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## South Somerset Cycleway



**NEIL WHEADON**  
Cycling UK member and cycling holiday organiser

**Route name:**

South Somerset Cycleway

**Start/finish:**

Yeovil Junction station, though anywhere along the route works fine

**Maps:**

Landranger 183 Yeovil and Frome; and 193

Taunton and Lyme Regis **Ride length:** 125km/80 miles **Climbing:** 1,226 metres (4,022ft) **Bike type:** Any, if you avoid the 2.5km of light gravel and a 300-metre walk through a field **Ride level:** regular, but most sections are suitable for a beginner **GPX file:** [cyclinguk.org/weekender-somerset-cycleway](http://cyclinguk.org/weekender-somerset-cycleway)

### 01

#### Sherborne

Approaching Sherborne, the route takes the one and only really rough section as it dives down a lane to end in a field. (The road alternative is straight on.) The walk – or cycle – is about 300 metres but takes you to a delightfully quiet way into this fascinating town, which has two (yes, two) castles, an abbey and a pretty town centre.

### 02

#### Cadbury Castle

Towering over the surrounding countryside, this 4,000-year-old hill fort was a military stronghold that's now associated with England's more recent defence against the Vikings, when we so nearly lost the country. An hour's walk up and back gives glorious views. There are cycle stands in the small car park.

### 03

#### Somerton

The town is presumed to have been the ancient capital of Wessex before Winchester. If you have chosen to do the route clockwise, take care here as you will cycle counter to the one-way system. While anti-clockwise is recommended (and described here), a clockwise GPX file is available from [bit.ly/south-somerset-cycleway](http://bit.ly/south-somerset-cycleway).

### 04

#### Langport

Sited on the River Parrett, Langport has good cafés and a bike shop, as well as a hanging chapel (a listed building that's slightly off route). You leave town on the River Parrett Cycleway. Utilising a former railway line, its 2.5km length is gravel and takes you across the Somerset Levels. The road alternative goes via the hanging chapel.

### 05

#### Muchelney

Home to a delightful abbey (English Heritage) and the Priest's House (National Trust). The abbey isn't just a ruin; parts are intact, including the two-storey monk's toilet block, which is unique in the UK. Children will love that.

### 06

#### Ham Hill Country Park

You can easily miss this, as there's an alternative route option to Montacute. However, the climb to the top of the hill is well worth it for the extensive views alone. Descending to Montacute takes you down one of the many, beautiful sunken lanes that are a feature of this area. (See opposite page.)