

Cheddar Valley Railway Walk - Yatton to Winscombe

Distance: 6 miles
Walking Time: 2 1/2 hours
GRADE: Easy 2

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This route follows the Cheddar Valley Railway Walk from Yatton to Winscombe along level and gentle gradients. It explores the varied natural and historical features associated with the former railway line including old station buildings, railwaymen's cottages, stone bridges, ponds, rhynes, reedbeds and orchards. The walk can be muddy in places where the path has been diverted from the trackbed.

Maps:

Explorer 141

Cheddar Gorge and
Mendips Hills West
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 182

Weston-Super-Mare
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref:

ST 425 661



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bristol to Yatton

Bus

From Bristol Bus Station take the 350/351 to Yatton (Top Scour) via Long Ashton, Backwell and Claverham. Buses run hourly on Mondays through to Saturday and take approximately 40 minutes. On Sundays and Bank Holidays take the 353 hourly service. Get off the bus at Station Road, cross the bridge over the line and turn right along the roadway passing the station on your right to the signpost to the 'Cheddar Valley Railway Path'.

Train

Take the Weston-super-Mare/Bridgewater train to Yatton, leaving the station on what was the left side of the train. Turn left along the roadway to the Railway Path signpost.

Winscombe to Bristol

At the end of the walk leave the Millennium Green by the ramp down to the village shopping centre and go left along the main road. Just round the corner on the left is the bus stop for the 121 buses to Bristol. These operate hourly Monday to Saturday and every two hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 10 minutes.

Please check timetables above by contacting Traveline on 0870 608 2608. For rail information call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or log on to www.wessextrains.co.uk.

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

The Railway, Yatton Station. Tel. 01934 832119.

The Railway and Sandford Stone Centre (Cafe), Sandford.

The Woodborough Inn, Winscombe. Tel. 01934 844422.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Yatton Railway Station

Millennium Green, Winscombe

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This walk is dedicated in memory of Douglas Kidder. The walk is adapted from one described in 'Cheddar Valley Railway Walk; by Douglas Kidder and Amanda Brading, Ex Libris Press, £5.95. A Strawberry Line cycle leaflet is available from Tourist Information Centres at Weston-super-Mare (01934 888800) and Cheddar (01934 744071).



Designed by Visual Technology, Bristol City Council. 0204/448BR

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Cheddar Valley Railway

Authorisation to construct a railway from Yatton to Wells was obtained from Parliament on July 4th 1864. The Bristol and Exeter Railway Company finally opened the line on August 3rd, 1869. The continuation to Wells was opened in 1870. In November 1875 the line was converted to a narrower standard gauge and on 1st June 1876 the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company became part of Great Western Railway.

The line proved to be a commercial success and original stations of wooden construction were soon replaced by buildings of Mendip stone. A variety of goods were carried on the line including stone from quarries, coal, animal feedstuffs, dairy products, livestock and potatoes. Strawberry growers in Cheddar and neighbouring parishes used the railway to such extent that it became known as the 'Strawberry Line'.

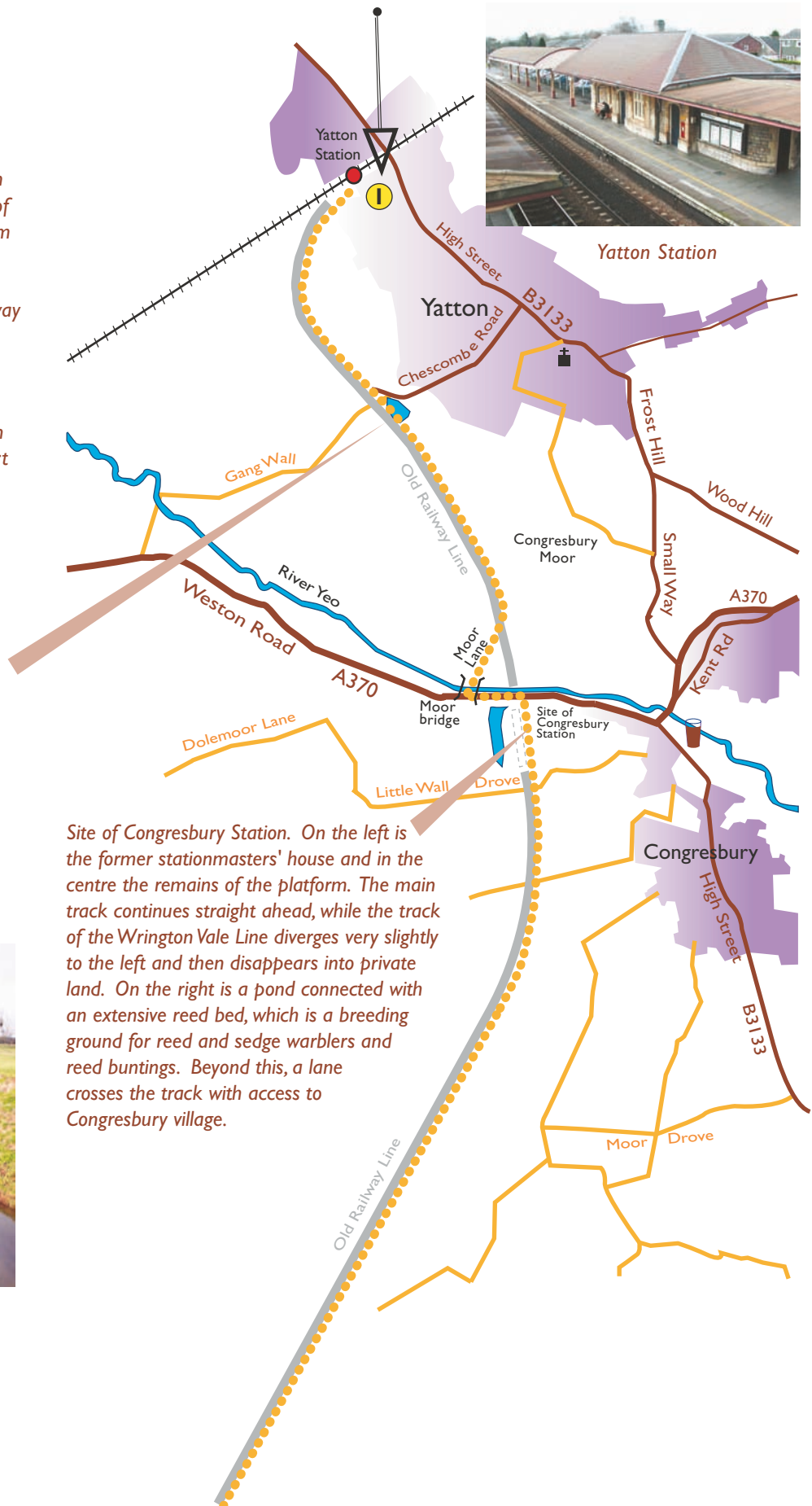
As road transport became more dominant in the 1950's traffic of all types diminished on the Yatton to Cheddar line. As a result of the Beeching report all normal passenger and freight trains were discontinued in 1963. The sustained effort of the Cheddar Valley Railway Walk Society has ensured that the line is now preserved and managed as a walkway and cycleway.

Note the large pond behind the hedge on the left. This was created during the construction of the railway as part of the drainage system and it has a path on both sides. Moorhens, toads and occasionally swans breed here. By the pond is a footpath giving access to Yatton village, which can be seen on the left with its truncated spire. Straight ahead in the distance is Congresbury, where the church has long pointed spire.



View of River Yeo

From Yatton Station car park follow the path for about one and a half miles, cross a wooden footbridge over the rhyne on the right to reach Moor Lane. Go along Moor Lane and turn left at the end, along the pedestrian path passing the Sousta Taverna opposite. Cross the road and re-enter the Railway Walk. Continue along the path, for nearly two miles bordered by pastures until there is a diversion. A fence extends across the entire track with a stile on to a drove with a second stile opposite, carrying a permissive path notice. Cross both stiles and go down a flight of steps into the orchard. Turn left and follow the path, emerging on to Nye Road, where you turn left over the railway bridge.



Site of Congresbury Station. On the left is the former stationmasters' house and in the centre the remains of the platform. The main track continues straight ahead, while the track of the Wrington Vale Line diverges very slightly to the left and then disappears into private land. On the right is a pond connected with an extensive reed bed, which is a breeding ground for reed and sedge warblers and reed buntings. Beyond this, a lane crosses the track with access to Congresbury village.

Half a mile along Nye Road follow the footpath signs on the right, through the pedestrian gate and after 20 yds, turns left and over the stile to the end of the orchard. Turn left and follow the signs to Station Road. Turn right and cross the road at the pelican crossing. Enter Cothill, rejoining Railway Walk after 150 yds.



Millennium Green Sculpture

The track continues through scrub and woodland. After the second of two stones bridges, follow the path up a ramp on the right, you are now in Winscombe.

- Key**
-  public house
 -  walk route
 -  other paths
 -  field boundary
 -  road
 -  railway/station
 -  waterway
 -  urban area
 -  woodland
 -  open area



Railway Inn at Sandford

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