

Rail Enquiries and Cycles on trains to Tiverton Parkway

Arriving in the Tiverton area by rail and then cycling is a relaxing and easy option. From Tiverton Parkway rail station there is a direct signed cycle route to the 'West Country Way' (National Cycle Network route 3) where the Grand Western Canal provides an ideal traffic free route most of the way to Tiverton. Tiverton Parkway is on Devon's mainline rail network so access from other parts of the country is straightforward, and most services stop at Tiverton Parkway.

To travel with your cycle to/from Tiverton Parkway on the train the recommended procedure is as follows:

Check your train times and fare by 'phoning **National Rail Enquiries tel no. 08457 48 49 50** - ensure you ask which train operator you are travelling with.

Book your ticket and cycle reservation (or fee, if applicable) with the relevant rail company: First Great Western; Wales and Borders; Wessex Trains; Virgin Trains - see details below.

First Great Western

Cycle reservation booking: tel. **08457 000 125**

£1 advance fee for cycles / £3 if booked on day of travel.

Space is provided for up to 6 standard cycles (including one tandem) usually at the front of Coach A.

Wales and Borders

Cycle reservation booking: tel. **0870 9000 773 or 0845 6061 660**

Charges vary. Free off peak; £1 booked in advance / £3 if booked on day of travel.

Most services carry maximum of two standard cycles (no tandems). Off peak cycle carriage is at Guard's discretion as it is not normally expected to need to book. The cycle compartment is usually indicated by a cycle symbol on the carriage.

Wessex Trains

Cycle reservation booking: tel. **0870 9000 773 or 0870 900 232**

Charges vary. Free off peak; £1 booked in advance

Most services carry a maximum of two standard cycles (no tandems). For off peak services cycle carriage is at the Guard's discretion as advanced booking is not normally required -the advice is to check before travelling. The cycle compartment is usually indicated by a cycle symbol on the carriage.

Virgin Trains

Cycle reservation booking: tel. **08457 222 333**

Maximum 4 standard cycles per service (no tandems). Essential to book but no fee required. Cycle compartment normally indicated by cycle symbol on carriage.

Bus Services

This area is well served by long distance coaches and local bus services. Information about these can be obtained from a new national Public Transport Enquiry Service, established to cover all travel in the South West.

Traveline (0870) 608 2608

In the near future it is hoped that certain bus services will be able to carry cycles; for more information please refer to the Devon County Council website.

www.devon.gov.uk/cycling

TOURIST INFORMATION

The local tourist information centres have all other information you may need on cycling opportunities in the area; public transport, accommodation and opening hours plus admission prices of the local attractions.

**Tiverton Tourist Information Centre:
Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, EX16 6LU, Tel: (01884) 255 827**

Tiverton Services: J27, M5, Sampford Peverell,
(interactive screen available 24hrs a day).

Information is also available at the Tourist Information Points in Bampton (Castle Street Crafts, Castle Street), Cullompton Town Hall and Tiverton Parkway during normal working hours; please note they are not staffed and booking facilities are not available.

LOCAL CYCLING INFORMATION

Devon Cycle Mark

In conjunction with the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) and Sustrans Devon County Council has launched a "Cycle Mark" scheme for tourist establishments along the West Country Way between Barnstaple, Tiverton and the Somerset border. This scheme is based upon a commitment from businesses to be "cycle-friendly" in line with criteria drawn up by Devon County Council, CTC (Cyclists' Touring Club) and Sustrans, where the cycling visitor will be sure of a warm welcome. Look out for establishments displaying the Devon Cycle Mark logo (above).

Details of other cycling opportunities in Devon can be found by visiting the website www.devon.gov.uk/cycling

CYCLE HIRE/REPAIRS

Maynards Cycle Hire

(01884) 253 979

25 Gold Street, Tiverton, EX16 6QB

Tiverton Parkway Cycle Hire

(01884) 820 908

Sampford Peverell, EX16 7EH

NATIONAL CYCLING INFORMATION

CTC: Cotterell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3HS **Tel. 0870 873 0060**

CTC is the UK's largest cycling organisation working to promote cycling and to protect cyclist's interests.

Email: membership@ctc.org.uk website www.ctc.org.uk

Sustrans Information Service, PO Box 21, Bristol, BS99 2HA, Tel: 0117 929 0888 www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans: Sustrans, which stands for sustainable transport, is developing the National Cycle Network with partners such as Devon County Council. The network so far comprises of continuous traffic-free routes and traffic-calmed minor roads, reaching all parts of the U.K. including Ireland.



- 1) Take care, especially when turning right
- 2) Wear bright clothing, carry lights and take waterproofs.
- 3) It is important to wear a helmet to protect you from injury should you fall.
- 4) Carry refreshment, a tool kit, puncture repair kit, first aid kit, a mobile phone or enough money for a telephone call.
- 5) Always ensure your bicycle is in good working order, especially the brakes, tightness of nuts, tyre pressure and tread.
- 6) Follow the Highway code at all times.
- 7) Take care on narrow lanes and be prepared to give way.
- 8) Be careful during wetter weather, particularly on uneven roads.
- 9) Always dismount under bridges on the Canal.

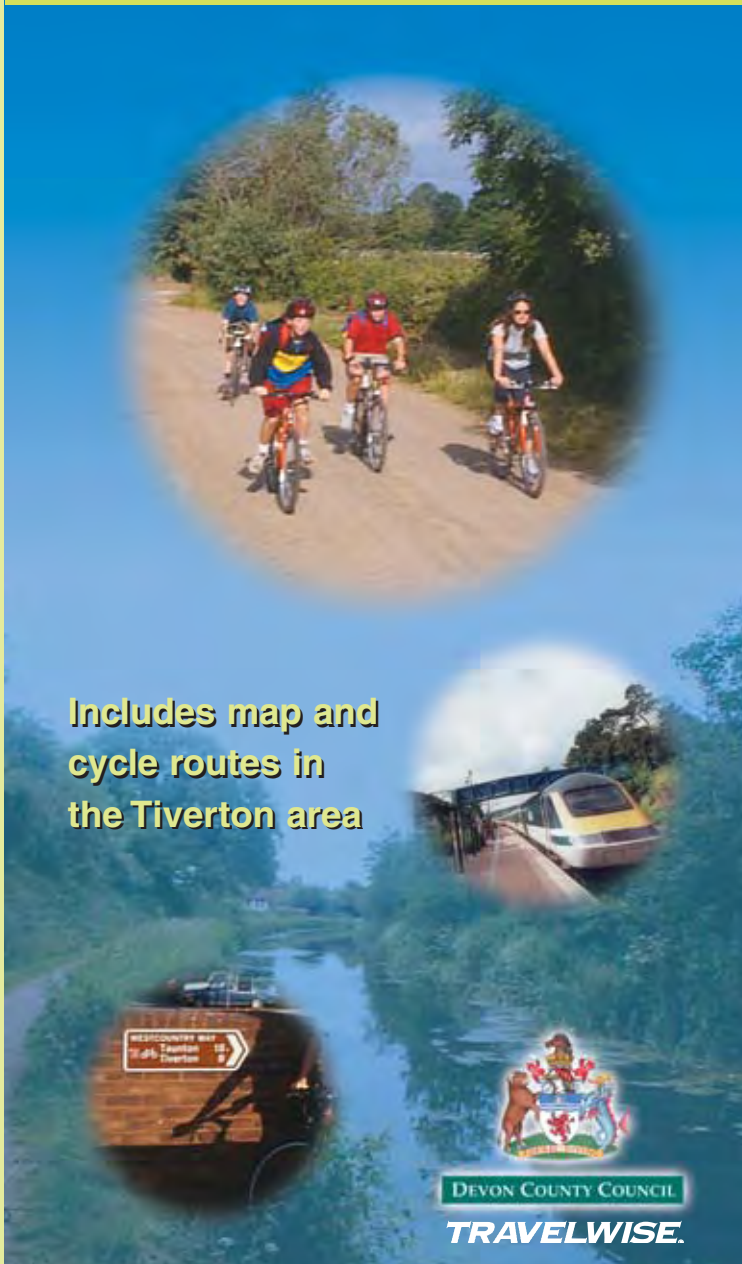
Grand Western Canal Country Park

**Telephone the Ranger Services
01884 254 072**



cycle routes

Tiverton to Culm Valley



**Includes map and
cycle routes in
the Tiverton area**



National Cycle Network (NCN) in Devon

CYCLING IN THE TIVERTON AREA

The Tiverton area of Devon provides the ideal environment for your cycling break as Tiverton Parkway rail station offers direct links between the national rail network and some excellent cycle routes in the area. The beauty of cycling in this area is that once you have completed one route you have the opportunity to explore further afield. There's much to occupy you with so many natural and historical features in and around the traditional towns and villages of this part of rural Devon.

WEST COUNTRY WAY (NCN 3) - GRAND WESTERN CANAL SECTION

The Grand Western Canal forms a section of the West Country Way (National Cycle Network Route 3) Bristol to Padstow, a 105 mile / 168 km cycle route in Devon from the Somerset borders near Tiverton to the Cornwall border near Holsworthy. This 11 mile section starts at Tiverton and meanders gently along the banks of the Canal and through the attractive Devon countryside near Holcombe Rogus. The route is mostly off-road although it diverts on to minor roads through villages along the Way. It's a perfect route for cyclists of all abilities, and is highly suitable for family groups and novice cyclists. It is a relaxing ride, diverse in wildlife and includes long stretches of tranquil canal paths. The Canal itself was built in 1814 to transport limestone from the local quarries and bring coal into Devon. It fell into disuse in 1925 when the scheme was commercially abandoned; now the reminder of past industry is the horse-drawn barges, which take people on trips along the Canal.

Along the towpath there's easy cycling and ever changing scenery; sheltered woodland, picturesque waterside cottages, open countryside and sweeping views of the Blackdown Hills. The area is rich in many varieties of birds and animals; swans nest each year raising their broods of cygnets; mallard, coot and moorhen are abundant as well as other more shy birds such as kingfisher. The hedgerows, woodland, and fields surrounding the Canal provide habitats for other birds such as robin, chaffinch, and sparrows but also for animals like badger, fox, rabbit and other small mammals.

There are a scattering of rural pubs, shops, cafes and teashops on the Way serving delicious home-made snacks and meals.

Other places of interest:

- Tiverton Pannier Market - open five days a week.
- The National Trust's Knighthayes Court; a stunning Victorian House set in one of Devon's most spectacular gardens.
- Tiverton Castle with 900 years of architectural history on view.
- The recently renovated Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life offering more fascinating history of the area.

'Grand Western Canal' leaflet

£0.25 (p+p)

GRAND WESTERN CANAL to TIVERTON PARKWAY CYCLE LINK

The one mile cycle link between Tiverton Parkway station and the Grand Western Canal is a combination of off and on road tracks. Tiverton Cycle Hire and Farm Shop can be found a short way along the

approach road to the station. Look out for the deep ponds used for fishing adjoining the route near the station, where dragonflies and damsel flies skim the tree-lined waters.

TIVERTON to CULM VALLEY CYCLE ROUTE

The new 3 mile Tiverton Parkway to Willand off-road cycle route offers cyclists a safe crossing of both the main railway line and the M5 motorway and is an attractive route for leisure, commuting and school journeys. At present this route is developed as far as Willand but will eventually form part of a key cycle link between Tiverton and Axminster through the Culm Valley and will link to the National Cycle Network at both ends.

This Tiverton Parkway to Willand route crosses an area known as the 'Devon Redlands' based on the soil colour and underlying rocks of the New Red Sandstone. It is characterised by mixed farmland, much of which is managed quite intensively reflecting the relative fertility of the soils. The route has a dense network of species-rich hedges, occasional hedgerow trees and scattered blocks of woodland. Soaring buzzards are a common sight overhead and it is even possible to spot otters in the small watercourses on the low-lying ground.

Other places of interest

- Willand - Peaceful village with charming church and traditional cob and thatch buildings.
- Diggerland; Willand; where visitors can have a go at driving JCBs!
- Coldharbour Working Wool Museum, Uffculme; where you can see how old Victorian spinning was carried out.



Grand Western Horseboat Company



Coldharbour Working Wool Museum

CYCLING IN THE TIVERTON AREA AND BEYOND

There are plenty of other cycling opportunities in the area, many of which provide direct links with the West Country Way (NCN Route 3) so if you want to extend your journey or visit the area again there are several new and interesting routes, such as:

EXE VALLEY CYCLE ROUTE

This is a 16 mile circular on-road route, starting at Tiverton and following the valley of the Exe. There are some strenuous climbs on this route but these are contrasted with gentle stretches.

'Cycling in Mid Devon-Tiverton' leaflet price £0.25

LOWMAN VALLEY CYCLE ROUTE

The Lowman Valley is also a circular route of 23 miles and explores the gentle valley of the River Lowman, and some of the picturesque villages around it. There are many opportunities to vary the route by making use of the network of lanes, which weave across the countryside.

'Cycling in Mid Devon-Tiverton' leaflet price £0.25

BLACKDOWN HILLS CYCLE ROUTES

If you want to extend your journey east from Willand then why not join the Blackdown Hills routes at Uffculme. There are eight moderate to strenuous touring routes in the Blackdown Hills ranging from 7 miles to 22 miles.

'Cycling in the Blackdown Hills' pack price £1.90

FURTHER INFORMATION

Places to Stay

There are many places to stay overnight in the Tiverton area. There are caravan and camping sites along the route or if you'd rather you can opt for a more traditional stay in one of Devon's B&B's, guest houses or farmhouses. There are also a number of larger hotels in the area where you can enjoy some creature comforts after a day's cycling.

See also *Devon Cycle Mark* over page.



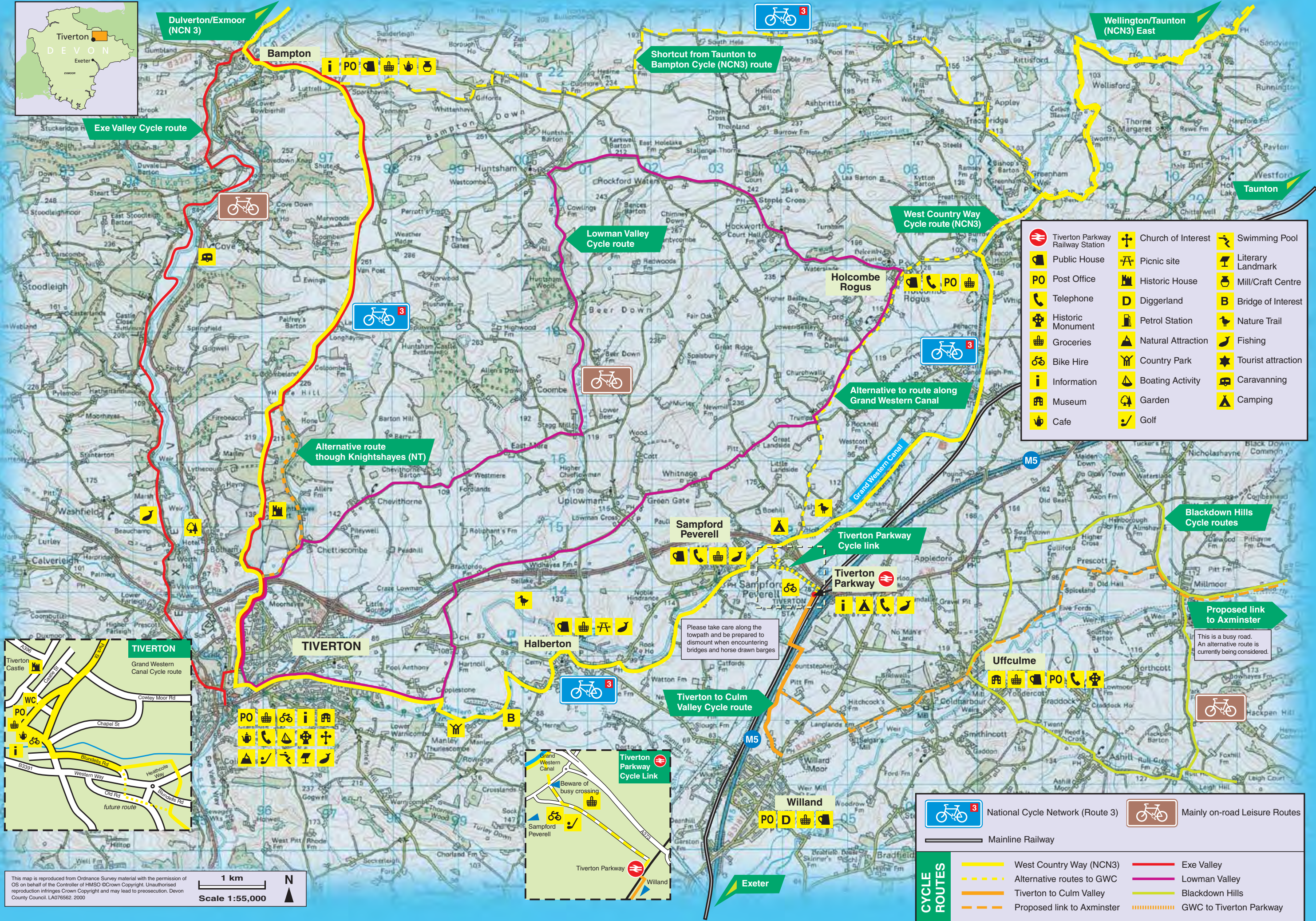
Need more information or want to make a booking?

Call the Devon Holiday Line on **0870 60 85 531** for all information on accommodation, attractions, activities and events, saleable maps and other helpful information and advice.

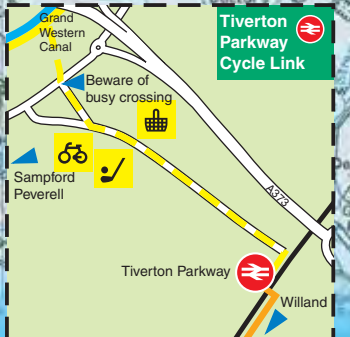
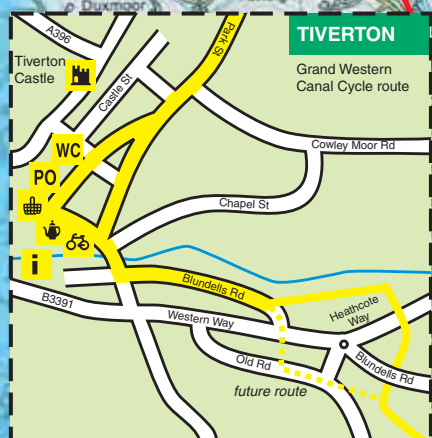
Leaflets advertised in this leaflet can be made available by ringing this number and quoting the DP code given.

(calls are charged at UK national rates)

TIVERTON-CULM VALLEY VALLEY CYCLE ROUTES



	Tiverton Parkway Railway Station		Church of Interest		Swimming Pool
	Public House		Picnic site		Literary Landmark
	Post Office		Historic House		Mill/Craft Centre
	Telephone		Diggerland		Bridge of Interest
	Historic Monument		Petrol Station		Nature Trail
	Groceries		Natural Attraction		Fishing
	Bike Hire		Country Park		Tourist attraction
	Information		Boating Activity		Caravanning
	Museum		Garden		Camping
	Cafe		Golf		



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1 km
Scale 1:55,000

National Cycle Network (Route 3) Mainly on-road Leisure Routes

Mainline Railway

CYCLE ROUTES

- West Country Way (NCN3)
- Exe Valley
- Alternative routes to GWC
- Lowman Valley
- Tiverton to Culm Valley
- Blackdown Hills
- Proposed link to Axminster
- GWC to Tiverton Parkway

Please take care along the towpath and be prepared to dismount when encountering bridges and horse drawn barges

This is a busy road. An alternative route is currently being considered.