

See the sights
around the

Strawberry Line



The Strawberry Line is a hugely popular walk and cycle path running along the disused railway from Yatton to Cheddar. Before joining the route, take a tour around the Winscombe countryside for views far and wide.



How to get there

Start at map ref:
ST 420578 (OS 141)

Car:
Winscombe is reached via the A371 from Weston-super-Mare or A38 from Bristol/Bridgwater. Free car park in Sandford Road, next to the Woodborough Inn

Bus:
Service 121 or 126

From the car park, cross Sandford Road and walk down Woodborough Road (the A371) towards the railway bridge. Go through the gate on your right and up the driveway towards Old Station Green.

This former railway platform was restored for the millennium and is now the perfect place for a pit-stop on the Strawberry Line, with picnic benches and other seating.

Near the stone structure, take the footpath off the Strawberry Line, following the yellow waymarker downhill. Exit through the metal gate at the bottom and continue straight ahead, towards the cul-de-sac.

At the bend in the road follow the yellow waymarker through the kissing gate and across the field.

Exit at the other end and cross the A371 with care, into the junction with Church Road. The public footpath is on the left, up and over a stone stile, next to the road sign.

Go between the fences then out into the field. Head straight across, towards the houses at the top.

Exit over the stone stile into a lane. Walk to the left, around the cream-coloured cottage and continue on the footpath downhill.

Carry on alongside the fence, go over another stone stile, then head over the next field, keeping to the right edge.

Go through another stile and into the next field, keeping to the left edge. Go through the kissing gate then follow the yellow waymarker straight ahead across the next field.

There is a watercourse here marking the edge of the field, so it can get muddy. Near the end, veer to the right. There is a gap in the hedge with a concrete bridge. Cross this footbridge and stile in the right corner of the field and follow the left hedge for a short distance.



Cross the wooden stile, go diagonally right over the field and through a large gap in an old hedgerow. Bear left across and up the next, narrow, field to a stile, which is rather hidden in the far hedge.

Drop down and over Winscombe Brook (stepping stones), with East Well to the left. Continue ahead to Eastwell Lane (which is often muddy) and walk up the lane to the road. Turn left and head up Winscombe Hill.

Take a right-hand turn into Church Lane and go into the churchyard of St James the Great. Carry on straight past the church, graves and war memorial and exit through the kissing gate.

Walk along the path and you will see far-reaching views to your right. Head towards the wooded area, Broad Knoll, and follow the wooden fence to the end. Go through the kissing gate, with the waymarker pointing directly uphill, through the trees.

Go up and over through the wood. You should be able to see the well-trodden path. You will see a waymarker pointing uphill, so continue up and round.

The path eventually exits the wood. Go over the stile and into the field. Watch out for grazing animals and keep dogs on leads here. Head to the top right corner, where a stile leads out into Barton Drove.

Turn left onto the track and follow it until you reach a t-junction. Take the right hand lane, which leads uphill.

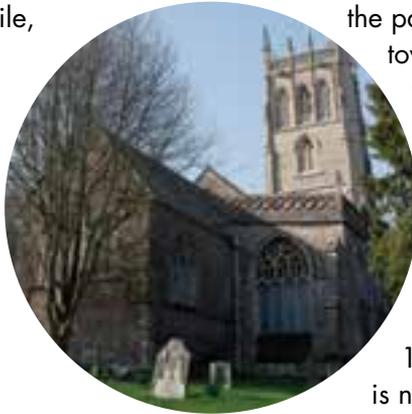
Continue past Hill Farm and through the kissing gate out into the open land. This is Cross Plain, owned by the National Trust.

Head left, keeping near the old stone wall and hedge. Continue across the plain then down through the trees of Kings Wood.

At a fork in the path continue on the wider route, still heading downhill. At a grey house and car park, veer to your right. When the path splits, take the left route towards a gate. A sign here says this is a permissive path which leads to the Strawberry Line, Sustrans route 26.

Walk down towards the line and turn left onto it. The line, part of Great Western Railway, was completed in 1869. It closed in 1963 and is now a local nature reserve and heritage trail popular with families, walkers and cyclists.

You will walk through Shute Shelve Tunnel and it eventually leads back to Millennium Green and your starting point.



Route information

Distance:
4.4 miles

Difficulty:
easy-medium – mainly level route but with a couple of steep hills and some stiles

Duration:
approx two hours

Public toilets:
near entrance to Old Station Green

Map:
OS 141

Thanks to Dave Parker, a Mendip Hills ranger, for suggesting this route. If you know somewhere in North Somerset that would make a suitable walk for *Life*, email editor@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.thestrawberryline.co.uk



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