

More... bike rides



Somerset Levels and Moors Cycle Routes

Four interesting circular routes between 22 and 28 miles long, featuring the Withy Way, the Isle Valley, the Avalon Marshes and the Peat Moor Routes, using the quietest roads available. Guides currently under revision and will be available from Tourist Information Centres in the near future.

Pedal Around Porlock

A family cycle route in the Vale of Porlock. Details available from Porlock Tourist Information Centre.

Short Cycle Routes around Wells and Glastonbury

Ten easily followed routes away from main roads, using quiet lanes and off road routes. Published by Cycleway Books, 2 Cork Terrace, Bath. BA1 3BE.

Cycling in the Blackdown Hills (1995)

Eight circular routes, from 7 to 22 miles, exploring the Blackdown Hills. Details available from Blackdown Hills AONB, St Ivel House, Hemyock, Cullumpton, Devon. EX15 3SJ.



Sedgemoor Cycle Rides

Four circular rides, some linking to Route 3 of the National Cycle Network. Details available from Sedgemoor Tourist Information Centre.

Twenty Four one day rides in Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire

Routes varying from 15 miles (off road) to 35 (on road) with the aim of avoiding busy roads.

Published by Ordnance Survey. Available at Tourist Information Centres and Bookshops.

Off Road Routes

Mountain Bike Route Guides:

The West Country Way

Eight superb routes and a 100 mile tour across Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Quantocks for off road enthusiasts. Book by Tim Woodcock, published by Future Books and available from Bookshops.

Leisure Routes on Exmoor

A selection of challenging mostly off road routes suggested by Exmoor National Park.

The Dunster ride is on Forestry Commission woodland and the Wimbleball Lake and Holnicote Estate and North Hill rides on country lanes and bridleways. Details available from Dulverton Visitor Centre.

Please follow the Country Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

More... Walks



Staple Hill Easy Access Loop

This 1 kilometre circuit allows everyone, including those with limited mobility, to explore the Blackdown Hills. For further information visit www.nerochescheme.org

Mendip Hills 'Wild Walks'

Published by the Mendip Hills ANOB service, the Wild Walks booklet is great for the experienced walker keen to explore the countryside in more detail. For further details on this and other walking routes, visit www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk

The Limestone Link

A 36 mile route between the Cotswold Way at Cold Ashton and the Mendip Way at Shipham (including 12 circular walks varying in length from 3 to 12 miles each using part of the link. Booklet available from Yatton Ramblers, Yatton, BRISTOL.

The Strawberry Line

A recreational trail along the route of the Cheddar Valley Railway between Yatton and Cheddar. Details available from Cheddar and Weston-super-Mare Tourist Information Centres.

In search of The Grand Western Canal

A pleasant walk over the level, low lying countryside of the Vale of Taunton Deane which gives the walker glimpses of the old Canal and superb views of the surrounding Quantock and Blackdown Hills. The route coincides, for some of its length, with the West Deane Way. Details are available from Taunton Tourist Information Centre.

Somerset Space Walk

A true scale model of the Solar System with the planets placed along the Taunton Bridgwater Canal.

It is 13 miles long, centred on the Sun at Maunsel Lock, which is 6½ miles in either direction from Taunton or Bridgwater. The route coincides, for some of its length with The West Country Way. Details are available from Taunton and Bridgwater Tourist Information Centres.

Walking the Hills and Vales around Yeovil

Six circular walks discovering the countryside around Yeovil. Details available from Yeovil Tourist Information Centre.

Taunton Heritage Trail

Set in its famous vale, rich in orchards and pastures, Taunton's air of bustling prosperity and activity reflects its modern role as Somerset's county town. Walk around Taunton, there are many memories of an eventful past waiting to be discovered.... Leaflet available from Taunton and Wellington Tourist Information Centres.

Country Walks from West Somerset Railway Stations

A series of 3 booklets giving details of country walks from West Somerset Railway Stations.

Details available from West Somerset Railway.

Telephone 01823 432125 or 01643 704996.

Several villages and towns also have trails guiding you around points of interest. Details available from Tourist Information Centres.

more... horse rides

Staple Fitzpaine Herepath Trail

This 13 mile circular walking and riding trail passes through Forestry Commission woodlands, an historic hill fort, butterfly meadows and passes by the highest point on the Blackdown Hills. For further information and to download trail maps, visit www.nerochescheme.org

Exmoor and the Quantock Hills on Horseback (2006)


A guide to 11 circular rides on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills, published by Exmoor National Park. Details available from: Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset. TA22 9HL 01398 323655 info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Somerset on Horseback

A guide to 15 circular rides in Somerset published by the British Horse Society. Details available from: The British Horse Society, British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

CV8 2XZ Tel: 08701 202 244






South West Coast Path 1

The South West Coast Path, the longest of the National Trails, has an interesting history; it is based on a footpath established by the Coastguards who patrolled the length of the South West Peninsula, on foot, every day watching for smugglers. This sentry activity was continued until 1913. To enable them to do this in those days a series of coastguard cottages were erected at convenient intervals along the path, some of which are still standing today.

In Minehead the start of the path is identifiable by a sculpture which represents a pair of hands holding a map. This is also the end of the [West Somerset Coast Path \(5\)](#). From here, the Trail climbs up over North Hill and continues past Selworthy Beacon before dropping down into Porlock.

Passing through Porlock Weir the route proceeds into Culbone Woods and continues along the Somerset Bristol Channel coast to the Devon boundary.

Guidebooks are available from bookshops and Somerset and Devon Tourist Information centres. Information may also be obtained from The South West Coast Path Association, Windlestraw, Penquit, near Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0LU. www.swcp.org.uk




Two Moors Way 2

The Two Moors Way runs between Ivybridge in South Devon and Lynmouth on the North Devon Coast and is approximately 102 miles long and links Dartmoor and Exmoor.

From the south it enters Somerset at Anstey Common and winds through beautiful river scenery and lonely moorlands across Exmoor following the east bank of the River Barle through a beautiful wooded valley. After Withypool the Way keeps mainly to high ground dipping to cross and re-cross the Barle.

Before leaving Somerset, to make a spectacular descent into Lynmouth, the route coincides for some of its length with the Tarka Trail.

Publications detailing the "The Two Moors Way" are available from bookshops and Tourist Information Centres in Somerset and Devon. Or contact the Two Moors Way Association, Coppins, The Poplars, Pinhoe, Exeter. EX4 9HH. www.devon.gov.uk/prow



Coleridge Way 3a

The Coleridge Way is a 36 mile trail through the stunning Somerset countryside of the Quantock Hills, the Brendon Hills and Exmoor. This landscape inspired the poet Coleridge to produce some of his best-known works.


The walking trail takes you from Nether Stowey on the Quantock Hills, where Coleridge once lived, to the beautiful coastal village of Porlock, close to where Coleridge is said to have written Kubla Khan.



Coleridge Bridle Way 3b

The Coleridge Bridle Way is a 33 mile trail and offers horseriders a two or three day ride through a stunning variety of scenery alternating between open panoramic views and deep wooded combs. Also starting in Nether Stowey it follows the route of the Coleridge Way except where shown by the dotted line and finishes in Exford. There are opportunities to stay in horse friendly accommodation and to extend your stay by linking into other circular routes.


Further information on the routes is available from Porlock Information Centre or visit www.coleridge-way.co.uk



West Deane Way 4a

The West Deane Way is a circular 45 mile walk through the varied countryside of the Vale of Taunton Deane. Surprising vistas, spectacular views and picturesque villages hidden among gentle hills make it a pleasant introduction to the delights of this unspoilt area.


The route follows the River Tone passing through a variety of landscapes including the rivers flood plain and its wooded valley as it skirts the Brendon Hills. It then rises to the undulating slopes of the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



East Deane Way 4b

This 42 mile circular walk takes in the varied landscape of the eastern half of the Taunton Deane Borough. Following the River Tone out of Taunton the Way heads towards Burrowbridge encompassing the North Curry Ridge, returning to Vivary Park in Taunton firstly via Hatch Beauchamp, and then Bickenhall and Corfe in the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Available as a series of six leaflets.


Copies of the "East Deane Way" leaflets & "The West Deane Way" booklet may be obtained from bookshops and Taunton and Wellington Tourist Information Centres.



West Somerset Coast Path 5

The West Somerset Coast Path is a 25 mile long linear trail linking the [River Parrett Trail \(7\)](#) at Start in Bridgwater Bay to the [South West Coast Path \(1\)](#) National Trail in Minehead. The path offers magnificent seaward and inland views and passes through the northern part of the Quantock Hills AONB where it coincides with the [Coleridge Way \(3\)](#). There are a number of circular walks adjacent to the trail as well as access to towns and villages at Kilve, West Quantoxhead, Williton, Watchet, Blue Anchor and Dunster.

Leaflets are available from Bridgwater, Watchet, Dunster and Minehead Tourist Information Centres and more detailed route information is available at www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway/



Quantock Greenway 6

The Greenway allows you to discover intimate Quantock villages and farmed landscapes with confidence. It travels through different types of landscape and many different villages, where there are fascinating historic buildings and sites of interest.

Both loops offer a challenging day walk or it can be tackled over a number of days using local accommodation.

A copy of the Greenway brochure (which includes five circular walks off the Greenway) may be obtained from the Quantock AONB Service or Taunton and Bridgwater Tourist Information Centres.



River Parrett Trail 7

The River Parrett Trail can be enjoyed as a 50 mile hike over 3 or 4 days or as a series of shorter walks exploring some of England's most beautiful, intriguing but also fragile countryside.

It offers comfortable walking across the wetlands of the Somerset Levels and Moors. It is also a fascinating journey through orchards, woods, withy beds and the watery haunts of birds and fishermen; passing limestone cottages, Georgian terraces, elegant mediaeval churches and the elaborate pattern of rhynes and water courses of the low land.

The Trail links with the [West Somerset Coast Path \(5\)](#) [Monarchs Way \(12\)](#), [Liberty Trail \(9\)](#), [Macmillan Way West \(10b\)](#), and [Leland Trail \(15\)](#).

Leaflets are available from the River Parrett Visitor Centre and more detailed route information is available at www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway/



Ride UK

8

The British Horse Society are developing a national route linking riding networks across the country. The route from Dartmoor across the Blackdown Hills is in the process of being improved through the development of circular routes. The route from Exmoor follows the **Coleridge Bridle Way (3b)** to the Quantock Hills and then joins the route from Dartmoor at Fivehead where it continues through the varied landscape of South Somerset before leading on to join the Ridgeway in Wiltshire.

This route is not published yet but further details are available from The British Horse Society, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LR, telephone 08701 202244 or visit www.ride-uk.org.uk/



Liberty Trail

9

The 28 mile Liberty Trail from Ham Hill in South Somerset to the Dorset coast at Lyme Regis follows the route of some of the men, who walked to Lyme Regis in 1685 to join the Monmouth rebellion.

At Ham Hill there are links with other Trails including the [Monarch's Way \(12\)](#), [Leland Trail \(15\)](#) and [River Parrett Trail \(7\)](#).

The Liberty Trail Pack is available from South Somerset Tourist Information Centres.



Macmillan Way

10a

The Macmillan Way is 290 miles long and runs from Boston on the Lincolnshire Coast to the Dorset Coast at Abbotsbury.

It enters Somerset in the north east and runs along the Frome Valley on through the woodlands of the Stourhead Estate. Continuing through Bruton, Castle Cary and North Cadbury.

At Castle Cary the route splits. Here you can continue on the main route into Dorset or take the [Macmillan Way West \(10b\)](#).



Macmillan Way West

10b

The western spur starts at Castle Cary and heads across the unique Somerset Levels to North Petherton and continues north westwards along the Quantock Hills before winding its way to Dunster.

Beyond here, it crosses some of the wildest parts of Exmoor before continuing to Barnstaple.

Details of the Macmillan Way and the Macmillan Way West are available from the Macmillan Way Association, St Mary's Barn, Pillerton Priors, Warwick. CV35 0PG. Telephone 01789 740852 or www.macmillanway.org.



South Somerset Cycle Route

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This 80 mile cycle route around the South Somerset countryside takes you on quiet lanes from the busy market town of Yeovil, on the Dorset border, eastwards to the undulating hills and vales around Wincanton, across the low lying Somerset Moors and then west towards Devon and Chard, returning through the warm hamstone villages of South Somerset.

A guide to the route is available from South Somerset Tourist Information Centres.



Monarchs Way

12

This long distance footpath is 615 miles long and runs from Worcester to Shoreham in East Sussex. It closely follows the route taken by Charles II after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

The route enters Somerset near Chewton Mendip and crosses the Mendip Hills heading for Wells. It continues south to Yeovil and eventually leaves the county en route to Charmouth in Dorset. It re-enters the county at Crewkerne where it runs east, heading for its destination of Shoreham in East Sussex.

There are links to the [Mendip Way \(13\)](#) in the north and to most of the trails in the south of the county.

Book 2 The Monarchs Way by Trevor Anthill is available from bookshops. www.monarchsway.com 50megs.com



West & East Mendip Way

13

The West & East Mendip way is almost exactly 50 miles long and runs from Weston super Mare to Frome.

The western section runs from the Bristol Channel at Uphill and in places affords fine views over the Somerset Levels. It crosses the Central Mendip plateau leading down to the spectacular Cheddar Gorge before eventually taking in the beautiful city of Wells. Between Wells and Frome the landscape changes with open hilltops replaced by deep secluded valleys.

A publication "Uphill to Frome : a guide to The Mendip Way" by David Wright is available from Tourist Information Centres.



West Country Way

14a

Route 3 of the National Cycle Network (Lands End to Bristol) passes through Somerset.

It enters the south west of the county from Tiverton (in Devon) heading east over Exmoor. Continues along canal towpaths and quiet lanes to Taunton and the Somerset Levels to Glastonbury before the climb onto the Mendip Hills. The route then continues to Bristol.



Stop Line Way

14b

Route 33, of the National Cycle Network, starts in Bristol and will follow the line of the old World War II Stop Line. Along the route it will be possible to see old pill boxes and gun emplacements. For up to date progress on the route visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Route 26 is being developed and will link Wells, Castle Cary and Yeovil.

Guides are available from Tourist Information Centres and Sustrans, 35 King Street, Bristol, BS1 4DZ. Telephone 0117 929 0888 www.sustrans.org.uk



Leland Trail

15

John Leland worked for King Henry VIII as keeper of the royal libraries. In 1533 he was commissioned by the King to make a search after England's antiquities.

The Leland Trail is a 28 mile footpath which follows in the footsteps of John Leland as he traversed the traditional lowland landscapes of South Somerset sometime between 1535 and 1543.

At Ham Hill there are links to other Trails including the the [Monarch's Way \(12\)](#), [Liberty Trail \(15\)](#) and [River Parrett Trail \(7\)](#).

A guide to the Trail is available from South Somerset Tourist Information Centres.



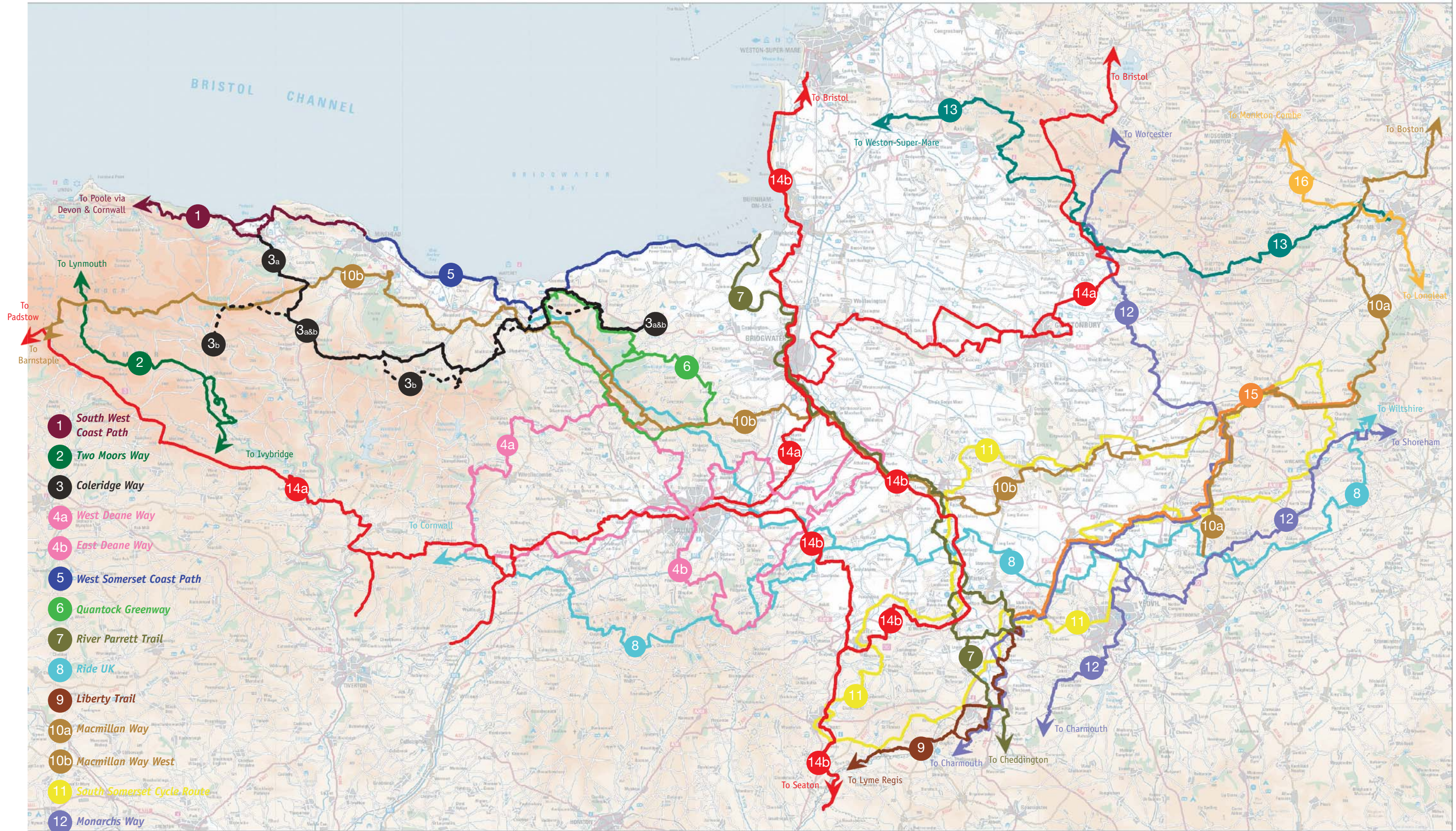
The Colliers Way (NCN 24) is a 17 mile route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders between Dundas Aqueduct, Radstock and Frome making use of disused railway lines and quiet country lanes.

The long and fascinating history of mining and life in the North Somerset Coalfields can be discovered at the Radstock Museum.

Frome is also steeped in history with more listed buildings than any other town in Somerset.

Colliers Way leaflet guides are available from Tourist Information Centres and Sustrans, 35 King Street, Bristol, BS1 4DZ. Telephone 0117 929 0888 www.sustrans.org.uk

Walking, Riding & Cycling Routes in Somerset



- 1** South West Coast Path
- 2** Two Moors Way
- 3** Coleridge Way
- 4a** West Deane Way
- 4b** East Deane Way
- 5** West Somerset Coast Path
- 6** Quantock Greenway
- 7** River Parrett Trail
- 8** Ride UK
- 9** Liberty Trail
- 10a** Macmillan Way
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- 11** South Somerset Cycle Route
- 12** Monarchs Way
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- 14a** West Country Way
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- 16** Colliers Way

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