

Walks

No. 6: MEDIEVAL ROAD & DONYATT

DIRECTIONS:

1. The walk starts at the beginning of Canal Way, opposite Wharf Lane Car Park. Follow the footpath beside the recreation ground down to where it enters a side path at the entrance to the additional playing area.
2. Turn left into the playing field and follow the hedge, keeping it on your left, up the field and the Incline to the top of the field. Go on to the track straight ahead and continue to the kissing gate.
3. Cross the field diagonally right and go through a rambler gate three quarters of the way along the far hedge line. Turn right and continue up to the corner of the field, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through a rambler gate on to the Medieval Road.
4. Carry straight on along this track passing through a further rambler gate and field gate until you reach a rambler gate in the hedge. Go through and turn left. With the ponds (Marl Pits) on your right, continue downhill through a gap in the hedge into another field. Continue, keeping the hedge on your left to a rambler gate. Go through and turn right. Keep hedge on your right and continue through two further rambler gates and a field gate. Please leave gates as you find them. Go ahead keeping the hedge on the right to a rambler gate in the right hand corner of the field. Go over the footbridge and turn left.
5. Follow the path beside Dowlish Brook. Continue on to the metalled road by the bridge. Turn left until you meet Watery Lane. Turn right and following the lane keep straight on until you meet the Chard to Ilminster cycle way. Turn right onto the cycle way.
6. Continue along the cycle way to the restored railway halt at Donyatt where an opportunity arise to go back over Herne Hill to Ilminster or a short walk up into the village of Donyatt (Church and Pub).
7. Continue straight along the cycle way until meeting Canal Way. Turn right and follow the footpath back to where you started.

The Old Medieval Road - Donyatt to Ilminster

The old Donyatt to Ilminster road started in Church Street, Donyatt, passing via Down and Dunpole Farms crossing the southern slopes and shoulder of Herne Hill and then down to the Cross (the area of the Royal Oak in Ilminster). This was a convenient way to Ilminster and perhaps the shortest distance from the centre of the village. It is likely to have been a better drained road and less muddy in winter than the lower route via Sea. This road was probably used for taking pottery to Ilminster market using the Stibbear/Crow Lane route. The road was also used as an access to the field systems on the southern slopes of Herne Hill which were used by the local inhabitants. There was a Quaker Burial Ground situated along the route.

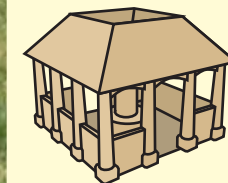


View along the Medieval Road

1) General Disclaimer re Routes. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the routes shown as public rights of way and permissive path, they may change and may not be clearly defined on the ground. The public rights of way and permissive path shown on this map are only intended as an indication of the general route. To determine the exact route of a public right of way, the definitive map held by Somerset County Council should be consulted. The publisher can accept no responsibility of any errors or omissions arising from this publication. 2) General Disclaimer re Safety. All persons using the information in this guide do so at their own risk and discretion.



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WALK

06

ILMINSTER

Medieval Road & Donyatt



3.5 Miles



2 hours



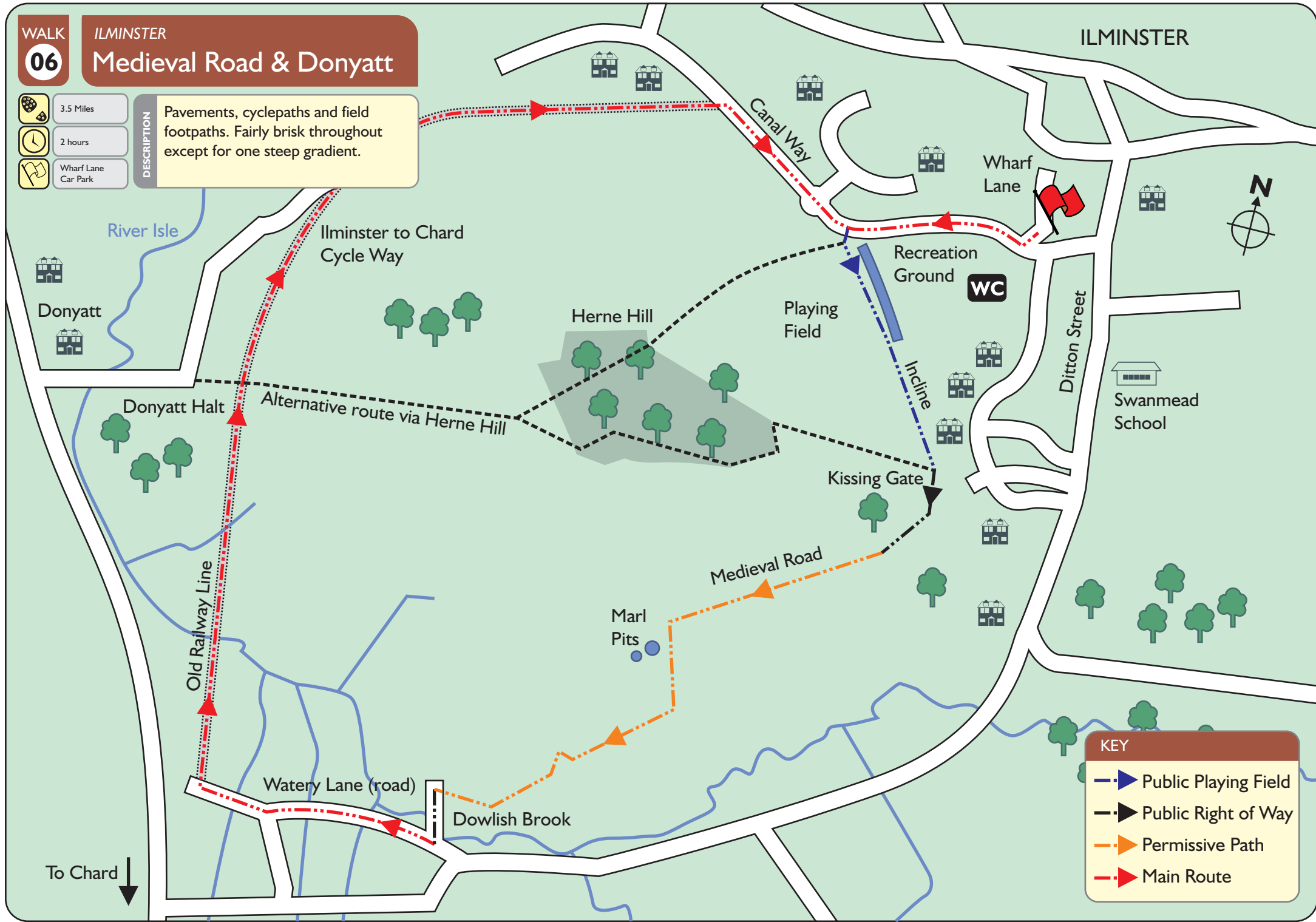
Wharf Lane Car Park

DESCRIPTION

Pavements, cyclepaths and field footpaths. Fairly brisk throughout except for one steep gradient.

KEY

- Public Playing Field
- Public Right of Way
- Permissive Path
- Main Route



To Chard ↓