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4 DILLINGTON HOUSE is set in mature parkland with beautiful
formal gardens. Once home of Prime Minister Lord North, Dillington
House now operates as a residential centre for adult education.
(Public access is limited to the cycle path and footpaths, the house
is not open to the public.)

3 BARRINGTON COURT (NT) House and gardens.
Tel: 0644 800 1895 Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington
truly modern.
change monthly and show a range of work from traditional to the
performance area in the evenings. The exhibitions in the gallery
gallery, a café and workshop space that also doubles as a
Meeting House today operates as an 'Arts Centre'. There is an art
2 MEETING HOUSE ARTS CENTRE Once a Unitarian Chapel, the
Wadhams family - Sir William who was instrumental in the building of
the church and Nicholas and Dorothy Wadhams who were the
founders of Wadhams College, Oxford. Other items of interest
include: the Jacobean screen, the brass chandeliers, a reredos, with
its hidden slugs and snails, and a modern addition, the engraved
glass doors that mark the Millennium in 2000.

1 ST MARY'S CHURCH, ILMINSTER More usually known as 'The
Minster' due to the town's links with the monks of Muchelney Abbey
who built a church on the site as early as 720 AD. The present
church with its 90' tower was probably built in the 1400s. The
chapel to the north contains the tombs of three members of the
Wadhams family - Sir William who was instrumental in the building of
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A Fortress Iminster: W2 defences
B The Canal: The Story of the Canal

INTERPRETATION BOARDS
C Donyatt Cutting: Wildlife depictions
D Donyatt Halt: The Railway and W2 Stop Line defences

INTERPRETATION BOARD
E Knowle St Giles: Local history and W2 Stop Line defences.

6 THE DEER PARK and THE DOMESDAY BOOK in 1086
The DOMESDAY BOOK entry for Donyatt included a Deer Park: it is
claimed this is the only such park noted in the book. In 1567, 500
deer were recorded in this 448 acre park and by 1613, it no longer
served as a deer park.

7 DONYATT POTTERIES Evidence suggests pottery making
started here about 1200 and lasted for 800 years. Many potteries
made everything for everybody, including: jugs, bottles, chamber
pots, dishes, roof tiles, bread crocks, puzzle jugs and the famous
'fuddling cups'.

8 ST MARY'S CHURCH Christians have worshipped on this site for
over 700 years. This splendid church was built in the 15th Century,
with particularly fine bench ends. Outside, Hunky-punks (grotesque
carvings in the likeness of primitive faces) adorn the parapet string
course.

9 ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH: A beautiful Grade 2* listed
building with historic connections and an interesting crypt.
WALKS: For peaceful countryside walks in the area follow the signed
footpaths to Cricket Malherbie, Chaffcombe woods and Dowlish Wake.

10 ST MARY'S CHURCH is now the oldest building but even this has
traces of an older Norman building (see church guide). Behind it is Ivy
Green and beside this is a building that was formerly the Manor
Farmhouse. From here, Old Town ran down Silver Street and East Street.

11 FORE STREET & HIGH STREET The next age of Chard was when a
new town was built around a market area in 1235. Evidence of this
phase can be seen at the middle and bottom of Fore Street where
former great houses belonging to wealthy cloth merchants were built.
Spring water running down on the north side of the main street finds its
way to the Bristol Channel and water on the south side to the English
Channel.

12 HOLYROOD LACE MILL, BODEN'S MILL and WEST CHARD
The mills were built at the last great time of change in the 1800s when
much of the town was rebuilt, the money coming from new industry
such as the two great machine plain-lace mills. Visit the TIC and take
the Blue Plaque walk and/or the Lace Mill audio-walk and see the
supporting foundries and engineering works.

13 CHARD MUSEUM The Museum tells the story of Chard, together
with details of its pioneer aviator, John Stringfellow. Another pioneer
was James Gillingham who greatly improved artificial limbs. The
houses of these two men can still be seen. The museum also tells the
story of Margaret Bondfield, Britain's first woman cabinet minister and a
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14 FORDE ABBEY is a former medieval monastery with beautiful
gardens. Tel: 01460 220 231 Web: www.fordeabbey.co.uk

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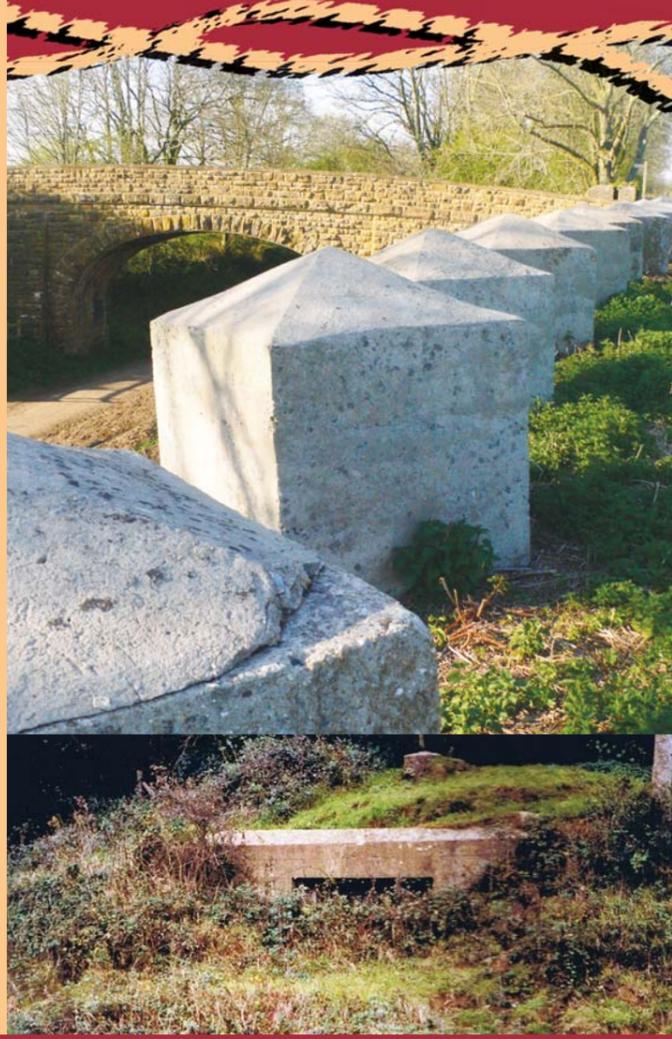
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ILMINSTER

Walk or cycle
THE STOP LINE WAY
& discover hidden Somerset,
past & present



DONYATT & KNOWLE ST GILES

THE STOP LINE WAY

Ilminster to Chard
(5-mile long metalled section)



The Stop Line Way is a long distance coast-to-coast walking and cycling route which in parts is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The cycle route is 75 miles long and partly follows the 'Taunton Stop Line' built by the Army in 1940 to contain any Nazi German invasion of the South West. These defences ran for 50 miles, from Burnham on the Bristol Channel to Seaton on the South Coast. Canals, railways and rivers were made into a continuous anti-tank obstacle with road blocks and over 380 concrete pillboxes. Between Ilminster and Chard it largely follows the track of the old Great Western Railway.



CHARD

USEFUL INFORMATION

TOWNS & VILLAGES

- www.ilminsterforum.co.uk
- www.chard.gov.uk
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donyatt
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowle_St_Giles

MUSEUMS & other recording organisations

- www.chardmuseum.co.uk
- www.somerset.gov.uk/museum
- Somerset Environmental Records Centre: www.somerc.com
- Chard History Group: www.users.globalnet.co.uk~carterw
- www.somerset.gov.uk/archive (includes a photographic collection of Ilminster entitled: Heritage of the Ile)

PUBLICATIONS

- Somerset. The complete Guide (1994)
- Now you see it - then you didn't! - Stop Line (2000)
- Working the Chard Branch - Railway (1991)
- Roads, Canals and Railways of Chard (2001)
- Somerset Steam (2009)
- The History of Donyatt (2002)
- Excavations in the Donyatt Potteries (1989)
- Book of the Ile (1890) (Library reference only)

LIBRARIES

- Chard: Holyrood Lace Mill
- Ilminster: Ditton Street

TOURIST & LOCAL INFORMATION CENTRES

- Chard: Guildhall, High Street (TIC)
- Ilminster: Meeting House, East Street

The Old Railway Heritage/Community Project For Ilminster, Donyatt, Knowle St Giles, & Chard

From 2005 to 2009, a group of volunteers from Ilminster, Donyatt, Knowle St Giles and Chard joined together to design a heritage project linking their communities along part of the National Cycle Network 33 (The Stop Line Way). In 2008, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded them a grant. This leaflet gives additional information about the heritage of the area covered by the project and suggests further links to examine.



1 Chard Central: Two railway stations and the Canal Wharf
H The Reservoir: Wildlife depictions
G Chaffcombe Lane: The fascinating history of the reservoir
F Chard North: Chard Common Incline and W2 Stop Line defences

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2 miles NE of Ilminster



Fuddling cups



THE STOP LINE WAY

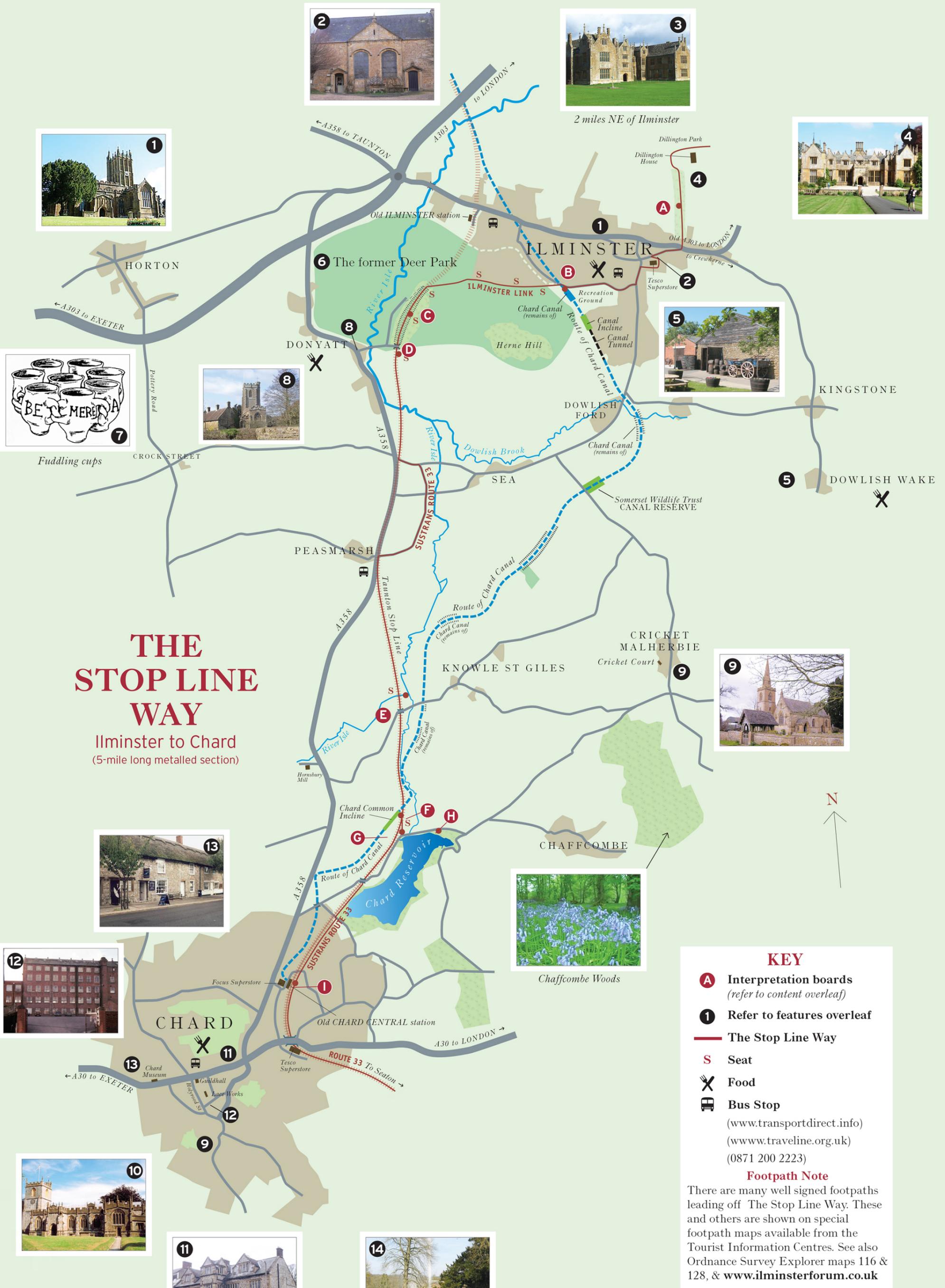
Ilminster to Chard
(5-mile long metalled section)



Chaffcombe Woods



4 miles south of Chard



KEY

- A** Interpretation boards
(refer to content overleaf)
- 1** Refer to features overleaf
- The Stop Line Way
- S** Seat
- 🍴** Food
- 🚌** Bus Stop
www.transportdirect.info
www.traveline.org.uk
(0871 200 2223)

Footpath Note

There are many well signed footpaths leading off The Stop Line Way. These and others are shown on special footpath maps available from the Tourist Information Centres. See also Ordnance Survey Explorer maps 116 & 128, & www.ilminsterforum.co.uk

SCALE

