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Designed, produced and distributed by the Blue Shires Rural Visitors Group.

Enjoy the North Somerset Countryside

Make a day of it. There's always another place to visit nearby like the majestic Tyntesfield or cosy Clevedon Craft Centre. Stop in a local pub or cafe and help to make North Somerset a vibrant area.

The rural attractions of North Somerset residents and visitors. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Explore the North Somerset Countryside

Welcome to our favourite family routes in the area. From the wild Mendips to the windswept coast and sheltered woods there's always somewhere new to discover or an old favourite to visit again.

The Family Explorer has been designed with you in mind. There is clear simple advice about each route from the family viewpoint. The routes may not be suitable for all ages so we've given advice based on our experience. Each route is in an area where there are loads of other routes to explore.

We've also suggested great things to see and do when you're walking or riding the routes. A family walk should never be just a walk, it's an adventure or sticks, wild things, views and memories.

Family Explorer

North Somerset

Walking and cycling routes in North Somerset

Key

- Family attraction
- Tourist information
- National Trust building
- Ecclesiastical building
- Train station
- Motorway
- Major 'A' road
- Minor 'A' road
- 'B' road
- North Somerset border
- Mendip Hills
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Trail start/finish
- Greenland/woodland

Map not to scale.

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North Somerset has great countryside ready for you and your family to explore. Use this map to find the detailed routes overleaf and to discover other trails around this beautiful area.

This detailed map of North Somerset shows a network of walking and cycling routes. Key features include:

- Towns and Villages:** Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea, Yatton, Congresbury, Wrington, Blagdon, Cheddar, and others.
- Landmarks:** Bristol International Airport, Clevedon Court, Ashton Hill Plantation, Brockley Combe, and various National Trust sites.
- Routes:** Color-coded paths for walking (green) and cycling (blue), including the Coastal Path and the River Avon Trail.
- Infrastructure:** Major roads (A and B), motorways (M5, M4), and train stations.
- Natural Features:** The Mendip Hills, areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and various woodlands and parks.

➔ Butcombe Bay

Follow the trail to Butcombe Bay, along the edge of beautiful Blagdon Lake. Take a picnic and enjoy the stunning views across the lake to the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Roadside parking available.

Distance: 3km/2m.

Time: 1hr (with a 7yr old and lots of playing). Numerous other additional loops to the walks for older children.

Surface: Compact gravel path and woodland paths.

Obstacles: Stiles and bridges over streams.

Walk Activities: Field to picnic in before the return leg.

Local Activities: Blagdon Pumping Station, fishing (permits required), Burrington Combe.

Local Services: Village Stores, Blagdon.



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➔ Abbots Leigh Ponds

Discover this tranquil hidden piece of countryside on the edge of Bristol. A great place to ride on quiet lanes and woodland tracks.

Distance: 3.5km/2m.

Time: 1.5hrs with a 7 and 8yr old.

Surface: Lanes, surfaced and un-surfaced.

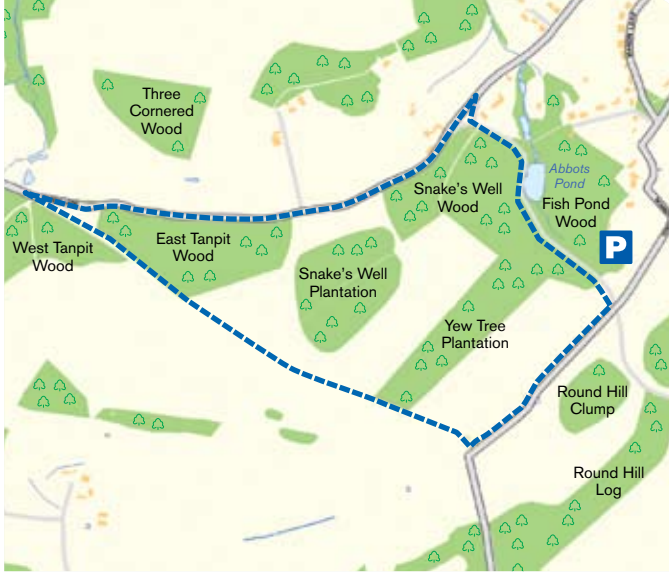
Obstacles: Wet and muddy in winter.

Ride Activities: A gentle ride in this beautiful area with orchards and hidden valleys. Stop and play by the pools or pick blackberries along the lanes in autumn.

Local Activities: For the more adventurous riders the Timberland Trail passes nearby in Fifty Acre Wood, Ashton Court and Leigh Woods, where there are more trails than you'll know what to do with.

Local Services: Abbots Leigh has a pub, Tyntesfield (National Trust) and Noah's Ark Zoo Farm are to the west along the B3128.

Parking: A public car park down a lane from Manor Road.



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➔ Weston Woods Walk

Find a moments peace with your family in the woods above Weston. Where glimpses of Sand Bay and the coast punctuate playing in the woods.

Distance: 3km/2m.

Time: 1.5 hours with a 6 and 8 yr old plus a dog – gentle pace with no stops. Other loops on foot and bike are possible.

Surface: Compact gravel path and woodland path with small stones the further on you go (once past the iron age fort).

Obstacles: A few small inclines – the paths are suitable for bikes (not stabilisers), 3 wheeler prams (the off-roading type).

Walk Activities: Follow the path in a straight line and you come to the iron age fort, lots of rocks piled up in heaps, then onto the dug out bunkers, large holes that are great fun for hide and seek. Fantastic views of Sand Bay from a clearing in the woods on your right.

Local Activities: Birnbeck Pier and Sand Bay.

Local Services: Various local pubs and shops.



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➔ Scratchy Lane, Bleadon Hill

Scratchy Lane on Bleadon Hill, an introduction to mountain biking on the Mendip Hills!

Distance: 3.5km/2m.

Time: 1.5hr with a 7 and 8 yr old.

Surface: Compact gravel surface then unsurfaced lane.

Obstacles: One really steep climb.

Ride Activities: Easy start to the ride and then some more challenging riding along the lane with some loose stones, ruts and mud.

Local Activities: Helicopter Museum at Locking, Weston-super-Mare and the seafront is only 10 minutes away.

Local Services: Bleadon and Hutton have shops and pubs.

Parking: Small car park on Roman Road.



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➔ Coastal Path, Clevedon to Portishead

Taste the sea air with this walk along the coast from Victorian Clevedon to Portishead. An adaptable route for children of all ages, with younger ones just stop at the many rock 'balconies' by the sea and play in the pools.

Distance: A maze of different paths allow you to tailor a route from short 30 minute strolls to all afternoon exploring and den-building.

Time: 2.5 hrs to walk from one end to the other with a child older than 10. With young children turn back when their interest in rockpools gives up.

Surface: Firm, narrow in places.

Obstacles: CAUTION – steep drops from the path and rocks.

Walk Activities: Lots of places to get down on to the rocks to play in rockpools and scramble around. Watch for the high tides.

Local Activities: Public golf course at Portishead and Weston Lodge Shooting Grounds (paintballing) in between Clevedon and Portishead.

Local Services: Clevedon and Portishead have a wide range of shops and pubs and seaside attractions.

Parking: On-street parking in Bay Road, Clevedon.



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➔ Ashton Hill Plantation

Swoop down through the plantation and pedal hard up the climbs. Ashton Hill Plantation is a fun family ride through woods.

Distance: 3km/2km.

Time: 1hr riding with a 7yr old.

Surface: Compact gravel forest roads.

Obstacles: Some long gentle descents and climbs.

Ride Activities: Good wide trails and a variety of slopes are great for practising braking on descents and pedalling out of the saddle! More adventurous challenges can be found on the 'singletrack' in the woods.

Local Activities: The Timberland Trail for more experienced young riders starts at nearby Ashton Court. Tyntesfield, National Trust, is only 2 minutes drive along the B3128. Noah's Ark Zoo Farm is 5 minutes drive on the B3128.

Local Services: Failand village has a shop and pubs. Long Ashton has several pubs and shops.

Parking: Car Park for the woods at the top of Belmont Hill on the B3129.



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➔ Follow the Countryside Code

• Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs

• Leave gates and property as you find them

• Protect plants and animals and take your litter home

• Keep dogs under close control

• Consider other people.

➔ Walk and Ride Key

	Walk route		Ride route		Walk and ride route
	Flat surface		Age 3yr +		
	Medium surface		Age 7yr +		
	Steep surface		Age 10yr +		
	Bike permissible		Dog		
	Off-road buggy		Dog (on lead)		

➔ Map Key

	Start / Finish (Walk route)		Parking
	Start / Finish (Cycle route)		National Trust building
	Start of disabled route		Woodland
	End of disabled route		Fort
	Steep area (arrow direction denotes downhill)		Maps not to scale

➔ Clevedon Court Woods

Climb through evergreen oak woods to discover caves and rocky outcrops. Paths loop round the contours and there's always something new to discover around the corner like the woodman's cottage or the limestone seats.

Distance: A maze of different paths allow you to tailor a route from short 30 minute strolls to all afternoon exploring and den-building.

Time: 30 minutes – 3 hours.

Surface: Woodland paths.

Obstacles: Some steep paths and gates.

Walk Activities: At the western end of the woods there are rocky limestone outcrops and Foxes Cave to discover, some are remnants of the designed landscape behind Clevedon Court. The rest of the woods are ideal for den building and tree climbing.

Local Activities: Clevedon Court, National Trust (check opening times). Clevedon Craft Centre.

Local Services: Clevedon has a wide range of local shops and places to eat.

Parking: All Saints Lane, Clevedon or Hill Lane, Tickenham.



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➔ Further information on walks and the countryside in North Somerset

Forest of Avon, Ashton Court Visitor Centre, Bristol BS41 9JN

Tel: 0117 953 2141
Fax: 0117 953 2143
Email: info@forestofavon.org.uk
Web: www.forestofavon.org.uk

Mendip Hills AONB Service, Charterhouse Centre, Blagdon, Bristol BS40 7XR

Tel: 01761 462338
Email: mendiphills@somerset.gov.uk
Web: westontouristinfo@n-somerset.gov.uk
www.somersetcoast.com

Weston Tourist Information Centre, Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1AT

Tel: 01934 888800
Fax: 01934 641741
Minicom: 01934 643172
Email: westontouristinfo@n-somerset.gov.uk
Web: www.somersetcoast.com

Clevedon Visitor Information Centre, Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road, Clevedon BS21 6NN

Tel: 01275 873498
Fax: 01275 343630
Email: clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Web: www.somersetcoast.com

Goblin Combe Environment Centre, Plunder Street, Clevee, North Somerset BS49 4PQ

Tel: 01934 833723
Email: enquiries@goblincombe.org.uk
Web: www.goblincombe.org.uk

Forestry Commission, Recreation Ranger, Coleford Area Office, Forestry Commission, Bank House, Bank Street, Coleford GL16 8BA

Tel: 01594 833057
Email: dean@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.forestry.gsi.uk

National Trust, Estate Office, Valley Road, Leigh Woods BS8 3PZ

Tel: 0117 973 1645
Email: leighwoods@nationaltrust.org.uk
Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Tyntesfield, Wraxall, North Somerset BS48 1NT

Tel: 01275 461900
Fax: 0870 458 4500 (Infoline)
Email: tyntesfield@nationaltrust.org.uk
Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk