



North Somerset Council
and
Greenways and Cyclerroutes Limited
welcome you to the opening of the

BREAN DOWN WAY
By her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Somerset
Mrs Annie Maw

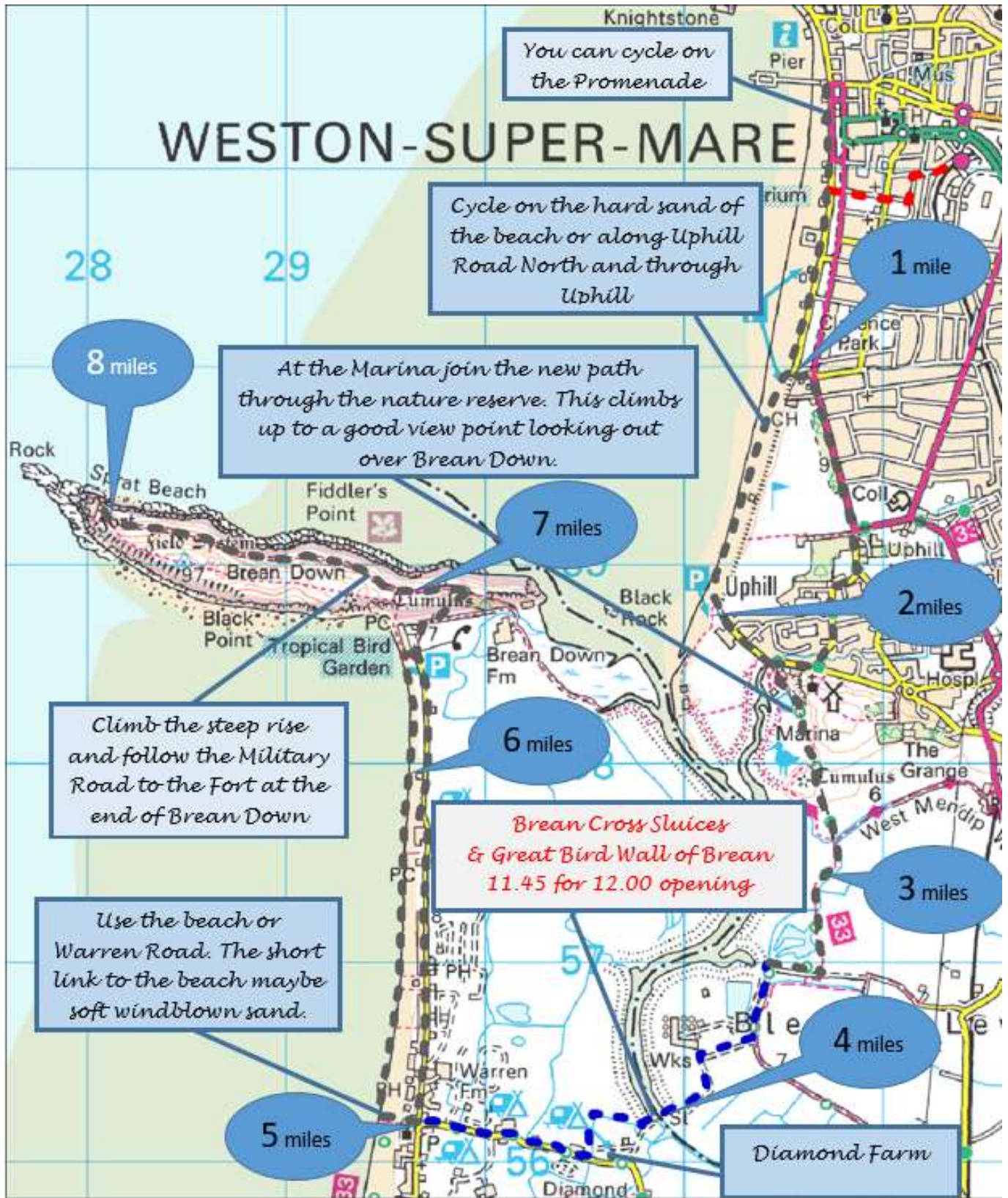
Friday 7 July 2017
11.45am for 12noon opening at Brean Cross Sluice

With opportunity to walk or cycle the route.

Reply to Caroline Levett – greenwaysandcyclerroutes@gmail.com



GREENWAYS AND
CYCLEROUTES LIMITED



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Please join us in walking or cycling as much of the route as you would like. The formal opening will take place at noon at the Brean Cross Sluices. The other timings are flexible.				
Where	When Walking	When Cycling	What	Car Parking
Weston Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare	9.30 am	10.30 am	Maps and flags issued to participants	Carlton Street Car Park, BS23 1UA (charges apply)
Walk or cycle two miles to Uphill Marina. Choice of beach or interim road route through Uphill.				
Uphill Café/Marina	10.30 am	11.00 am	Café open from 10.00	Uphill Village on road parking.
Walk or cycle two miles Brean Sluices over route constructed by North Somerset in 2016/2017. Off road - good surface, but steep over Walborough				
Wessex Plant/ Bleadon Level	11.00 am	11.15 am	Start of 2016 workcamp section	Small car park next to Wessex land.
Diamond Farm	11.30 am	11.30 am	Diamond Farm Café open from 9.00 am	As directed by Diamond Farm
Brean Cross Sluice (River Axe) Mile 4 Official opening - 11.45am -12.15pm – Lord Lieutenant of Somerset Mrs Annie Maw officially opens the route at midday. Please note limited parking will be available for dignitaries at Diamond Farm campsite, Weston Road, TA8 2RL adjacent to the Sluice. Formal photographs, and opportunity to burn your name on the Great Bird Wall of Brean.				
Walk or cycle one mile over route constructed by Greenways and Cyclerroutes in April 2017. Level, off road, and suitable for wheelchairs				
Brean Parish Hall/Warren Road	1.15 pm	12.45 pm	End of Greenways 2017 work.	Limited
Walk one and a half miles along Beach to National Trust Café or Cycle three miles to tip of Brean Down along beach or coast road and then the Military Road. Return one and a half miles to National Trust Café for barbecue and beach entertainment. The ascent to Brean Down is steep				
National Trust Café	1.45 pm	1.45 pm	Barbecue @£5 per person Re-enactment of Cyclebag events in 1977 on Beach 4.00 to 5.00	Brean Down, National Trust Car Park (charges apply)
Walk one and a half miles on to tip of Brean Down as they wish – using steps or roadway. The ascent to Brean Down is steep.				
Brean Down Fort	5.00pm			
Please take commemorative photographs and send them to greenwaysandcyclerroutes@gmail.com To plan your journey to the event visit www.travelwest.info Please note this is an outdoor event so please dress accordingly.				



A brief history and some thank yous

The River Axe runs into the sea at the south end of Weston Bay, forming a barrier to walkers and cyclists. The old ferry has long since stopped running, and yachting makes a bridge impracticable. The Environment Agency's road over its sluices has been closed to the public since it was built.

In 2014 North Somerset Council commissioned John Grimshaw to design a route between Weston-super-Mare and Brean Down. By 2015 they had secured funding and surfaced the route over Uphill. In January 2016 Greenways and Cyclerroutes Limited was established by John Grimshaw and Caroline Levett to help local groups to create new cycling and walking routes – and the Brean Down Way became the first project. In April 2016 the Environment Agency agreed in principle to grant public access over the sluices – but Natural England said the route would need to be screened to protect birds. The June 2016 workcamp constructed the route just north of the sluices, and the start of work in Sedgemoor. By December 2016 sufficient funding had been raised and the main construction was under way in February. The April 2017 workcamp built the field section of the path and the Great Bird Wall of Brean. In May the contractors finished the road section. In June the security fences on the sluices were constructed so the route could be formally opened in July.

The Brean Down Way will be opened forty years to the day since the founding of CYCLEBAG – the Bristol Cycling Action Group who first pursued the route. CYCLEBAG inspired the formation of Sustrans, which developed the National Cycle Network, of which this route is part.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of many organisations and individuals.

North Somerset Council and **Greenways and Cyclerroutes Limited** would like to thank the following:

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; Hinkley Point Community Impact Mitigation Fund; Coastal Communities Fund; Sedgemoor District Council; Somerset County Council; Environment Agency; Natural England; National Trust, Wessex Water, the Environment Agency across the Brean Cross Sluices, Trevor Hicks at Diamond Farm, Rosemary Baker at Southfield Farm, Jon Harris at Warren Farm and the National Trust at Brean Down for funding, extensive support and permission to use lands.

Contractors and suppliers: Larry Walker for providing all the back up to the Camp; Kenny Gordon for culverting the Weston Road ditches, for auguring out the post holes of the Great Bird Wall of Brean, and other works; Ian Morgan for extensive fencing and gating works; Draytons for the kerbing and formal asphalt path alongside Weston Road; Openreach and Western Power for moving poles; Kingcome for the barriers over the sluices; Brookridge Timber and Jacksons Fencing for fenceposts, Milverton Sawmill for planks, Lympsham Forge for steelwork, Westfield fastenings for bolts and screws.

Volunteers: For the 2017 Workcamp: Chris and Claire Grimshaw provided all the meals, Simon Talbot Ponsonby supervised the concreting, Steve Shrewsbury was principal carpenter on the wall, Jon Bewley took the photographs, Frankie Woods and Kate Lowry were the camp artists, Jane Chapman at Sustrans provided the signs and John Kirkhope, ranger, signed the route, Rupert Crosbee (Sustrans) provided tools, Asha Goyal and Jane Debney produced reports and the following all took part: Tom Andrews, Matt Aug, Becky Ball, Simon Banbury, Tim Barrett, John Barnes, Arnold Bates, Robert Battersby, Reece Coombe, Connor Critchley, Kelly Critchley, Mike Dagley, Llew Davies, Adi Davis, Shena Deuchars, Daisy Durton-Hesletine, David Fish, Emily Ford, Mike Fostiropoulos, Ben Fryer, David Gray, Keith Hallett, Sam Hallett, Nick Hallett, Vicki Harris, Mark Harrison, Andy Hatch, Jake Hawkins, Linda Hazzard, Mike Herbert, Peter Howell, Luke Hudson, Peter Huxford, Gavin Irvine, Steve Jenkins, Laura Jones, David Judd, Amy Katanna, Josh Learner, Ian Learner, Ed Lucas, Derek MacDonald, Frankie Mann, Debbie Marriott, James Moore, Sam Morton, Edward Mosely, David O'Neill, Jonathan Phillips, Sue Potts, Tim Potts, Simon Pratt, Simon Pratt (yes - there were two), Barbara Rodgers, Patryk Rounski, Simone Saviantoni, Zsolt Schuller, Ben Searle, Peter Sharp, Steve Shrewsbury, Andy Small, Maisie Squire, Charlotte Stairs, Nicola Stinchcombe, Mark Thomas, Mark Tucker, Howard Warrenner, Brian Wilkinson, Cheerful Charlie, Nathan the gate hanger, Sue Cementer.

For North Somerset David Fish and Mike Herbert supervised construction and negotiation; Frankie Mann, Ben Searle and Laura Podeschi handled finance and publicity.

The Great Bird Wall of Brean was designed by Katy Hallett working closely with Natural England.

The path was designed by John Grimshaw, honorary engineer for Greenways. The project was administered for Greenways and Cyclerroutes by Caroline Levett.