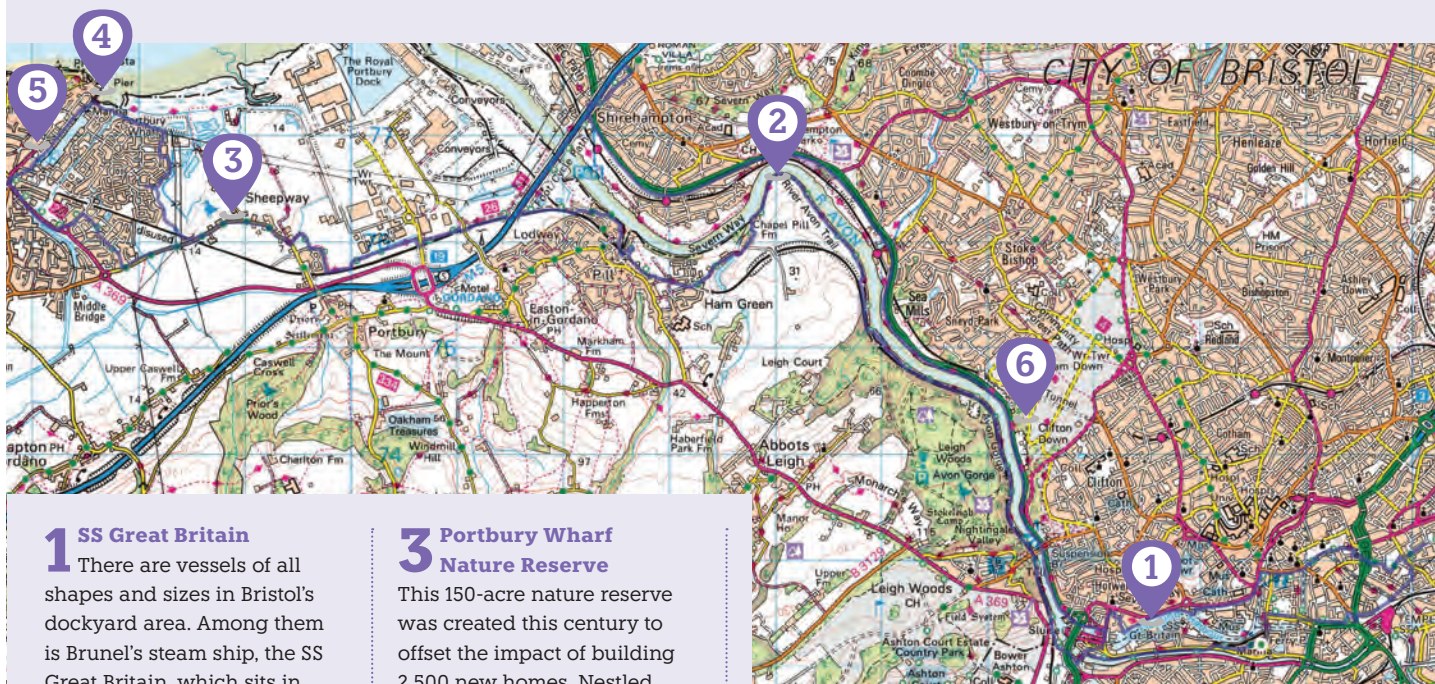


Weekend ride

AVON CALLING

• **Start/finish:** Wapping Wharf car park beside the M Shed museum. Or you could pick up the route at Temple Meads Station •

Maps: OS Landranger 172 • **Distance:** 44km [27.5 miles] • **Climbing:** 56m • **Bike type:** any • **Ride level:** beginner (although parts of the River Avon Trail and the marina edge at Portishead are unfenced) • **Accessible toilets:** M Shed [start], Bakehouse [nr Bristol and Bath Railway Path terminus], Underfall Yard [Bristol Harbour], Waitrose café in Portishead • **GPX file:** cyclinguk.org/weekender-avoncalling



1 SS Great Britain

There are vessels of all shapes and sizes in Bristol's dockyard area. Among them is Brunel's steam ship, the SS Great Britain, which sits in the dry dock where it was built. You get a good view from across the water but if you also want to visit (see ssgreatbritain.org for times and prices), it's only a few minutes from the route's start and finish.

3 Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve

This 150-acre nature reserve was created this century to offset the impact of building 2,500 new homes. Nestled between the housing at Portishead and the industry of Royal Portbury Dock, the reserve provides a vital haven for wildlife, which ranges from dragonflies and great crested newts to water voles and owls.

4 Portishead Marina

Pause at the entrance to the marina to enjoy spectacular views of the Welsh coastline across the Severn Estuary. You'll sometimes see ocean-going vessels navigating the deep water channel into Portbury and pleasure craft entering the locks of Portishead Marina.

6 AVON GORGE CLIFFS

As you approach the Clifton Suspension Bridge again, take time to admire the cliff faces. They're home to a wealth of wildlife, including nesting peregrine falcons and many rare plants and invertebrates. In an area known as the gully, you may spot a herd of goats.

2 THE OLD POWDER STORE

As you come around the river's horseshoe bend, you'll see a small white building on the opposite bank. The Old Powder Store was built in 1775 and used to store gunpowder, which wasn't allowed within Bristol Harbour. Note that the River Avon Trail is unsurfaced. While it's firm enough for cycling on anything but the narrowest of road tyres, it can be dirty when wet.



5 Portishead Public Arts Trail

Portishead's Public Art Trail project saw artists from across the globe collaborate to create 30 different artworks. These all reflect an aspect of the area's rich heritage, and they are dotted around the marina and within the surrounding streets. See how many of them you can spot.

