



# Stroll along the Strawberry Line to Sandford

Rolling green fields, reedbeds, rhynes and orchards make the flat and accessible Strawberry Line an ideal route for families, dog walkers, cyclists and pedestrians.



The heritage trail follows the old railway route that ran from Yatton to Cheddar and Wells for 100 years until it closed in 1963.

It takes its name from the strawberries that were grown on the Mendip Hills and transported by railway.

Starting at Yatton station, pass under the metal arch which celebrates the diverse wildlife. As well as being a scenic route for walkers and cyclists, the Strawberry Line links different habitats, helping wildlife travel between them.

You will soon see a special wildlife seat designed by children of Yatton junior school to celebrate Roman remains found nearby in 2000.

Along the path, information points tell you about the line's history as well as wildlife, wetlands, birds and bats to look out for in different months. Watch out for whitethroats, swallows, house martins, greenfinches and goldfinches if visiting in May. You might even see common or pipistrelle bats if visiting early morning or at dusk.

Continue on, taking in views of Biddle Street Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on your right. Its rhynes, hedges and wet pastures form part of the Avon Levels and Moor, It is home to many plants and animals, including otters, grass snakes, toads, newts and many varieties of butterflies, birds and bats.



## How to get there

**Start at map ref:**  
ST 425661

**Car:**  
Park at Yatton station or on-street nearby. Please park considerately if parking in residential roads.

**Bus:**  
W1 Weston-Bristol service Carmel 88 connection to Clevedon

**Train:**  
Trains stop regularly at Yatton

Follow the path to the right and go over a small wooden bridge. A little further on you get to Nortons field, part of Congresbury Moor Nature Reserve. See the nesting boxes that have been built to encourage birds, including kestrels and barn owls.

Follow the line south towards Congresbury, You can see the spire of the 13th century St Andrews Church as you near the village. Continue along the path as it crosses the River Yeo and zig zags down to the A370. Use the pedestrian crossing to cross the main road, then go right to follow the line to Sandford.

At Congresbury, you will see more information boards and a beautifully carved sign made by Somerset Wood Recycling. Following recent clearance work you can also see where the station platform once stood.

The line then takes you across the ancient Northmarsh, also known as North Somerset Levels. Rhynes run either side of the path, which is wider here to allow access for vehicles working on local farms.

After a short time you'll reach Congresbury Station Reedbed on your right. This important habitat for birds supports both native species and those migrating. Look out for reed buntings and reed warblers.

Continue along this long, flat section and take in views of green fields. As well as grazing farm animals and horses, you might see native wildlife such as deer, rabbits and ducks. Keep an eye out for horse riders here as riding is allowed between Dolemoor Lane and Cardith Drive.

A little further on you'll see the putting greens and sand bunkers

of Mendip Spring Golf Club, then the shining panels of Cardith Drove solar farm on your left.

At the end of this long, wide section, follow the path as it narrows and takes you past Thatcher's cider orchards.

Keep to the path and step down onto a wider track, which takes you right onto Nye Road. Turn left along Nye Road and follow a slight incline over a stone bridge as the road bends to the right.

Keep to the road for a few minutes until you see a sign pointing you right onto Katy Way. Follow this through more picturesque cider orchards, which generate more than 25,000 tonnes of apples every year.

Keep straight along the stone path as it rises up slightly. Go through the gateway, keeping to the footpath as it winds left and narrows, before it bends right and takes you onto Station Road in Sandford.

From there you can visit the Sandford Station Railway heritage centre (open at weekends, April to October), sample Thatcher's cider in the Railway Inn, or continue along the Strawberry Line to Winscombe, Axbridge and Cheddar.



## Route information

### Distance:

Yatton to Sandford is 5.3 miles

### Difficulty:

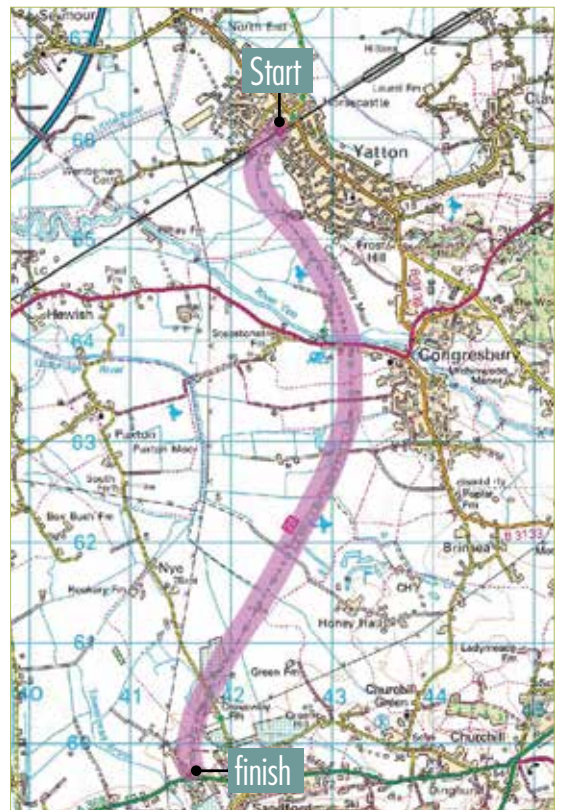
easy – the route is level and mainly off-road, with a very short on-road section near Sandford

### Duration:

Yatton to Sandford takes about 90 minutes on foot or 45 minutes by bicycle

### Map:

OS Explorer 154 (with small overlap onto 141)



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