

# RIGHTS OF WAY



# EAST COKER

## The Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Keep to designated public paths across farmland - do not take short cuts.

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.

Keep your **DOGS** under dose control at all times and on a lead where stock is present. It is an offence to allow a dog to chase or attack livestock. Dogs running off the route of the path are trespassing. Do not allow dogs to disturb wildlife in hedges or woodland. Dog fouling is a health hazard and dog owners should clean up any fouling.

Do not interfere with wildlife, plants or trees. Do not pick wild flowers.

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.

Take your litter home.

Take special care on country roads.

Do not make unnecessary noise.

## Categories & Waymarking

FOOTPATH: YELLOW arrow Pedestrian access only

BRIDLEWAY BLUE arrow Pedestrian, horseback and bicycle access

RUPP: (will be superceded by RESTRICTED BYWAY when legislation in place): waymarked as for BRIDLEWAY.

All routes should be properly waymarked.

Contact South Somerset District Council (Rights of Way) at Brympton Way, Yeovil, or any local Parish Councillor if there are problems using any Right of Way on this map.

## East Coker - a village of natural beauty



East Coker is a large village of natural beauty made up of several hamlets, a perfect example of the formation of a village dating back to Norman times, rich in fine architecture and mellow thatched cottages.

St. Michael's Church, standing on a hill overlooking the village, celebrated 700 years of unbroken 'administration in 1997.

The poet, T. S. Eliot, who wrote the poem 'East Coker', had a great affinity with the village, and after his death on Easter Sunday, 1965, his ashes were buried in the church. Next to the church is the historic Coker Court, dating back to 1275 in part, with its noble hall complete with minstrel gallery and magnificent Jacobean fireplace.

In 1640 Archdeacon Helyar, who had been chaplain to Queen Elizabeth I, built 12 almshouses at the entrance to the Court.

In the north of the village, the Manor House was occupied by John de Mandeville in 1275. In 1377 it was the home of the Hymerfords, and today it is known as Hymerford House, although the family has long since gone. In 1651 William Dampier was born here and at the age of 16 he went to sea to become an explorer. Later he obtained finance from Col Helyar, enabling him to pursue his exploits. After sailing around the world he became Captain of the Roebuck. Dampier Island and Dampier Straits off the coast of Australia remain as memorials to him.

In the far north of the village there is Naish Priory, a beautiful old building. The many alterations to its structure have made it difficult to distinguish its period, but there is a strong hint of Tudor architecture. It is reputed to have had a secret tunnel running

from the Priory to West Coker Road, believed to have been used by smugglers. The northern entrance from the road, now blocked up, gives the appearance of a • gatehouse with its ancient oak door remaining in situ. At the close of the reign of Henry VII, Naish belonged to James Courteney, second son of Sir William Courteney, Lord of Coker.

North Coker House was built between 1877-1880 for George Troyte-Chafyn-Grove, known as the "old squire". In recent years this grand old house has been divided into several separate apartments.

Pavyot's Mill stands to the east of the parish, so called after a former owner named Pavyot, and it was in 1280, when a boundary dispute was called, that a jury found the mill to be in Coker.

New boundary stones were erected to celebrate the unique identity of the parish and to commemorate the centenary of the Parish Council in 1995. Four stones were created by a local stonemason, one for each point of the compass.

The northern stone at Wraxhill features a buzzard ("Wraxhill", 1614)

In the east at Darvole a deer ("Derefeld", 1321)

In the south at Isles a sheep ("Sheeps Sleight", 1785) In the west at Holywell a swan ("Swan Hills", 1639)

The Millennium Stone, carved from local ham stone, was erected in 2000 at the triangle junction of Back Lane and Cemetery Hill.

The Paddock, carpeted with daffodils in spring and the central feature of the village, was purchased from the Heneage family (descendents of the Helyars) by the Parish Council for the benefit of the village in 2005.



*The reproduction of the artwork has been kindly granted by local artist, Mr. John Horwood.*

# EAST COKER RIGHT OF WAY



St. Michael's Parish Church



A30  
West coker

A37  
Yeovil

Barwick

A37  
Dorchester

Hardington

Pendomer

Sutton Bingham

- Footpath
- +--- Bridleway
- >--- RUPP Road Used as a Public Path

