# Somerset pranks escalate as welcome sign to Frome found 10 miles away



A recent incident in Somerset has brought to light the peculiar phenomenon of sign-swapping pranks that have left both motorists and local authorities baffled. A welcome sign intended for the town of Frome was discovered more than 10 miles away, on the B3355 heading towards Midsomer Norton, prompting confusion and amusement among residents. This act follows a series of similar incidents across the West Country earlier in the year, where signs from various towns have been moved for what appears to be sheer tomfoolery.

One particularly notable prank involved a welcome sign for Bradford-on-Avon, which was relocated over 60 miles to Portland, Dorset. This mischief is not entirely new; over the past months, road signs in Caithness, Scotland, also vanished or were displaced, further illustrating a growing trend of such cheeky antics across the UK. Somerset County Council has classified the recent sign relocation as "criminal damage," stressing the seriousness of the issue and urging residents who witness similar events to report them to the police.

The light-hearted nature of these pranks prompted local resident Peter, a pensioner from Frome, to remark that the sign swap seemed like an elaborate joke rather than an act of vandalism. “It feels like an April Fools’ Day prank, but obviously, we’re not in April,” he commented. Peter, who took a photograph of the sign during the recent bank holiday, pointed out that while he has seen signs defaced with graffiti, a complete swap like this is unprecedented in his experience. His humorous take likened the misadventure to a "Dad's Army tribute" aimed at bewildering potential invaders.

The Somerset incident is just one example amid a backdrop of related sign-related mishaps in the region. Earlier this year, a 'Welcome to Yeovil' sign was disgracefully vandalised with a swastika, quickly attracting public outrage and subsequent cleaning efforts by the council. These disruptions have sparked discussions about the need for improved community etiquette and respect for public property.

Interestingly, not all sign-related matters have involved vandalism. In a separate instance, Somerset Council faced criticism for delaying the correction of a typographical error on a road sign in Frome that misspelled 'Shepton Mallet'. The council stated they would only correct the error when the sign was scheduled for its next replacement, padlocking complaints in the bureaucratic slow lane.

As the trend of sign pranks continues to gain traction, questions about community responsibility and the balance between fun and respect for public spaces become increasingly pertinent. While the authorities in Somerset remain vigilant, keen to prevent future incidents classified as criminal damage, local residents seem to appreciate the light-hearted nature of these pranks — albeit with a tinge of annoyance over the disruption they cause.

The evolving narrative of road signs as both markers and mischief-makers in Somerset serves as a reminder of the unique quirks that can emerge in town life, crafting a curious blend of humour and civic duty.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html), [[5]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/local-news/somerset-towns-welcome-sign-sprayed-1904954)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html), [[6]](https://abcounties.com/news/bogus-m5-welcome-to-somerset-sign-removed-after-49-years/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/road-sign-typo-frome-not-3366453), [[5]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/local-news/somerset-towns-welcome-sign-sprayed-1904954)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-68783201)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welcome-to-frome-sign-somerset-moved-why-b2760017.html> - A road sign welcoming people to the Somerset town of Frome was found on the B3355 heading towards Midsomer Norton, 10 miles away. This incident follows previous sign-swapping pranks in the West Country, including a Bradford-on-Avon sign moved over 60 miles to Portland, Dorset. Somerset Council described the act as 'criminal damage' and urged residents to report such incidents to the police.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-68783201> - A decision to reject plans for a new billboard near a railway station in Frome was overturned by the Planning Inspectorate. Somerset Council had initially refused permission, citing 'inappropriate siting and excessive scale' of the billboard. The developer, Wildstone Estates Ltd, can now proceed with the installation of a 6m by 3m digital advertising board at the junction of Station Approach and the A362 Portway in Frome.
4. <https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/road-sign-typo-frome-not-3366453> - A road sign in Frome containing a typographical error, misspelling 'Shepton Mallet' as 'Shepton Mallett', will not be corrected until the sign is due for replacement. Despite receiving complaints, Somerset County Council stated that only two reports had been made, and the sign will be amended when it is next due for replacement.
5. <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/local-news/somerset-towns-welcome-sign-sprayed-1904954> - A 'Welcome to Yeovil' sign in Somerset was vandalised with a large swastika symbol. The graffiti was discovered on the sign as motorists entered Yeovil from the A3088. The symbol was promptly cleaned off, and the council urged residents to report any offensive graffiti to them.
6. <https://abcounties.com/news/bogus-m5-welcome-to-somerset-sign-removed-after-49-years/> - The 'Welcome to Somerset' sign on the southbound M5 near Webbington, which had been misleadingly placed 25 miles from the actual Somerset boundary, was removed after 49 years. The sign was initially erected in 1974 by the former Somerset County Council at the boundary between Somerset and Avon County Council.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-19685049> - Traditional black and white fingerpost signposts in the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are being restored to boost tourism and the environment. The restoration involves cleaning, pattern making, casting of new signs to replace broken and missing fingers, and painting. A new collar with the name of the junction, the grid reference, and 'Mendip Hills' is being added to each post to aid visitors.