

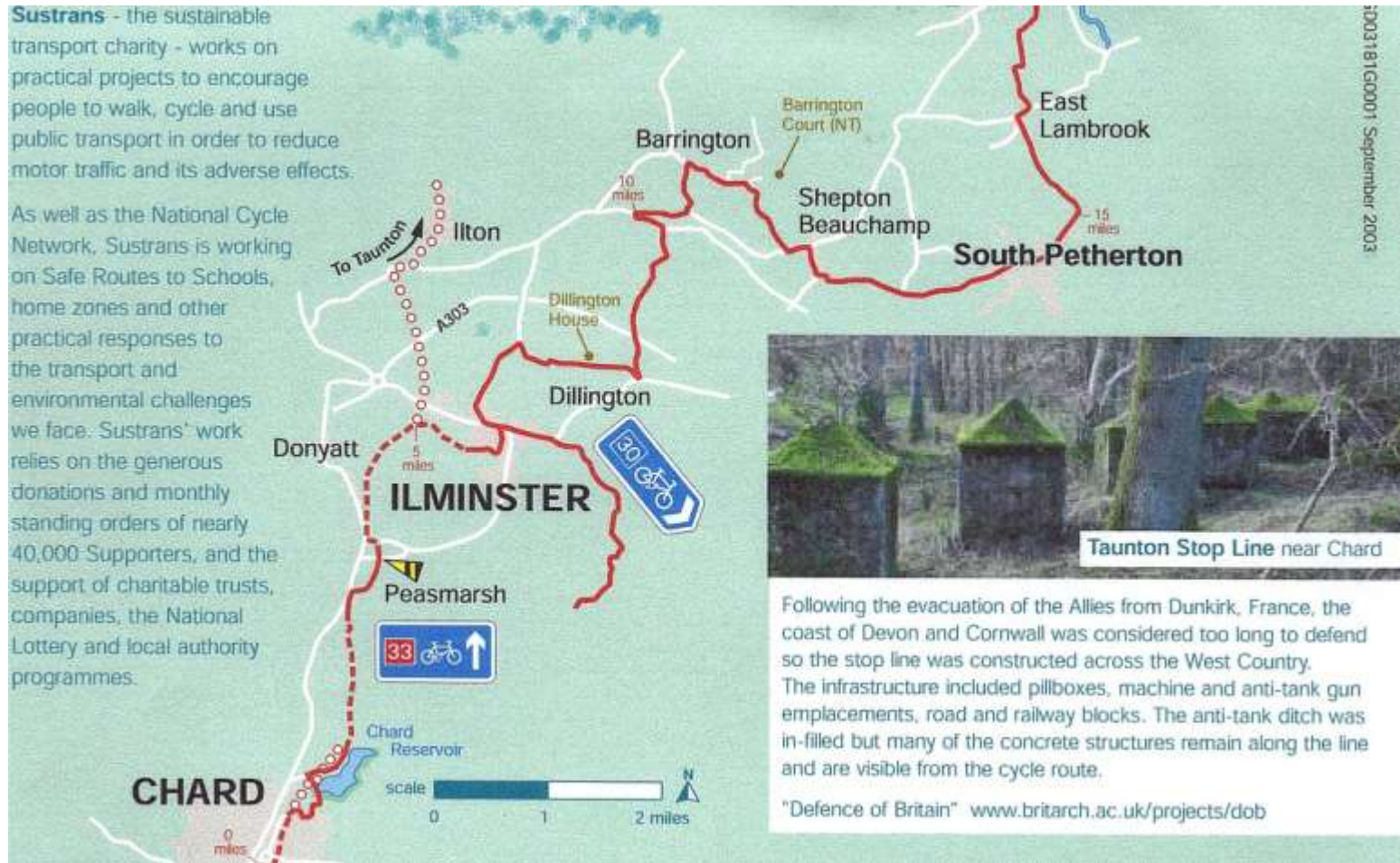
The Old Railway Heritage Project



Sustrans Route 33

Sustrans - the sustainable transport charity - works on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport in order to reduce motor traffic and its adverse effects.

As well as the National Cycle Network, Sustrans is working on Safe Routes to Schools, home zones and other practical responses to the transport and environmental challenges we face. Sustrans' work relies on the generous donations and monthly standing orders of nearly 40,000 Supporters, and the support of charitable trusts, companies, the National Lottery and local authority programmes.



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Taunton Stop Line near Chard

Following the evacuation of the Allies from Dunkirk, France, the coast of Devon and Cornwall was considered too long to defend so the stop line was constructed across the West Country. The infrastructure included pillboxes, machine and anti-tank gun emplacements, road and railway blocks. The anti-tank ditch was in-filled but many of the concrete structures remain along the line and are visible from the cycle route.

"Defence of Britain" www.britarch.ac.uk/projects/dob

Clearance and Restoration



Points of Interest

FORTRESS ILMINSTER 1940

PREPARING FOR INVASION

In July 1940 inland towns on important junctions of key routes towards London or the Midlands were prepared for defence as 'anti-tank islands' to deny the invader use of these routes. While tanks might bypass the towns, enemy logistic vehicles could not. These towns included Taunton, Honiton, Crewkerne, Shepton Mallet, Frome and Yeovil.




Seating and signage



Leaflets

THE STOP LINE WAY

Ilminster to Chard
(5-mile long metalled section)





The Stop Line Way is a long distance coast-to-coast walking and cycling route which in parts is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The cycle route is 75 miles long and partly follows the 'taunton Stop Line' built by the Army in 1940 to contain any Nazi German invasion of the South West. These defences ran for 50 miles, from Burnham on the Bristol Channel to Seaton on the South Coast. Canals, railways and rivers were made into a continuous anti-tank obstacle with road blocks and over 300 concrete pillboxes. Between Ilminster and Chard it largely follows the track of the old Great Western Railway.

Supported by:
The National Lottery
Sustrans
Somerset Wildlife Trust
Somerset Wildlife Trust
Somerset Wildlife Trust

Walk or cycle

THE STOP LINE WAY

& discover hidden Somerset,
past & present



Activities



