

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 providing a range of refreshments.

- 01 Turn left out of car park towards Shapwick, and left again just after bridge onto Natural England's Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve, and along the main track.
▲ Beware potholes, and give way to walkers and reserve management vehicles.
- 02 ▲ Cross Ashcott Road into the RSPB's Ham Wall Nature Reserve and continue to Sharpham Crossing.
- 03 Follow Cycle Route 3 markers to Glastonbury as far as Beckery, then turn left towards Godney.
- 04 ▲ Cross B3151 and head towards Upper Godney.
- 05 Turn left at Upper Godney to Lower Godney, and then turn north towards the Mendip ridge.
- 06 At the crossroads turn left towards Somerset Wildlife Trust's Westhay Moor National Nature Reserve. Bikes can be locked up in the information board area.
- 07 Head west to Turnpike House and turn left onto B3151.
- 08 Just after Westhay Bridge and pub, turn left into Meareway.
- 09 ▲ Turn left onto B3151 and head on through village to the Abbot's Fish House, Manor Farm House and church. Retrace route back through Meare village.
- 10 Head south down Ashcott Road and return to Ashcott Corner car park.
- 11 Turn right through car park and back into Shapwick Heath Nature Reserve.
- 12 At end of the reserve turn right and back to the Avalon Marshes Centre.

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.

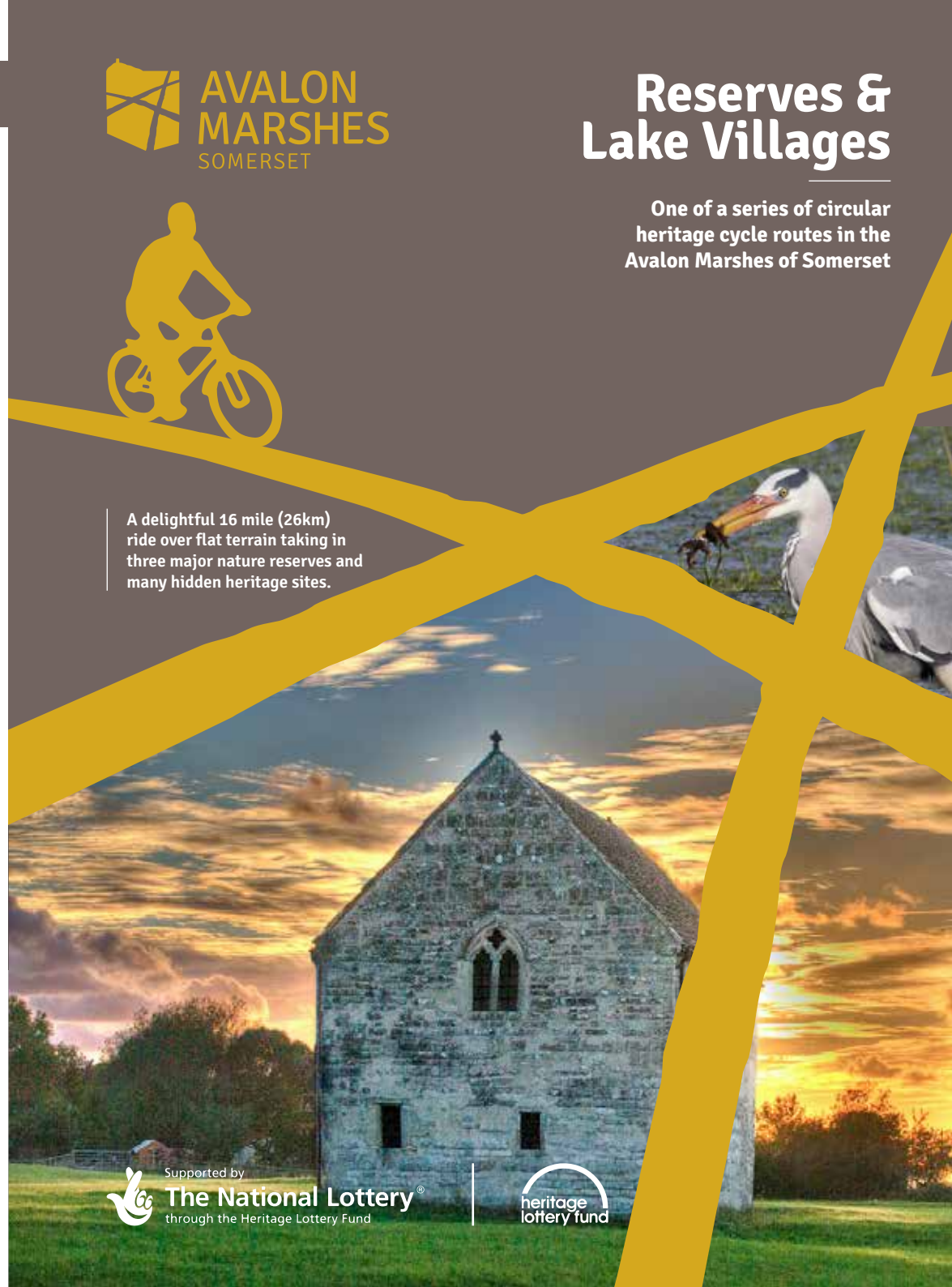
🗉 **FEEDBACK:**
A: Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Somerset, BA6 9TT.
T: 01458 860556 E: info@avalonmarshes.org



A delightful 16 mile (26km) ride over flat terrain taking in three major nature reserves and many hidden heritage sites.

Reserves & Lake Villages

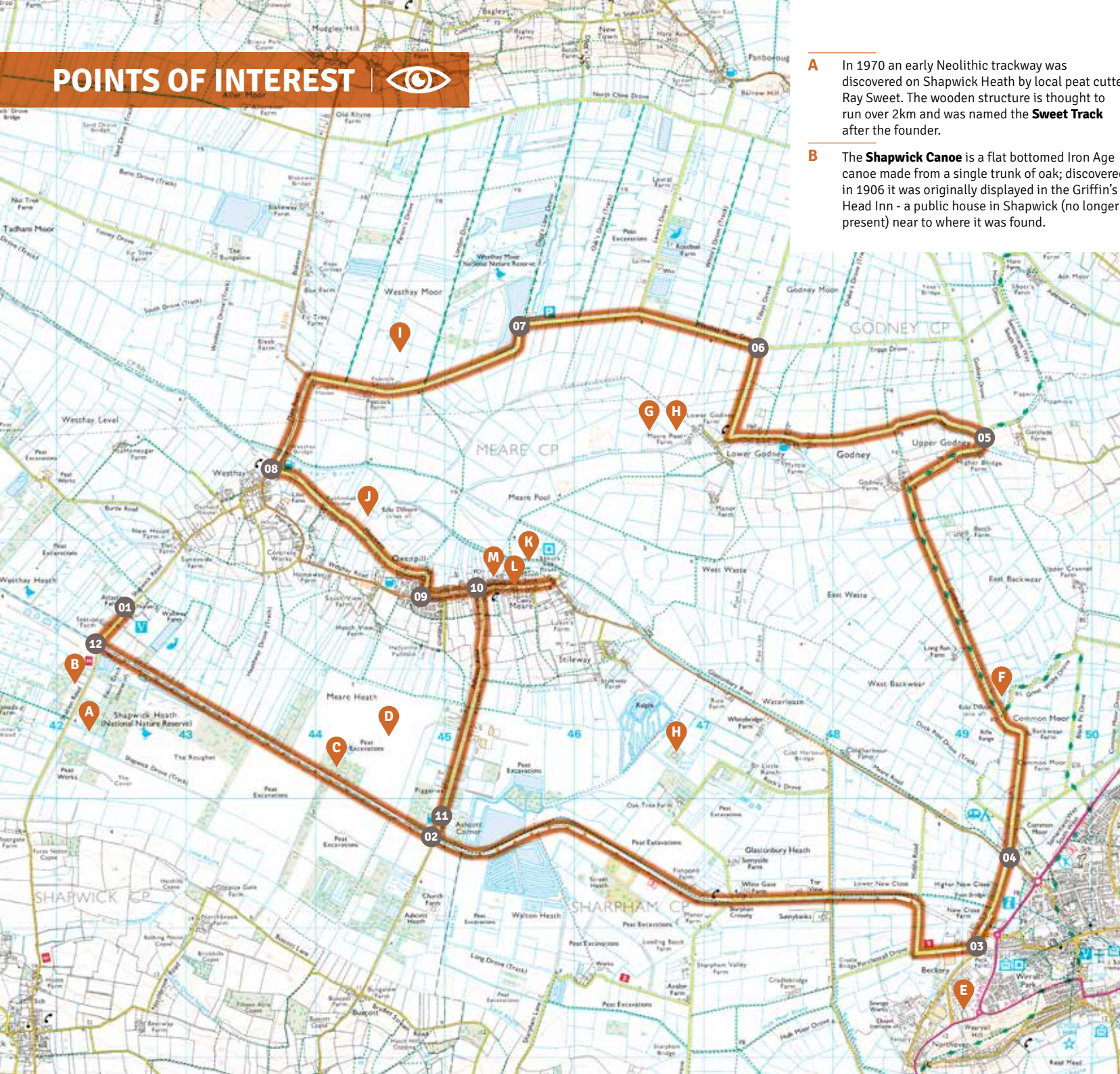
One of a series of circular heritage cycle routes in the Avalon Marshes of Somerset



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



POINTS OF INTEREST



A In 1970 an early Neolithic trackway was discovered on Shapwick Heath by local peat cutter Ray Sweet. The wooden structure is thought to run over 2km and was named the **Sweet Track** after the founder.

B The **Shapwick Canoe** is a flat bottomed Iron Age canoe made from a single trunk of oak; discovered in 1906 it was originally displayed in the Griffin's Head Inn - a public house in Shapwick (no longer present) near to where it was found.

C One foggy August morning in 1949, a peat train became stuck where the track crossed the main line causing a passenger train from Glastonbury to crash into the South Drain.

D Arthur Bulleid was the first to record the **Meare Heath trackway** in 1890, its construction is more substantial than some of the other tracks such as the nearby Eclipse trackway.

E **Beckery** was originally a village outside of Glastonbury; evidence of prehistoric and roman activity have been uncovered at The Mound (sometimes called Glastonbury Castle) a natural feature destroyed in 1970.

F **Glastonbury Iron Age Lake Village** was discovered by Arthur Bulleid who recognised features in the landscape as being the same as those at a European lake village site.

G A duck decoy was noted at Meare Farm as early as 1685, it was still in use in 1740 by which time it had given its name to a ditch, which is still known as **Decoy rhyme** to this day.

H Wildfowl were an important food source in the area, **duck decoys** were tapering net pipes used to trap wild-fowl and were recorded in use from the late 17th century.

I The 1773 **Inclosure Act** enabled land owners to enclose land, removing access rights for commoners. it was frequently abused and until 1774 property could be redistributed without notification to residents.

J **Meare east and west Iron Age Lake Villages** have been intermittently excavated since 1908, they are thought to have been used seasonally for markets and meetings.

K The medieval **Abbot's Fish House** stood on the edge of Meare Pool, housing the chief fisherman of the Abbot of Glastonbury. A boat was sent from the Abbey to collect fish once a week.

L The 14th Century **Manor Farm** house included a chapel chamber. The stone finial above the porch is reputed to be the Abbot Richard Whiting of Glastonbury.

M The **Church of St Mary** was dedicated in 1323, the chancel and tower are original with the nave being rebuilt around 1470.