

Nature reserves (local)

Service summary:

We have created a number of local nature reserves for the public to enjoy and to help conserve our wildlife. By providing public access to these reserves we are both helping to educate the community about the diversity of our wildlife and its conservation, and providing recreational facilities in some of our loveliest countryside.

We will:

- make sure we manage each reserve in an environmentally friendly way and produce management plans to safeguard the future of each nature reserve
- work closely with other organisations such as Natural England, local interest groups and parish/town councils to make sure these plans are followed properly
- open up reserves to the public wherever we can
- tell visitors all about each site's unique features
- actively promote visits by schools and colleges for educational purposes.

You can help by:

- keeping your dog under control at all times – some sites are grazed by animals to help maintain specific habitats
- putting litter and dog mess in the appropriate bins
- calling **01934 888 802** if you see anything that's damaged or defective. Please let us know what and where the problem is
- reporting any antisocial behaviour or vandalism you see as quickly as possible to the council's Ranger Service – **01934 621 802**, or to the Police – **999**
- suggesting any improvements you'd like to see made to our reserves – all suggestions will be carefully considered.

The service does not include:

Sites outside the council's control.

Contact us:**01934 888 802****www.n-somerset.gov.uk**

Streets and Open Spaces, North Somerset Council, Weston Court,
Oldmixon Crescent, Weston-super-Mare BS24 9AU

Frequently asked questions:

1. Is there access for disabled people on any of the reserves?

Yes, The Tidal Trail on Uphill hill is wheelchair friendly. The Strawberry Line is also suitable and can be accessed at Winscombe recreation ground, Winscombe Station, Sandford Station and Yatton Station. Parking is available at Winscombe and Yatton.

2. Can we cycle on the reserves?

Yes, you can cycle on the surfaced track over Uphill hill and the Strawberry Line from Yatton to the A38 Winscombe. There is no cycling on Poet's Walk.

3. Can I take my dog on the reserves?

Yes, you can at the moment although there are likely to be restrictions on Uphill hill when the cattle are grazing. The enclosure on Uphill hill is closed to the public. Dogs must be kept out as sheep often graze there. We put signs up at the entrances to all our reserves so please read them carefully.

4. When are the cattle grazing on Uphill hill?

Any time between April and November. We will put signs and a flag at the main entrance to let you know when cattle are on the hill. The signs will also tell you about restrictions which apply to dogs.

5. Can I have a bench seat put on Poet's Walk?

Many people would like a seat on Wain's Hill. However, as it is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, it is protected by English Heritage and the council is not legally allowed to disturb the ground in any way, so no seats. We are happy to consider requests for seats on Church Hill although you may feel that the views from the path on this side of the hill are not so good.

6. When do you flail the bank on the sea front at Sand Bay?

Twice a year, in July and September as set out in the management plan for Sand Bay.

7. There are motorbikes on the beach at Sand Bay. What are you going to do about it?

This is normally a police matter. Try to get the registration number of the bikes and any other vehicles involved and contact the police as soon as you can. Or call our Environmental Management Team on **01934 888 802**.

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UPHILL HILL

Weston-super-Mare

This local nature reserve is to the south of Weston-super-Mare alongside the River Axe estuary. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a site of European importance where you can see rare plants and insects.

Cattle graze the hill between April and November. A cycle track and disabled access track lead over the hill and on to Wessex Water land where ponds and bird hides provide interest for visitors.

POET'S WALK

Clevedon

A grassy hillside open space reserve with beautiful coastal views, it takes in Wain's Hill and Church Hill, south of Salhouse Fields. Popular with dog walkers.

STRAWBERRY LINE

Winscombe to Yatton

This disused railway line owned by the council runs from Yatton to the A38 just south of Winscombe. The Strawberry Line is an eight mile recreational route for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users running through a 'green corridor' of wetland, grassland and woodland habitats through the heart of North Somerset. Horse riding is currently permitted on a one mile section of the trail between Congresbury and Sandford.

Car parking is available in Winscombe and Yatton.

SAND BAY

Kewstoke

Sand Bay is a rural beach three miles north of Weston-super-Mare. While it is not technically a designated local nature reserve, it is part of the Severn Estuary European Marine Site and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Vehicles are not allowed on the beach or dunes. Horses can be ridden on the beach but please keep off the dunes as riding causes erosion.