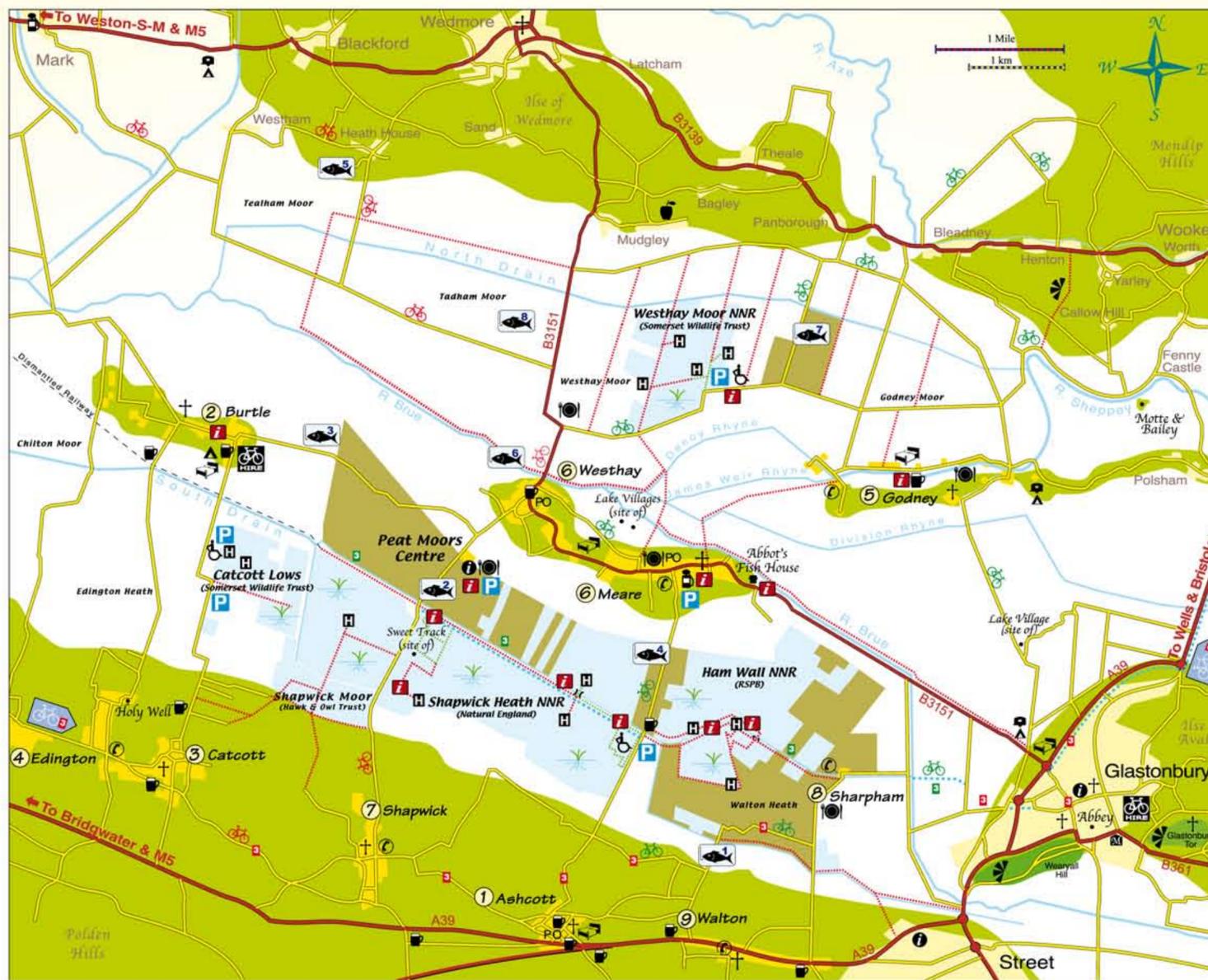


# The Avalon Marshes



## 1 Ashcott

Ashcott is situated at the extreme eastern end of Sedgemoor District, on the south-facing slopes of the Polden Hills. Many of the properties in the village have extensive picturesque views across the moors, to the south and west.

The village is well served with a modern primary school, an award-winning Village Hall, two churches, three pubs, a village shop, butcher, builders, carpenters and plumbers.

Ring O'Bells Inn 01458 210232  
ringobells.com

Sunnyside B&B \*\*\*\* 01458 210097  
sunnyside-pedwell.co.uk

## 2 Burtle

A small village with a big community spirit, set upon a sand bar in the midst of the Avalon Marshes. Bounded by the River Brue and the South Drain it is an important wetland area, home to many rare birds and plants. It has several working farms, plus two pubs, B&Bs and Cycle Hire. It possesses a small well-tended Victorian church and grade II listed medieval farmhouse formerly an out-post of Glastonbury Abbey. Home of Burtle Silver Band and a unique Village Hall built by the community using straw bales, sheep fleece and 4,000 empty wine bottles!

burtlevillage.co.uk

Tom Mogg Inn & Hotel \*\*\*  
01278 722399 tomogg.co.uk

Ye Olde Burtle Inn & Restaurant  
01278 722269 theinn.en

Orchard Camping 01278 722722

Catcott Burtle Cottage SC \*\*\*  
01278 722321 catcottburtlecottage.co.uk

## 3 Catcott

An attractive village on the northern slopes of the Poldens with views across to the Mendips and Glastonbury Tor. Renowned for its floral awards and open garden days. There is a war memorial, a primary school and an interesting 13th Century Church with unique pullout stools. The two Inns serve excellent food. There is one B&B. The booklet "More walking on the Poldens" is available from the Parish Clerk at catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk

Crown Inn 01278 722288  
crowninnatcatcott.co.uk

## 4 Edington

Edington is located on the edge of the Polden Hills overlooking the Avalon Marshes. The Parish is rich in history and is rumoured to be the site of the Battle of Aethandune, where King Alfred defeated the Danes.

It has an attractive Holy Well, a 1772 Sunday School building, a thriving

Village Hall, a doctor's surgery and a Country Store.

Guidebooks are available locally for two interesting walks through Edington. Cycle routes (NC 3 and Bluebell Trail) also pass through Edington taking in excellent views.

William Kellands Country Store  
01278 722977 gwiliam-kellands.co.uk

## 5 Godney

Godney is a peaceful village. Two groups of houses run alongside the River Sheppey for over half a mile, with views over the Moor and Mendip Hills on one side, Glastonbury Tor on the other. It has a Village Hall, (available for hire), a pub serving good food all week and entertainment every weekend. A thriving amateur dramatic society often performs. There are 2 B+Bs, a camping and caravan site and Tea Room specializing in local food. Godney is central to four Nature Reserves all within a short distance.

godneyvillage.co.uk  
Double Gate Farm B&B \*\*\*\*  
01458 832217 doublegatefarm.com  
Annie's Tea Room, Garden and Gallery  
01458 832547 anniesteagarden.co.uk  
Garstide Farm Campsite (Caravan Club Only)  
01458 833801

The Willow Bridge Retreat \*\*\*\*  
01458 833081 thewillowbridge.com

## 6 Meare & Westhay

To the visitor, Meare & Westhay may seem like a sleepy Somerset parish where nothing much happens. To those of us who live here it is a vibrant community. We enjoy the diversity of the clubs and associations in the Parish, from football to line dancing, cricket to dramatic arts, Ladies Club to the Carnival Club and Skittles—a-plenty. Some also enjoy the monthly Pub Quiz, Whist drives and Bingo. There is also a village primary school and youth club.

Meare is surrounded by beautiful open countryside with nature in abundance. Meare also is home to the Abbot's Fish House, which belonged to Glastonbury Abbey and stored fish caught in the now drained Meare Pool. A new booklet of circular walks plus a new edition of the Meare Village Trail leaflet has been produced.

New House Farm B&B \*\*\*\* 01458 860238 newhousefarmbandh.co.uk  
Meare Manor \*\*\*\* 01458 860449 mearemanor.com  
Get Ahead Hats 01458 839335 getaheadhats.co.uk  
Sweets Tea Room and Peat Museum  
07830 211544  
Sage Farm Cottages \*\*\* 01458 860197 sagefarmcottages.co.uk

Sarpham Tea Garden 01458 442050

## 7 Shapwick

Nestling between the Polden Hills and the Avalon Marshes, Shapwick boasts a 14th church which lies at the heart of the village. Roman coins were recently found in the village and these are now displayed at the County Museum, Taunton.

## 8 Sharpham

Sharpham is one of the largest yet least populated of the parishes. With the introduction of mechanical peat extraction, much of its landscape has been transformed from one of isolated small-holdings, to busy peat works and diverse wetland wildlife habitats. Opportunities exist for quiet cycling, bird watching and fishing.

Sarpham Tea Garden 01458 442050

## 9 Walton

The name Walton was given by the Saxons and means a settlement in the woods. Its appeal to villagers is understood by anyone climbing to the Polden Ridge near Walton Windmill and looking down where the ground flattens into a wide ledge where the village lies.

Several houses in Main Street are C18th. The village hall is the newest building and the hub of most activities. In 2008, we won Mendip in Bloom Best Village Award. There are lots of good footpaths to the north and south of the village.

The Pike and Musket 01458 442988  
The Royal Oak 01458 442376



### Heritage Information Network

These twelve panels present information on the archaeological discoveries, local history and how the landscape has changed over time, including peat cutting and the rise and fall of the canal and railway. Access is designed to be wheelchair friendly, the panels incorporate braille and raised images. They were financed by the Leader+ scheme and numerous other local partners.

	Heritage Info Panel		Church
	Fishing Lake		Phone Box
	Tourist Information		Petrol Station
	Email		Wheelchair access
	Museum		NNR National Nature Reserve
	Public House		River or Drain
	Cider Farm		Lane
	Post Office & General Store		Main Road
	Viewing Point		Footpath (see OS for others)
	Accommodation		Cycle Path
	Food		Disabled Access Path
	Camp Site		Levels and Moors
	Car Park		Higher Ground
	Hide or Viewing Area		Featured Village
	National Cycle Route		Surrounding Settlement
	Off Road Section		Nature Reserve
	Avalon Marshes Cycle Route		Peat Extraction Zone
	Peat Moors Cycle Route		

## Peat Moors Centre

The Peat Moors Centre is the interpretation and visitor centre for the Avalon Marshes, celebrating the life, archaeology and history of this unique region.

Displays of traditional peat digging tools and some of the locally unearthed artefacts act as an introduction to full size reconstructions of three roundhouses from Iron Age Glastonbury Lake Village and the world famous 'Sweet Track', the oldest man-made road in Britain.

Located on Shapwick Road, Westhay, the Centre is open every weekend and Bank holiday as well as the school holidays, between April and the end of October, from 10.00am till last ticket at 4.00pm.

Refreshments are available at the Avalon Diner next door.

Tel: 01458 860697 peatmoorscentre.org.uk

## Catcott Lows

This reserve lies 2km north east of Catcott village, within a larger area of wet meadow, on the western end of the Avalon Marshes. There is limited access by marked paths and droves to bird hides. There is easy wheelchair access to Ladies Drove hide from car park.

Tel: 01823 652400 somersetwildlife.org

## Ham Wall NNR

An internationally important wetland of over 225 hectares, has been created from worked-out peat diggings to form a mosaic of new wetland habitats and reedbeds. A good selection of wetland birds and wildlife can be seen throughout the year. The reserve entrance and car parking is at Ashcott Corner along the Ashcott to Meare road. The reserve is open at all times and access is via the public footpath or the main track which follows the disused Glastonbury to Highbridge railway line. There is parking for less able visitors along this track, accessed by a RADAR key.

The railway line leads to viewing areas, walkways, tactile signs and handrail, all accessible by wheelchair users. Additional trails on rougher terrain extend over 3.6 miles.

Tel: 01458 860494 rspb.org.uk

## Hawk and Owl Trust

At Shapwick Moor the Hawk and Owl Trust is restoring former arable land to species-rich grassland and fen. The reserve is already attracting waders and wildfowl, and brown hares. Rough grass margins offer hunting areas for birds of prey and a recreated drove along the southern boundary provides additional access for visitors.

Tel: 01458 447830 streetanglingcentre.net

All Anglers over 12 years old must be in possession of an Environment Agency Rod Licence.

visitsomerset.co.uk/site/things-to-do/activities/angling

0870 9903889 hawkandowl.org

## Shapwick Heath

A major wetland nature reserve at over 500 hectares and one of the most diverse sites of its type in southern England. It boasts a variety of habitats including reed beds, fens, open water, wet woodlands and traditional hay meadows. Rich in both wildlife and archaeology, there is a three mile network of paths, together with bird observation hides and information panels. Disabled parking and wheelchair access is available at Ashcott Corner and Peat Moors Centre Car Parks.

A rich selection of wetland birds and other wildlife can be seen here all the year round.

Otters are common and easily seen from the various hides. Winter brings large numbers of wildfowl and the spectacle of roosting starlings. The best time to see flowers and hear bird song on the reserve is in the spring. Dogs are restricted from some areas.

Tel: 01458 860120 naturalengland.org.uk

## Westhay Moor

Internationally famous as a haven for birdwatchers. Somerset Wildlife Trust's main site on the Peat Moors covers more than 100 hectares. Restored peat diggings have been transformed into a network of open water, reed bed and the largest surviving fragment of lowland acid mire in the South West.

Access is from the car park to six hides, two of which have wheelchair access.

Tel: 01823 652400 somersetwildlife.org

## Angling

1. Stanley Durstan Fishing Lakes ~ Taunton Angling Association

2. Avalon Fishery ~ Permits on site  
3. Burtle Road Lakes ~ Glaston Manor Angling Association

4. Moorland Fishery ~ Glaston Manor Angling Association

5. Lands End Fishery ~ Permits on site

6. River Brue ~ Glaston Manor Angling Association

7. Peggy's Lakes ~ Permits from Street Angling Centre

8. Velocity Angling ~ Permits on site

07789 760213 velocityangling.co.uk

visitsomerset.co.uk/site/things-to-do/activities/angling