgwater.



Look out for: Wildlife thrive at Steart Marshes and Bridgwater Bay including breeding avocets, curlew, oystercatcher, lapwing, little ringed plover and 18 species of dragonflies and damselflies. Birds of prey, including merlin, peregrine, kestrel, buzzards and marsh harrier are regularly spotted. Catch the tidal bore and marvel at the mud sculptures and patterns left by the tide.



While in the Area: Visit the Walled Gardens of Cannington for interesting gardens, tea room and plant sales. Combwich, site of an ancient ferry crossing and a busy port from the 15th century - historically, timber, brick and coal and more recently equipment for Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station.



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 299 365 BRIDGWATER (from Section 5)

Follow **L** hand bank of River Parrett. Pass under main road and continue ahead on grassy bank. From this point, you are also following the England Coast Path (ECP). Continue walking atop the grassy bund. When the river turns **L**, you are opposite Dunball Wharf.

2. ST 308 407 DUNBALL WHARF

Continue on grassy bank through gates and kissing gates with views to the right of the village of Pawlett. Pass through further kissing gates, metal gates and past the water management system features at Pippin's Clyce, Fenlyn's Clyce and Stallington's Clyce.

3. ST 278 409 STALLINGTON'S CLYCE

Continue along **L** hand bank of river northwards for 1.5 miles through metal gates (views of Comwich and its church spire ahead). On reaching end of river bank path turn **L**.

4. ST 262 421

Go along a narrow path, straight ahead across tarmac road and keep ahead on narrow path. Where this path ends turn **R** to reach road. Turn **L** on road to pass houses on **L** and just before reaching main road turn **R** on path crossing stream, passing through metal barriers to reach road. Turn sharp **R** down riverside with stream on **R**. Walk along road which bends left to reach a small mooring area for boats.

5. ST 260 425 COMBWITH HARBOUR

Continue on road passing pub on **L**. Where road bends **L** continue straight ahead on firm track which bends **R** to rejoin **L** hand bank of river. After around 300yds turn **L** onto the new path along the boundary of the Steart Marshes Nature Reserve. Continue to follow the surfaced paths with signposts on or adjacent to the reserve bank.

6. ST 263 437

At the end of the new bank turn **L**. Continuing along surfaced path keeping the inundation on the **R**. When you reach the signpost showing the ECP summer route, turn **L** to join road.

7. ST 275 459

Turn **R** and walk along road. After a sharp **R** on the road, you will reach a metal gate next to a large oak tree, turn **L** at the tree and follow the track to the next gate and then turn **L**, crossing the field, to the bird hide and the end of the trail.

Congratulations - if you have walked from Chedington you have completed The River Parrett Trail!

**Please follow the Countryside Code. Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside.
Respect everyone.
Protect the environment.
Enjoy the outdoors.**

Keep in touch:



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