



South Somerset Cycleway

This scenic-landscapes tour of the West Country was created more than 20 years ago and relaunched recently. **Neil Wheadon** is your guide

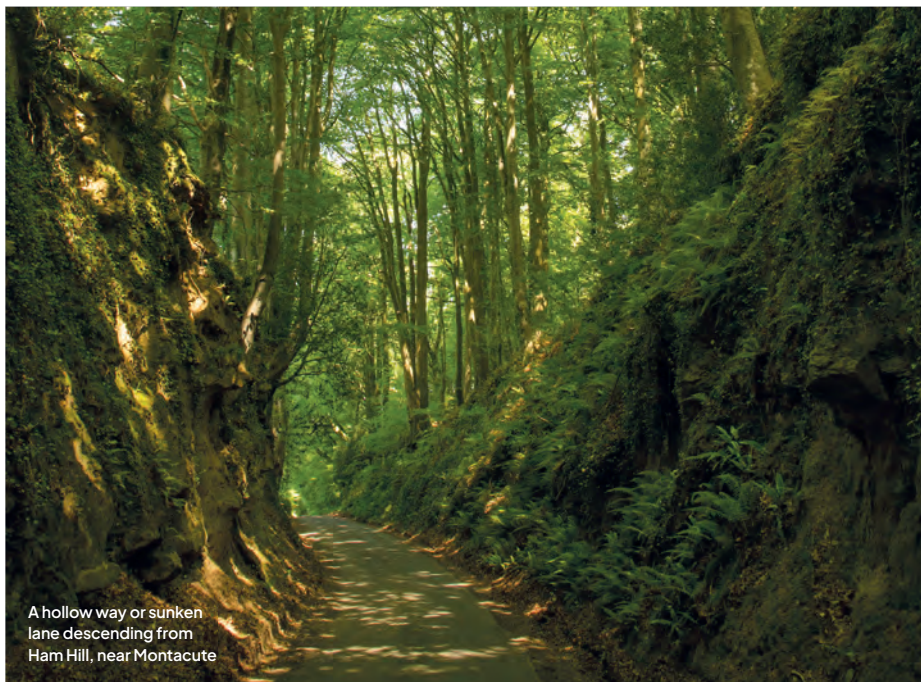
Somerset is a glorious place to cycle, full of history, quiet lanes and interesting towns. In the 1990s, Somerset Council recognised the potential and put together the South Somerset Cycleway, which took cyclists on an 80-mile tour. It was fully signed with metal direction markers.

The route was relaunched in 2022. It got a new website and was re-signed with brown South Somerset stickers; many of the original signs remain in place.

It's suitable as a weekend ride as there are good train connections and plenty of places to stay, so it's easily split into two parts if you don't fancy a long day's ride.

Along the way, you will discover multiple National Trust properties, a ruined abbey, manicured gardens and a hugely impressive hill fort. The towns you pass through are quaint and mostly have good cafés. One of the towns, Somerton, was probably the capital of Wessex back in King Alfred's day.

The terrain is a mix of country lanes and some cycle paths. Various pieces of cycling infrastructure are in place to avoid major roads, making this ideal for a family ride. There is even a dedicated cycle crossing in Sherborne.



A hollow way or sunken lane descending from Ham Hill, near Montacute

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The ride officially begins at Yeovil Junction railway station, but it can be started at any point on the loop, including the railway station at Castle Cary.

The South Somerset Cycleway can be ridden on any sort of bicycle, although there are two short sections on off road and gravel tracks. There are alternative route options to bypass these. ●