



# TRAILS

## ODD DOWN, SOUTH STOKE TO MIDFORD

6.5miles, 10km

3-4 hours





# START/FINISH

Odd Down Park and Ride, BA2 8PD



## WALK INFORMATION AND ACCESSIBILITY:

Overall this walk has approximately a 270m ascent with steep section down the field at Horsecombe Vale and an uphill towards the end. Paths – tracks, tarmac path/cycle path, road, hard paths.

There are a steps at the Wessex Water Tucking Mill to get onto the cycle path.

There are some sections of narrow paths.

There are toilets at the P&R.

One busy road to cross - the B3110 Midford Road, after leaving South Stoke and the road crossing at Midford is on a bend.

Between Tucking Mill and Midford you're on a shared path, so look out for cyclists.

## EXPECT TO SEE

- Villages of South Stoke and Midford
- Midford Castle
- Beautiful valleys and woodland
- Relics of the Somersetshire Coal canal
- 

## THINGS TO DO

- If you're enjoying the walk in the summer, when the paths are less muddy, keep a look out for wildflowers
- There are a couple of pubs for lunch on the way - the Packhorse in South Stoke and the Hope & Anchor at Midford
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## DID YOU KNOW?

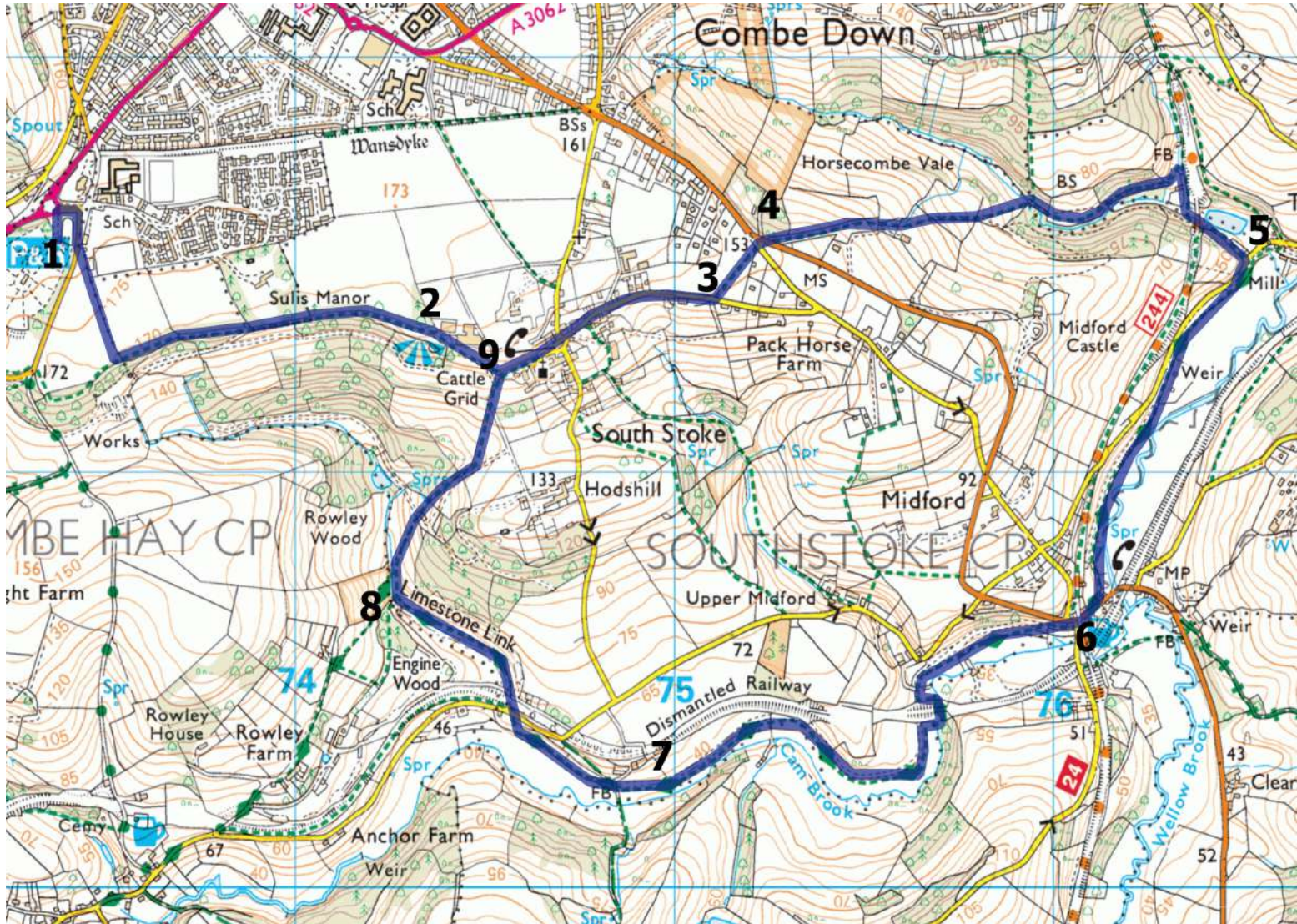
- The coal canal was built between 1794 and 1805, fell into disrepair in 1898 and closed in 1902
- At its height in the 1820s it carried 100,000 tons of coal a year
- Midford Castle is a folly and is in the shape of 'clubs' from a pack of cards





# MAP

6.5m/10km  
3-4 hours



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# ROUTE

1

Leave the Park & Ride car park on foot via the main road entrance and turn right at the roundabout and then take the immediate right down Combe Hay Lane. Just under 100m down the lane, take the permissive path on the left and take the footpath. Continue on the permissive path until it meets the public footpath which is a track – turn left and take the track all the way to Millennium viewpoint, which you'll find on the right hand side opposite where the track divides into three - one straight ahead which you'll take and two to the left into private properties.

2

When you've enjoyed the view, continue along the track to a T junction and turn left entering the village of South Stoke. Follow the road through the village for a short time, where the road splits at the telephone box, take the left fork then continue straight, taking the road (Packhorse Lane) that leaves the village with four large wooden doors under arches on your left.

3

Continue on the road for 400m, at the break in the hedge, take the footpath on your left across a field. In summer this is full of wildflowers.

4

When you reach the road, walk a little way to your right on the pavement to give you good visibility and then cross the road. The footpath is almost opposite, through a kissing gate, it's a wide grass track going downhill. Continue straight down the hill, at one point the track goes round to the right, but stay on the footpath, through a gate, slightly hidden in undergrowth. Continue downhill across three fields. You'll eventually reach a stream and the path then goes to the right, through some woods, following the stream on your right.

5

After 500m, at the end of this path, turn right, through the kissing gate and into the Wessex Water Tucking Mill compound. Down the track, you will see the angling lake on your left. Pass under the impressive viaduct, the footpath is on the right behind a fence – don't take the road next to the lake. As soon as you reach the footpath, take the steps up onto the top of the viaduct and turn left (if you go over the viaduct and enter a long tunnel you've turned the wrong way at the top of the steps). This is a busy shared walking and cycling route, so take care. (An alternative route is that shown on the map, leaving Tucking Mill, crossing the road and following the Limestone Link footpath to the right till you reach the Hope & Anchor pub.)

6

Stay on the path till you reach the disused Midford Station/Hope & Anchor pub. Leave the path via the driveway on the right and through the gate. Cross the road (taking care as visibility is difficult here) and go under the bridge to the left, leaving the road on the narrow footpath on the right. Follow this footpath through the woods and stay on the obvious path as it follows the course of the brook and former canal on your right. The path is marked as the Limestone Link.

# ROUTE

7

When you enter woods and start going uphill, take the Limestone Link path to the left, through the gate, not the footpath going uphill. After 350m you'll reach a lane. Cross the road and go under the bridge, passing through a gate with a stile (the gate opens). Continue on the path. From this path you can glimpse the derelict Combe Hay locks from the Somersetshire Coal Canal on your left.

8

As the path bends round to the right, you'll reach a wooden gate with a footpath going to the left, ignore that and continue through the gate, after 60m, you'll see the Limestone Link going off to the left over a stream – ignore that, and continue straight with the stream on your left. Follow the path as it leaves the stream and goes uphill across a field with a house in front of you. Stay on the path that leads straight uphill through the woods and across a field.

9

The footpath then joins a lane, bear left and continue uphill. You will reach the original track from millennium viewpoint to your left. Take that and retrace your steps from 2. If you want to visit the pub/church/shops of South Stoke, continue straight on and then retrace your steps.