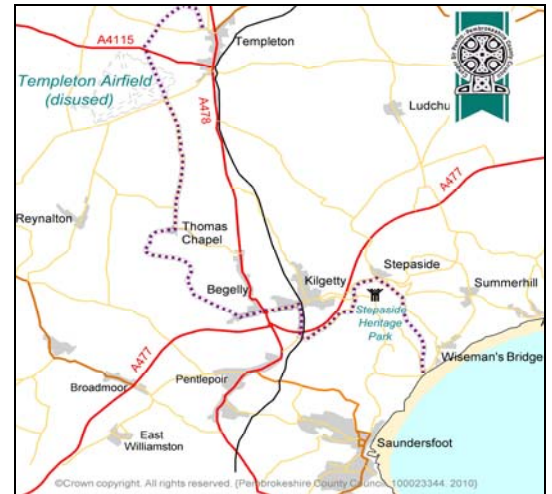


# THE PEMBROKESHIRE TRAIL

Wiseman's Bridge via Thomas Chapel to Templeton Airfield - 6.7 miles/10.6 km



## Introduction

Wiseman's Bridge to Templeton airfield (disused) is the southern section of the new cross country route across Pembrokeshire, eventually joining the south and north coasts. It starts on the south coast at Wiseman's Bridge, running inland through the villages of Stepaside, Kilgetty, Begelly, and Thomas Chapel before arriving at Templeton airfield. At Wiseman's Bridge the path joins the Coast Path connecting with the popular seaside resorts of Amroth and Saundersfoot, where there are many good facilities e.g. restaurants, hotels, car parking, public toilets and road and rail links.

This section of the trail is on parts of the former Saundersfoot Railway line which was built around 1830, to carry coal. Today this industry has gone and the railway lines almost disappeared but this trail - known as the "Miner's Walk" is based upon some remaining sections, thus preserving a part of the local history. At Stepaside the ruined buildings of this former industry are still standing and are able to be viewed from the paths in the area.

**Interesting reading: "The Saundersfoot Railway" M.R.C. Price - The Oakwood Press, P.O. Box 122, Headington, Oxford.**

## Section 1 of the walk - Wiseman's Bridge to Stepaside 1mile (2kms)

This wide firm path has a gentle gradient and is especially suitable for families with young children, wanting to cycle safely off-road. The path starts at Tramway Cottage, near to the public toilets and follows the line of the old tramway, which used to serve the mines and collieries in this former mining area. Today this path goes through a pleasant wooded area and passes the Stepaside Heritage Park where the ruins of the former mining buildings can be seen.

**Trail Difficulty -** Firm surface, gentle gradient

**Facilities -**

- Wiseman's Bridge:* Public house, bus stop and w.c.
- Amroth:* Public houses, w.c., bus stop, car parking and shops.
- Saundersfoot:* A large seaside village with a good range of shops and services.

### Section 2 of the walk - Stepside to Kilgetty 3 miles (6 kms)

Once the trail leaves the Heritage Park it follows the minor road, with a steep climb, (concrete road) out of the village towards Sardis. The trail follows the road, known locally as the Miner's Walk, Ivy Chimney Lane, towards the village of Kingsmoor but travels through the trunk road underpass into Kilgetty village.

**Trail Difficulty -** Firm surface, gentle gradient.

**Facilities -**

- Kilgetty:* Small village with supermarket, public houses, shops, pharmacy.  
Rail and bus links.  
Car park with accessible w.c.

**Walking access -**

- Kilgetty:* The trail follows the Miner's Walk which is a circular trail around the village.
- Stepside:* The trail connects to several paths which lead to the former colliery buildings.

### Section 3 of the walk - Kilgetty to Begelly ( New Road) $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (1 km)

A short walk along the village, on pavements/road to connect to Begelly, which adjoins Kilgetty. The trail continues west along New Road Begelly to pick up the footpath, which runs along the former railway line- the Miner's Walk.

**Trail Difficulty -** Gentle walk on pavements

### Section 4 of the walk - Begelly to Thomas Chapel 1.5 miles (3km)

**Facilities -**

- Begelly:* Garage, bakery, public house/hotel

The trail follows the former railway line which is accessed off New Road, Begelly, directly opposite the abutment of the former railway bridge. The footpath here is a long, straight tree lined avenue with connecting footpaths to Parsonage Lane and Begelly, which provide some easy circular walks within the village.

The path then enters open countryside along a farm lane. The path is wide with a firm surface and gently rising gradient as you would expect with a meandering old railway line. The trail then turns eastwards, leaving the miner's walk footpath, and follows the disused road into Thomas Chapel, with its village green and duck pond, but no ducks.



**Trail Difficulty** - It is ideal for young families and the less able.

### Section 5 of the walk - Thomas Chapel to Templeton 1.5 miles (3km)

This section of the trail follows the quiet minor road north of Thomas Chapel along to the disused airfield at Templeton

**Walking access** - Quiet single track country road with passing places. It connects with the Miner's Walk about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Thomas Chapel. The Miner's Walk footpath then returns back down into Kilgetty Village (about 2 miles)

The trail leaves the road and enters the disused airfield at Templeton. This former airfield is still used by the M.O.D. for training purposes but planes no longer use the runways. The airfield is a wide fairly level expanse of land; the trails across it are largely on firm ground with gentle gradients. The M.O.D has kindly agreed to a permissive circular route of approximately 3kms around the airfield; this route is traffic free and safe for families with children wishing to cycle or learn to ride a horse.

**Trail Difficulty** -

*Thomas Chapel to Templeton:* Quiet minor tarmac road with passing places and good visibility.

*Templeton airfield:* Traffic free, fairly level on mostly firm stone surfaces.

**Facilities** -

*Templeton:* public house, Café, post office/shop and bus stop





Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu  
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi  
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
The European Agricultural Fund for  
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