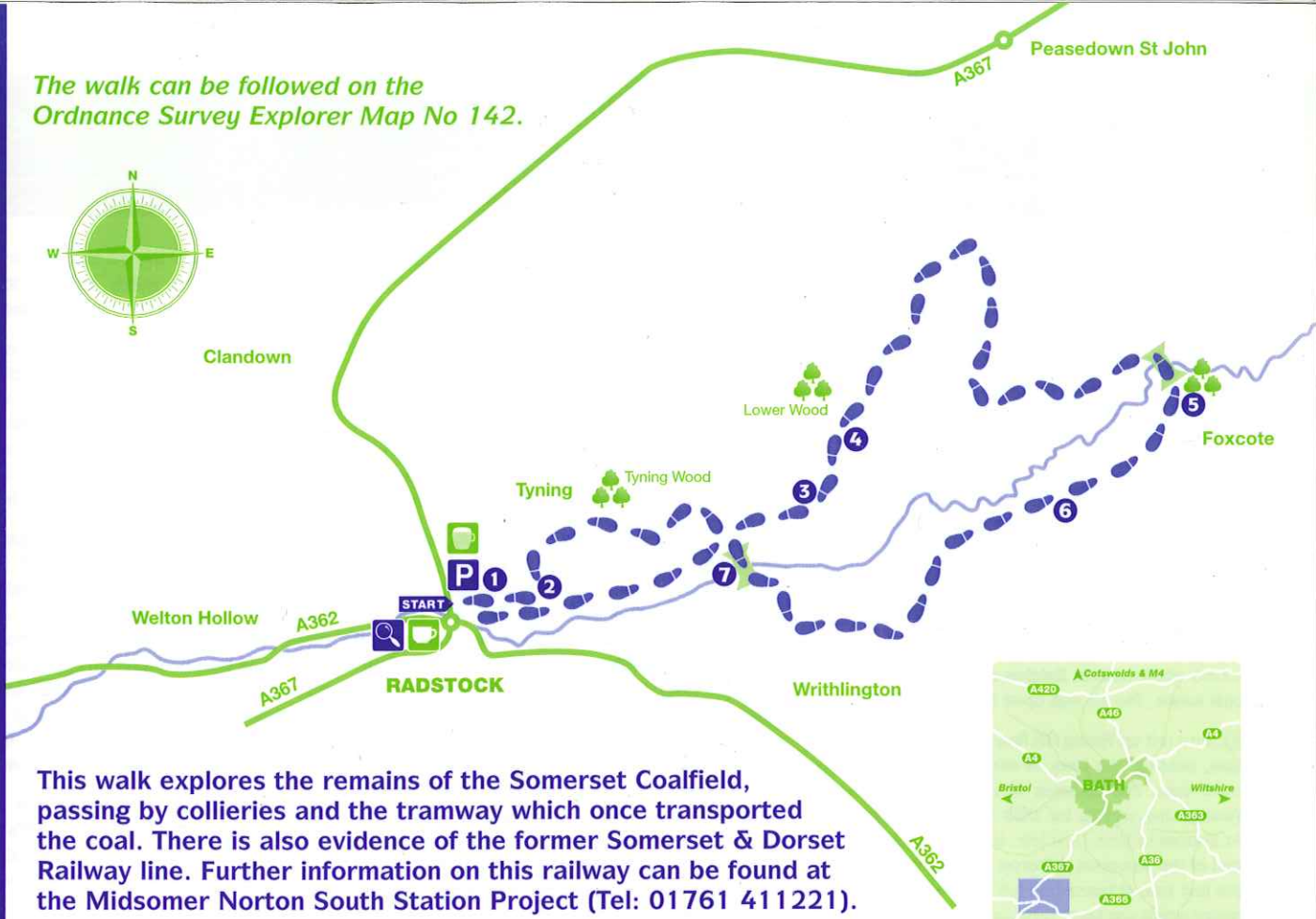


Railways & Tramways

The walk can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No 142.



This walk explores the remains of the Somerset Coalfield, passing by collieries and the tramway which once transported the coal. There is also evidence of the former Somerset & Dorset Railway line. Further information on this railway can be found at the Midsomer Norton South Station Project (Tel: 01761 411221).



KEY

- Walk Route
- Roads
- River
- Bridge
- Woods
- Attraction/Museum
- Refreshments
- Pub
- Viewpoint
- Parking

Start from central Radstock in Waterloo Road, where car parking is available just past the Museum. Coming from Bath direction, visitors should **turn left** immediately past the Bell Inn and before the Winding Wheel - a reminder of the mining history of Radstock. *The Museum, with shop and tearoom, is open Tues. to Fri., Sun. & Bank Holiday Mon. 2pm-5pm, and Sat. 11am-5pm. It is closed Dec. and Jan. (Tel: 01761 437722).*

➊ From car park, cross road and **turn right**, almost immediately **turning left** to follow public footpath sign uphill. On reaching road, **turn right** along Waldegrave Terrace and note the upgraded former miners' cottages that are a feature of the area. At end, take footpath and **turn left** up steps to road. **Turn right** along road and then take more steps **on left** to reach Stoneable Road. **Turn right**, with landscaped batch of Tynning pit **on left** above houses. Batches are built from deposited coal waste. The pit was open from 1830-1922.

➋ **Turn left** up Tynning Hill Road, then **turn right** down lane, passing two rows of miners' cottages on **left-hand** side. The cottages of Lower Whitelands and Tynnings are notable for their long, sloping gardens. At bottom of lane, **turn left**, to walk on the old track bed of the Somerset & Dorset Railway line. Just past the last row of houses **on left**, you will see a gap in hedge which you take. **Turn right** to walk parallel with the old railway line until you reach a kissing gate. **Turn left** and follow field uphill in direction of oak

tree, then **bear left** to another kissing gate, just before farmhouse.

➌ **Continue** uphill, passing farm buildings with Woodborough Cottages and the batch of Woodborough Colliery, which closed in 1840, **on right**. Follow lane until you see industrial units **on left**. You will see the batch of Braysdown Colliery, which opened in 1840 and did not close until 1959. **Turn right** at public footpath sign across field, through new plantation, and following track to stile and road.

➍ Cross road and next stile, and go **straight** down the field to find gate by old stone gatepost. Continue **diagonally left** downhill to find further stile in bottom left-hand corner. Stile leads to further stile, and then to farm track that is initially the old Somerset & Dorset railway, leading to road at Shoscombe Vale. **Turn right** down hill, passing old railway viaduct, and follow road over river uphill until it bends **sharp left** at the top, with a house **on right**. Take the stile by house iron gates and follow narrow path along edge of garden to gate that leads into field. In field continue along with hedge **on left** to find stile to further field where you walk downhill with hedge **on right**. Go **straight ahead** over stile and continue to further stile under tree. Pass through field with hedge **on right** until stile leads you into woods. Follow winding path through woods, keeping as near as possible to right-hand fence at all times. **Bear right** as you join wide path,

which is the track of the old tramway formerly used to transport coal. The woods are the site of Foxcote Colliery, which opened in 1859 and closed in 1931.

➎ Cross over stile shortly before leaving woods, and take stile **on left** into field. Turn immediately **right** to walk along bottom of field parallel with previous path. On reaching far end you will find stile to small copse that leads you to road. The site of Lower Writhlington Colliery, which opened in 1829 and closed in 1973, is almost immediately in front of you.

➏ Your route takes you **left** along road, then **right**, and then almost immediately goes **left** into field over iron stile with the letters WPC, (Writhlington Parish Council). Follow clear path **diagonally right** uphill to reach further iron stile leading to road. Continue uphill, then take first gate **on right** into field. Follow clear path initially along top of field and then follow it downhill to walk alongside fence to far corner to find metal stile leading to woods. Over stile go **straight ahead** and then **bear left** to meet road.

➐ Follow road over river bridge that leads to path running by BOCM Pauls, one of the UK's leading cattle feed merchants. Path **bears left** and then continues **straight**, with the industrial estate on left-hand side. Keep **straight ahead** until path **bears right**, leading out onto road. **Turn left** and road takes you back to starting point of Waterloo Road Car Park.