

Maiden Newton and Cattistock

The walk weaves through the villages north of Maiden Newton – Chilfrome and Cattistock, before a short but steep climb up Lankham Bottom for views back across them. A perfect little stroll to enjoy between trains.

Top tip: take time to explore Cattistock a little, including St. Peter and St. Paul church in the village centre – the stained glass windows inside are worth checking out.

Fuller details:
www.carfreewalks.org/walks/676/around_maiden_newton

Start and finish: Maiden Newton Station

Distance: about 4 miles – allow 2-3 hours

Refreshments: The Fox & Hounds Inn in Cattistock is an excellent option for lunch www.foxandhoundsinn.com



The community at Maiden Newton have created their own map of the village which you can find at the front of the station. They have also put up a board explaining the history of the old Bridport Line. A project to turn this into a 10 mile traffic free path is being overseen by Sustrans. If you would like to be kept up to date on progress with this initiative, contact Peter Henshaw peterpodd@yahoo.co.uk, and he'll include you on the mailing list for his newsletter.



CAR FREE WALKS

These three walks have been created by the Car Free Walks team. Fuller details can be found on www.carfreewalks.org

"The website for people who love walking but want to reduce their impact on the environment. We offer free and easy-to-use guides for walks throughout the UK that are accessible via public transport. Visit now for more walks along the Heart of Wessex line and beyond".



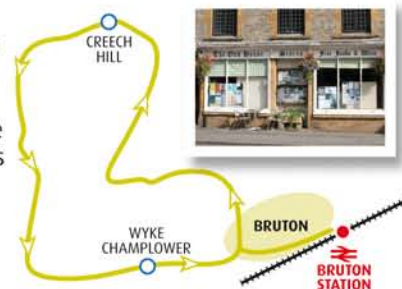
Bruton

A lovely historic town that is well worth a visit. Find a good map on www.brutoncarytrains.co.uk. This is the website of the FRIENDS OF BRUTON RAILWAY STATION, and also includes some great "insiders" tips on using the trains. Look out for their lovely station gardens, and the copy of their map at the station exit.



Around Bruton

This circular walk explores the sights around the lovely Somerset town of Bruton. Heading out of town through woods rich with the scent of wild garlic, you pass the lush farmland that surrounds the town. The route takes you up nearby Crech Hill, where you can enjoy beautiful views over much of the county including the Somerset Levels and the Mendips. On the way back, look out for Glastonbury Tor in the distance.



Top tip: In Bruton, wander down to the river and cross the ancient stepping stones. This takes you to the 'Bartons' – small holding yards for livestock, which date to when Bruton was a notable market town.

Fuller details:
www.carfreewalks.org/walks/629/a_south_somerset_stroll

Start and finish: Bruton Station

Distance: about 8 miles – allow 3-4 hours.

Refreshments: Plenty of shops and cafes along Bruton High Street.

Find our mini guide to BRADFORD ON AVON on www.heartofwessex.org.uk (click on Bradford on Avon on the rail route on the right). This shows walking routes from the station both into town and to reach the Kennet & Avon Canal.



Bradford on Avon and the Kennet & Avon Canal

The Kennet and Avon canal provides the spectacular background for this family-friendly walk. The beautifully painted houseboats add a splash of colour at any time of year, and in spring these are matched by the flowers along the towpath and in Limpley Woods. Look out for new arrivals on the water too – kids will love spotting the fluffy ducklings and moorhen chicks. This route also includes the impressive Dundas aqueduct and several of the golden Bathstone buildings that typify the Wiltshire-Somerset border region.

Top tip: stop for a local cider at The Cross Guns, a great riverside pub in Avoncliff www.crossguns.net

Fuller details:
www.carfreewalks.org/walks/682/kennet_and_avon_exploration

Start: Bradford on Avon Station **Finish:** Avoncliff Station
Distance: about 8 miles – allow 3-4 hours (a shorter option finishes at Freshford Station)

Refreshments: Try Galleries, the new community café and shop in Freshford www.galleriesshop.co.uk

