

Coleridge Bridle Way

A horse riding route from the Quantock Hills to Exmoor 33 Miles from Nether Stowey to Exford

1. The Quantock Hills & onwards towards the Brendons.

NETHER STOWEY TO MONKSILVER –

General description

No particularly difficult terrain but some road sections on which caution should be exercised.

Steady climb from start for first 2.5 miles to Woodlands Hill and then steady down hill to Holford with no particularly difficult terrain. Mixture of tarmac roads, soft and stony sunken lanes, a grassy field, soft tracks through woodland and over open heathland on firm paths.

From Holford wide firm stony track rising steadily to Quantock Ridge and then descending steadily to Staple Plain car park.

Proceed with extreme care on 2 miles of riding on roads either side of busy A358 . Soft track and quiet lanes through Capton. Soft field edges and sunken lane from Aller Farm to Monksilver. Quiet tarmac road into Monksilver.

Start point: – Coleridge Cottage, Lime St. Nether Stowey

Toilets: Nether Stowey, car park in Castle Street.

Places to Eat & Drink: pubs, shops & tea rooms in Nether Stowey; pub & tea rooms/gardens in Holford (all just off route); pub (just off route) & shop at Bicknoller; pub in Monksilver.

Maps: You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Maps

- 140 Quantock Hills & Bridgewater
- OL9 Exmoor

1. ST 191 399 NETHER STOWEY

From the front door of Coleridge Cottage turn R and ride down Lime Street. Turn R into Castle Street by clock tower. Ride up Castle Street and continue up and over the brow of the hill before descending to T junction at bottom of hill.

2. ST 185 393

Turn L and after 100m take first bridleway on R. Along this bridleway take path through the stream. At cross roads, with a cottage on your L, turn R uphill on hedged lane to gate on L. Go through gate and go uphill on L hand edge of fields and L of small quarry to gate at top of hill onto minor road.

3. ST 174 394

Turn L and ride up road for around quarter of a mile and, just after road bends slightly uphill to L, turn R on to signed sunken path into woodland. Keep to this path through woodland, ignoring any paths off to the L. Eventually this path emerges from the woods onto open heathland. Keep ahead on this path until you reach a crossroads of paths. Turn R and ride uphill on main track (ignoring path on R) to a cairn on the top of Woodlands Hill.

4. ST 156 399

Keep ahead and descend the hill on the main track, again ignoring paths to the L and R, to enter woodland. In the woodland keep to main path on L hand edge of wood, ignoring R fork above stag pond. The path eventually meets a minor road (maybe mobile catering van in layby on R). Turn L along road. Turn R at next junction 'The Triangle' and first left 'Silk Mills' to Holford Car Park and village green (Bowling Green).

5. ST 154 410 HOLFORD 3.6 miles

From Holford Village Green Car Park take the tarmac lane to the R of the Village Green until you reach a junction of paths at an old Dog Pound. Leave tarmac lane and go straight ahead uphill on stony track to reach a gate. Go through gate and continue uphill. Views of Alfoxton Park Hotel on right. Ignore path on L and bear right on stony track. Eventually the path levels and leaves the woodland to reach a junction of paths on open heathland (a fire post). The track you are following is known as The Great Road on OS maps.

6. ST 141 410

Keep straight ahead on main stony track signed to Staple Plain. At the next fire post bear left ahead on stony track. As you approach top of the Quantock Ridge continue straight ahead on main stony track in a westerly direction ignoring all paths R and L. After crossing the ridge the track descends (with views of the Brendon Hills and Exmoor) to car park at Staple Plain where there are seats with fine views.

7 ST 117 411 STAPLE PLAIN CAR PARK.

From the car park take the main exit stony track to the R of the forest. Just before this becomes a tarmac road turn left through gate into woodland. Take path straight ahead for around 150yds. As it descends look out for a new track on the R through ferns. Turn R onto this track which goes downhill, bends L and passes a stile on the R to enter woodland. The track then bears R steeply downhill and zig zags down to the bottom of this small area of woodland to join the bridleway running along the bottom of the wood. Turn R onto this to reach a gate. Go through gate and continue past cottage on R down a tarmac drive to reach the road.

8 ST 109 412

From here exercise extreme caution on this road section. Turn L along road and you will soon reach a sharp L hand bend. Here turn right on quieter lane (Luckes Lane.) Follow this road for 1mile downhill to reach the A358. **This is a busy A road with cars travelling at speeds of up to 60mph.**

9 ST 100 400 A 358 CROSSING

NB THE FOLLOWING IS A TEMPORARY ROUTE

Turn L on grass verge and cross A358 with extreme care to take road opposite signed to Vellow and Stogumber.

10 ST 100 400

Ride with care along this road for around half a mile, crossing the bridge over the West Somerset Steam Railway line and Doniford Stream. Where road bends L, turn R, signposted to Sampford Brett and then when road bears L, follow track to R of barn, signposted as a restricted byway. After 200 yds you reach a fingerpost on the left - keep ahead signed to Capton to come to a road.

11 ST 088 396

Turn R onto quiet road and at next junction turn L on quiet road signed to Capton. At next junction fork R on quiet road downhill to Capton. After passing the houses of Capton turn R downhill where an old barn with steps up to a single door faces you. At the bottom of the hill the road becomes a track (permitted bridleway) into Aller Farm. Bear R past old sheds on left to reach a fingerpost.

12 ST 078 396

Turn L, signed Monksilver, through farm buildings and then turn L, following permissive bridleway signs past cattle sheds. Follow obvious track alongside open fields for around ¼ mile and, where footpath continues straight on, turn R following permissive bridleway signs uphill along L hand edge of field. At top of hill turn L, continuing to keep to L hand edge of 2 fields until reaching a fenced opening into woodland. Turn R and follow this enclosed bridleway, which bends to the L, to reach a road.

13 ST 074 378

Turn R on road downhill to Monksilver. At junction turn L to reach Notley Arms pub and Church on R.

14 ST 073 374 MONKSILVER