

# About this walk

An easy flat walk on pavements and paved pathways that explores the historic market town of Bridgwater, home to Europe's largest illuminated carnival which lights up the streets every November. Along the route are Bridgwater Arts Centre - one of the first in the country - as well as the Somerset Brick and Tile Museum, and the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal and Docks.

Bridgwater's rich commercial, mercantile and often bloody political history is celebrated in the Blake Museum, birthplace of one of England's greatest naval heroes Admiral Robert Blake, of whom Nelson said "I am not the equal".

## Photo credits

© Isobel Pring cover image

## Useful websites

[nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw)  
[somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path](http://somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path)  
[visitsomerset.co.uk](http://visitsomerset.co.uk)

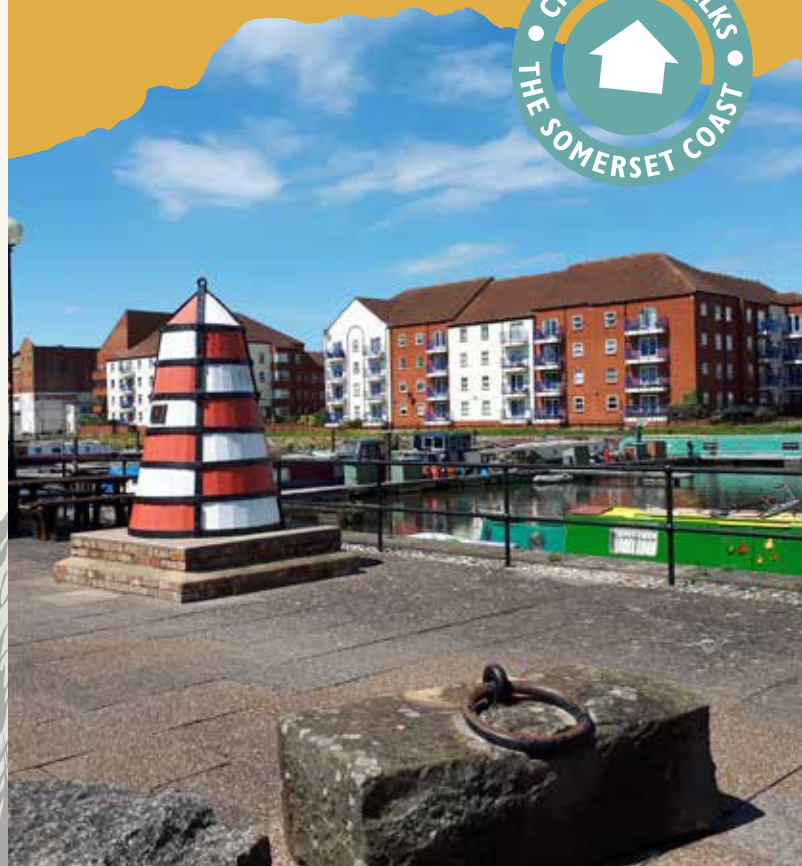


To report any problems on the footpaths during your walk visit:  
[somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/](http://somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/)

# Bridgwater Circular

2 miles / 3.5km | 2 hours | Easy

ENGLAND  
COAST PATH  
NATIONAL TRAIL



# On your walk...

The England Coast Path is well waymarked and easy to follow. The acorn symbol of the National Trails is found on waymarks and fingerposts along the route.



Where your walk takes you away from the Coast Path it will be signed with the standard waymarks shown here:

Footpath Bridleway Permissive path

Stay safe and follow the Countryside Code on your walk and always follow guidance on local advisory signs. You can see the Countryside Code at [www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code).



Dogs are welcome on these walks but always keep your dog under close control near livestock and wildlife, especially ground nesting birds, and always clean up after your dog and dispose of dog waste in an appropriate bin.

For more information about this walk or to download a .gpx file, scan the QR code or visit [nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/bridgwater-circular](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/bridgwater-circular)



All information correct at the time of publication

## WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



**Distance:** 2 miles/3.5km

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Map:** Download a free town guide at [bridgwater-tc.gov.uk/visit-bridgwater](http://bridgwater-tc.gov.uk/visit-bridgwater)

**Grade:** Easy



### Access:

An easy flat walk on pavements and paved pathways suitable for wheels. Note that there are some busy roads on this walk, please use the pedestrian crossings indicated in the Directions and cross safely.



### Getting here:

There are several public car parks in Bridgwater, the closest to the start of the walk is Northgate Car Park, Bridgwater TA6 3HR.

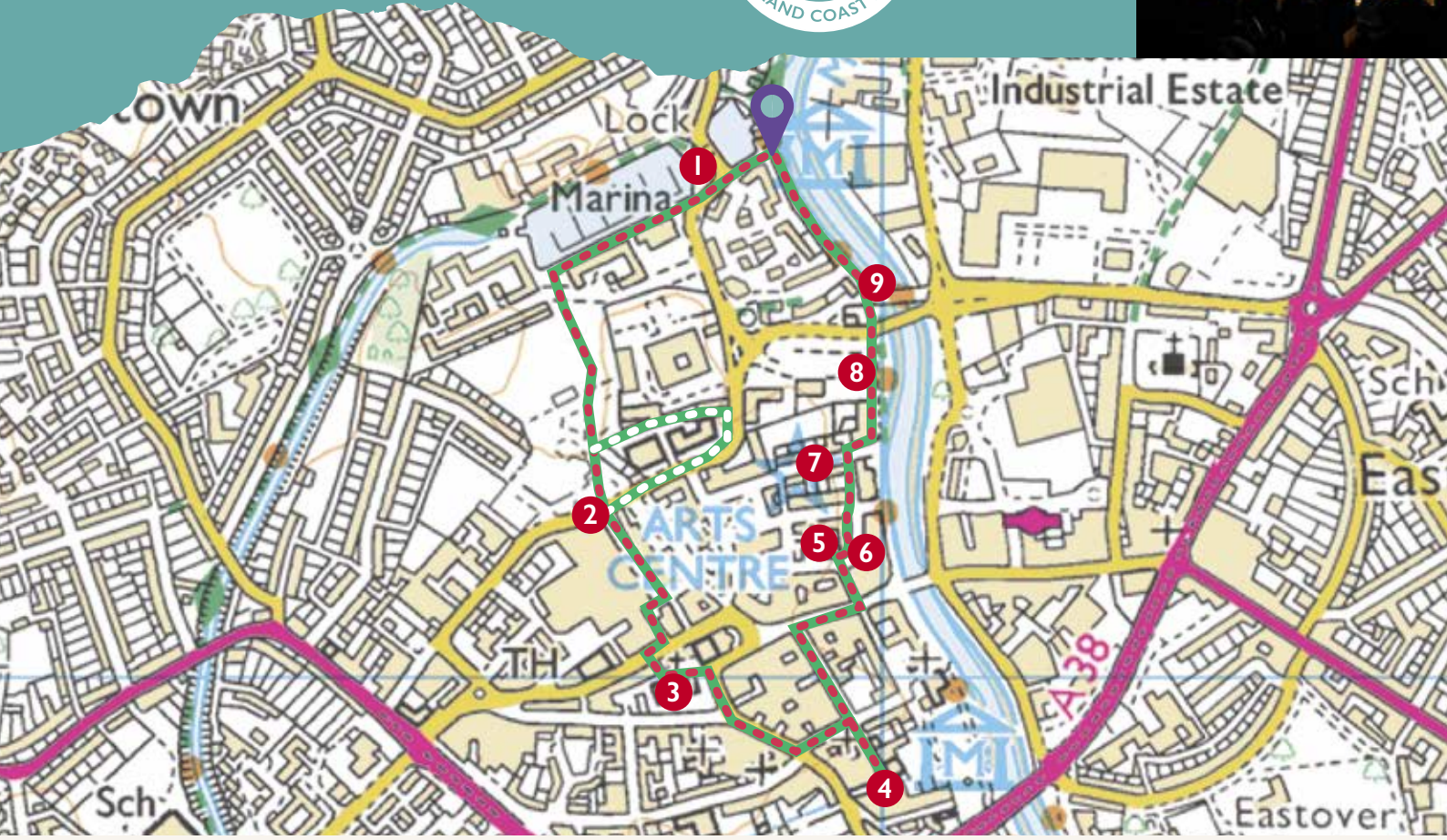
There are train and coach stations in Bridgwater and local buses from Burnham-on-Sea, Wells and Taunton. To find out more visit [travelsomerset.co.uk](http://travelsomerset.co.uk)



### Facilities:

There are toilets in Angel Place Shopping Arcade, the Cornhill and at cultural facilities in the town, and pubs, cafes and restaurants with wide ethnic diversity, plus bijoux hotels and comfortable B&Bs.

# Bridgwater Circular



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Bridgwater Circular  Diversion 

## DIRECTIONS

The walk begins at Bridgwater Docks. Head for the recently restored red, white and black buoy **1** and continue straight on with the marina on your right. As you go under the building on columns notice the brick sofa that celebrates Bridgwater's brick and tile industries and turn left onto the footpath. At the road, cross with care, and follow the path straight ahead.

To your right is Brewery Field currently being developed to create improved recreation and green spaces. While ahead of you at the end of the path is the Northgate Yard entertainment and dining development. At the time of writing, this walk follows a diversion around this and you turn left here until you join Northgate where you turn right and follow the road round to the right until you re-join the route at the pedestrian crossing on Mount Street **2**.

Go straight on through Angel Crescent turning left then immediately right into The Avenue Arcade until you reach the road. On reaching the High Street, cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and turn right until you reach a small alley on your left that leads to St Mary's Church **3**, with its magnificent lofty spire.

Turn left and exit the church yard onto Cornhill, where you carefully cross the road and bear right to reach St Mary Street. Follow this street to a crossroads where you turn left, passing the elegant Unitarian Chapel and turn right into Blake Street to visit the Blake Museum **4**.

Leave the Museum and retrace your steps and carry straight on towards Fore Street and the town centre. On reaching Fore Street, turn right and then take the next left and head toward an impressive white building that used to be the Town Court **5**. Bear right past the Castle House **6**, one of the earliest examples of the use of pre-fabricated and reinforced concrete built in 1842, and on into Castle Street, described as "the best Georgian Street in Somerset," by architectural historian, Sir Nicholas Pevsner.

To your left is Bridgwater Arts Centre **7**, built on the site of the medieval castle. Turn right here onto West Quay where you turn left to follow the River Parrett past the last remaining stretch of castle wall and a magnificent Baroque Mansion, the Lions **8**.

From West Quay follow the pavement with the river on your right until you reach the road. You will be going straight ahead here but need to cross the road at the traffic lights to your right as it is a busy road.

After crossing return to the path and go through the staggered barrier with the river on your right. At this point you will see the black Telescopic Bridge **9**, designed by I. K. Brunel to move aside to accommodate sailing ships wishing to berth further upstream. At the end of the path you reach the dock area and your original starting point.