

ROUTE DIRECTIONS |

Start at the Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Somerset, BA6 9TT. There is plenty of parking at this site, toilets and a café.

- 01 Turn right out of car park towards Westhay; in the village turn left onto B3151 towards Wedmore.
- 02 After Fir Tree Farm, turn left at 'Kennels/Cattery' sign towards Tadham and Tealham Moors.
- 03 Follow the road (ignoring the first right turn) to a sharp right bend, and then take the next left towards Mark.
- 04 After 500m turn left towards River Bridge.
- 05 At the T-junction turn left for Edington/Bridgwater, and at River Bridge either turn left for shorter route ^{2a} via Burtle and jump to paragraph 11, or turn right towards Huntspill for the full ride up onto the Polden ridge.
- 06 Over Eastern Moor Bridge and then sharp left and follow sign to Gold Corner/Cossington.


- 07  Past the Pumping Station and over the bridge to Cossington – steep climb into village.
- 08 At the T-junction, turn left onto Middle Road towards Chilton Polden and then on to Edington.
- 09 At the crossroads turn left towards Burtle/Edington.
- 10 At the T-junction turn right towards Burtle/Westhay.
- 11 In Burtle, either turn right ^{2b} to visit Somerset Wildlife Trust's Catcott Nature Reserves, or continue on towards Westhay and past the Peat Works.
- 12 At the T-junction, turn right and back to the Avalon Marshes Centre.



Photo by Lynne Newton

For more Cycle and Walk Routes, please visit



 **MORE INFORMATION:**
www.avalonmarshes.org

 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**
Special thanks to the local volunteers who have been involved in the surveying of cycling routes across the Avalon Marshes.

 **FEEDBACK:**
A: Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Somerset, BA6 9TT.
T: 01458 860556 E: info@avalonmarshes.org

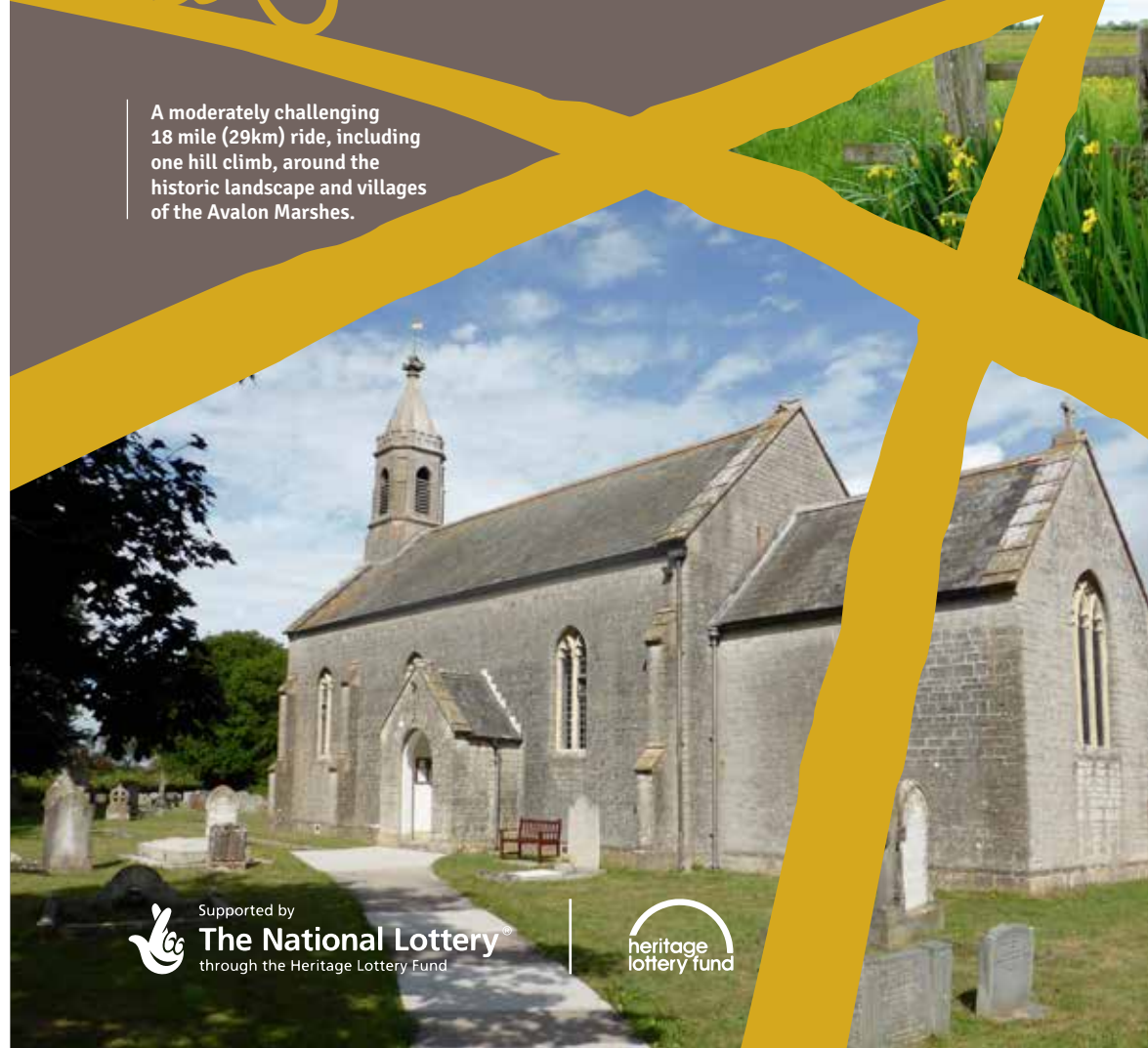


Roman Saltworks & Peat Moors

One of a series of circular heritage cycle routes in the Avalon Marshes of Somerset



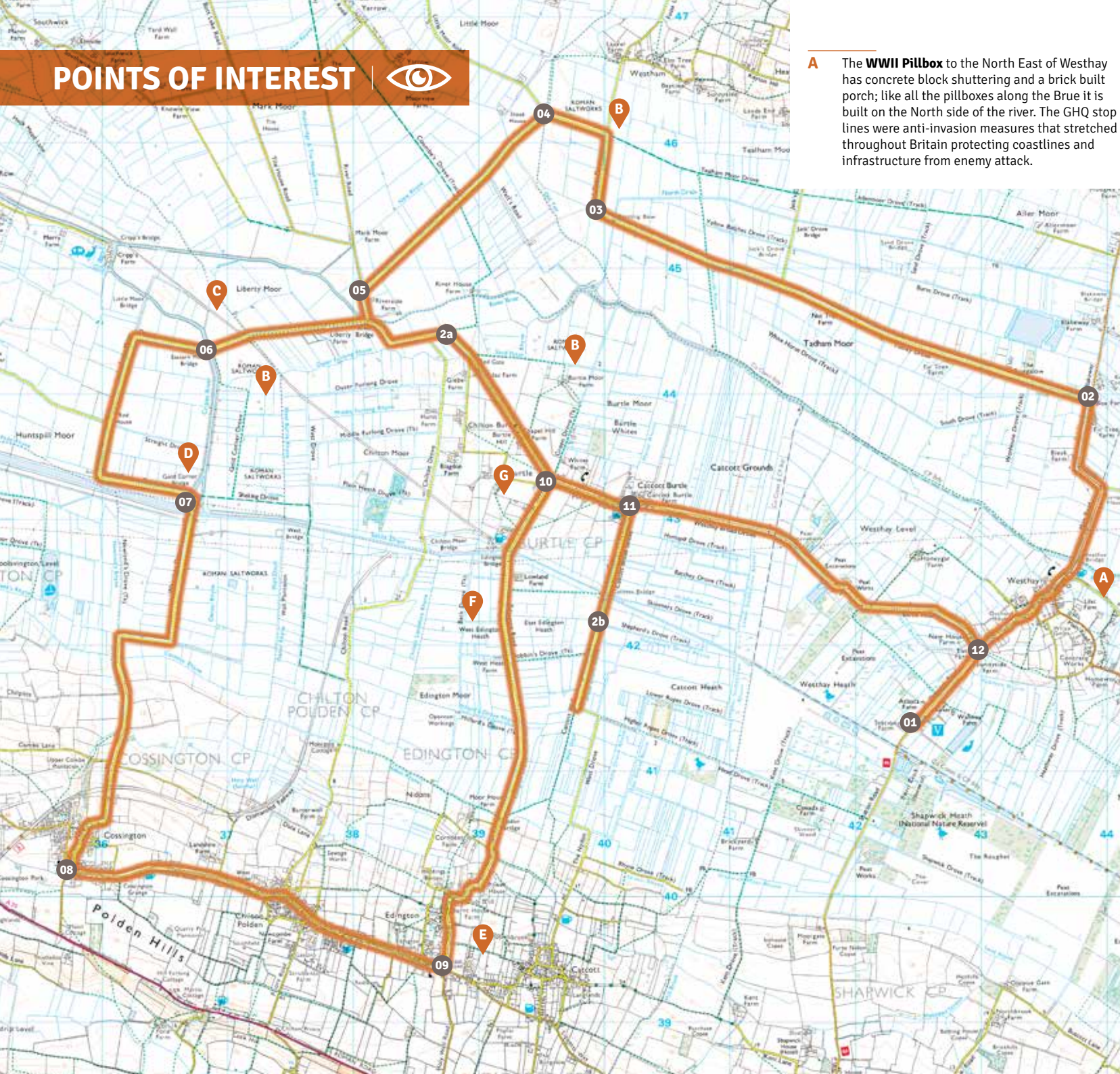
A moderately challenging 18 mile (29km) ride, including one hill climb, around the historic landscape and villages of the Avalon Marshes.



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 **The National Lottery**
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POINTS OF INTEREST



A The **WWII Pillbox** to the North East of Westhay has concrete block shuttering and a brick built porch; like all the pillboxes along the Brue it is built on the North side of the river. The GHQ stop lines were anti-invasion measures that stretched throughout Britain protecting coastlines and infrastructure from enemy attack.

B Hundreds of **Roman salt works** mounds have been identified across the Avalon Marshes. During Roman times coastal tides reached this far inland; seawater was collected in large vats, once sediment had settled, water was skimmed off and left to evaporate in large lead pans. There were many Roman settlements here where salt extraction took place, as salt was a highly valued commodity all over the world. Over thousands of years changing sea levels have dramatically altered the landscape: saltmarsh in some areas has now become freshwater wetlands.

C The Bristol to Exeter **railway** (now dismantled) opened its station in Highbridge in 1842, by 1848 they had purchased Glastonbury Canal but were obligated to keep it open. The Canal was sold to the Somerset Central Railway in 1850 who used it to transport material for extending the railway.

D Although originally built to supply water to a nearby WWII munitions factory, **Gold Corner pumping station** is still helping to maintain the water levels in areas of the Avalon Marshes. **Cripps River** was originally a meandering loop in the old river Brue; in the early 1800s the section was removed when the course of the Brue was straightened and the section was linked to the South Drain as part of the Brue Drainage Act 1801.

E In 1791 the **Edington Holy Well** was described as 'a perpetual spring, which contains sulphur and steel, and stains silver yellow in two hours'. The well was still active in 1977, but stopped flowing after a new sewer was installed.

F On **Edington Heath** in 1849 a hoard of Bronze age metalwork buried in a maple box was discovered, it contained axes, sickles, and jewellery which can be viewed at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton (the **Burtle Hoard**).

G Walter the Hermit was granted 10 acres of land at Spralesmead (**Burtle**) in 1191; the site was known as the Chapel of St Stephen but by 1290 it had become a **Priory** with Augustinian Canons and was the only building on Burtle Island until the dissolution in 1536. **Peat** cut at Burtle turbaries was used primarily as fuel until the middle of the 20th century; in 1851 there was one turf cutter and merchant living in Burtle, by 1861 there were ten dealers.