

# Somerset Levels cycle route could soon be lost due to lack of local government funding

By [Daniel Mumby](#) | Posted: March 20, 2017

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A popular cycle route near Langport could soon be lost after South Somerset District Council stated it had no money to keep it open. The Langport Cycleway is a 2.5km stretch of cycle path which runs from Westover in Langport to Muchelney via the parish of Drayton. The cycleway is a popular path used by cyclists, walkers and equestrians, and has been kept open through access licences, with the district council paying private landowners to let people pass through. But South Somerset District Council has now said that it can no longer afford to pay these licences, meaning that unless alternative funding is found quickly, the cycleway could close permanently.

The council's area north committee will meet in Somerton on Wednesday (March 22), with a view to funding the licences for the next financial year while alternative forms of funding are investigated. The cycleway consists of two parts: a 500m stretch from Westover towards Huish Drove (which costs £700 pa to license), and then a 2km stretch following the former railway line (which costs £2,006 pa to secure access).



**Above:** The Langport Cycleway runs between Westover in Langport and Muchelney

Countryside manager Katy Menday said: "Both sections cross privately owned land and are not designated Public Rights of Way. Access agreements were originally set up in 1998 with the landowners to allow for public access on foot, bicycle and horseback. Annual license fees are paid to the landowners, with an increase every three years linked to the Retail Price Index."

Nigel Andrews

**Image:**

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