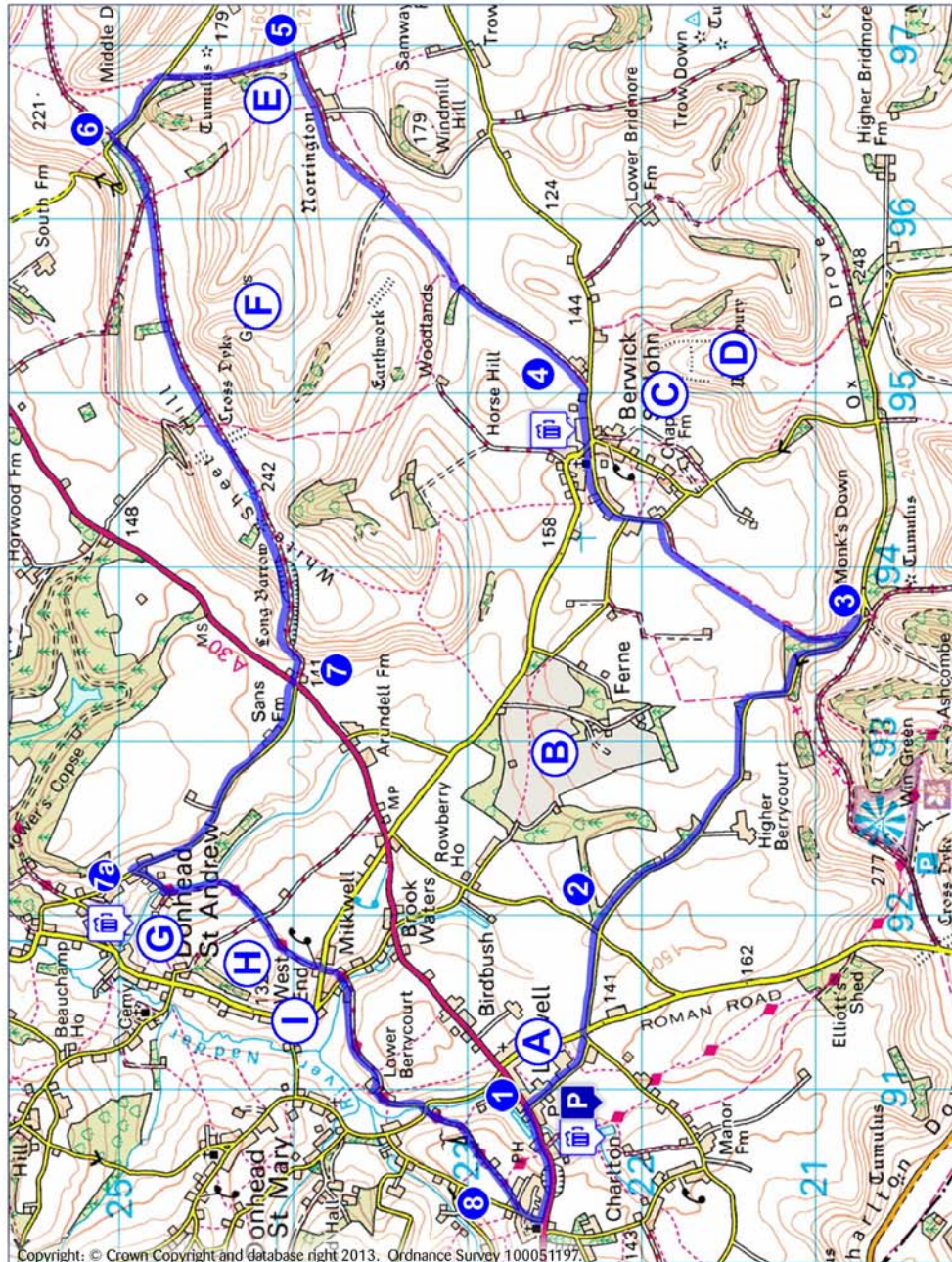


Cycle Trail 11: Ludwell, Win Green and Gallows Hill

Length of Cycle
12 miles (19km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 118
Cycle Start: ST 906 225



Key

- Cycle route with waypoint
- Parking
- Pub
- Place to eat
- Historic Site
- Nature Reserve
- Point of Interest

Distance: 12miles (19km)

Time: Allow 4 hrs

Terrain: Mostly tracks or quiet lanes, moderate gradients, one long descent

Difficulty: Moderate

Suitable for: Mountain Bikes

Start: Car-park of The Grove Arms, Ludwell SP7 9ND.

Cycling groups- please notify pub well in advance

Start Grid Reference:

X : 390600

Y : 122500

Latitude : 51.0018

Longitude : -2.1353

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase No. 118

Notes & Refreshments:

The Grove Arms in Ludwell, The Talbot Inn in Berwick St. John and The Forester in Donhead St. Andrew

Spectacular panoramic views from the top of Win Green, through historic villages and past nationally important wildlife sites and ancient burial sites, along an old drove road, tracks and quiet country lanes, and with some exhilarating descents, this circular cycle-trail really has it all.

1. From The Grove Arms in Ludwell, turn L along the A30 (take care as this is a busy road). Go uphill past T Buttling The Butcher's Shop and Ludwell Stores on the R hand side and just after the village shop, turn R. Follow this lane to the end. Then turn L, then immediately R and then L again at the staggered crossroads known as five ways and continue straight on along lane at the next crossroads (Ferne Wall Corner).

2. Follow this lane past Ferne Park to the L until it bears to the R and begins to climb up the side of the down at Ferne Hollow. Once you reach the top, there are outstanding views in all directions from Monks Down, part of the same ridge as Win Green, the highest point in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), just to the west.

3. Going back down the way you came up, descend to the R down a steep bridleway, Ashcombe Lane. Follow this alongside fields until you reach the 19th Century buildings of Upton Farm, and follow track down to Luke Street. Turn L onto Luke Street and continue straight along road through in the picturesque village of Berwick St John. You will pass The Talbot Inn on the L where you can stop for refreshments. Also, if you are interested in seeing the Church of St John, turn L along Church Street just before you reach the pub. After the pub, carry straight on passing The Priory, a large late 19th Century stone-house on your L.

4. Just after The Priory, take a L turn and follow the unrestricted byway past Cross Farm. After about 800m continue up an incline and turn R into a field onto the bridleway heading in a north-easterly direction through the gap in hedge in front of you. Proceed along the field edge until you reach Norrington Farm. To the R is Norrington Pond and beyond that Windmill Hill standing at 178m high. Take a slightly staggered L and R around the farm buildings and continue straight on until you reach a junction with a north-south bridleway.

5. Turn L uphill along this beech lined sunken path until you emerge onto a metalled road at the top of the hill, turn L and travel north until you meet the higher path on the crest of the hill. Again, take a moment to enjoy the stunning view with the historic town of Tisbury in the distance.

This information is intended only as a general guide. Recommended Ordnance Survey maps are listed.

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Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 4 Castle St, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PZ

Find more walking, cycling & riding routes, places to stay, attractions and places to visit at: www.discovernadder.org.uk



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6. Turn L along the ancient track-way of the Old Shaftesbury/Salisbury Drove, once used by farmers to take livestock to market in Salisbury or Shaftesbury, heading in a westerly direction passing the trig point at the top of White Sheet Hill and enjoy the steep descent, but be aware of the speed bumps on the way down!

7. Cross the A30 (take care as this is a busy road) and continue straight on along Sands Lane towards the pretty village of Donhead St. Andrew and The Forester Inn where you can stop for refreshments. After the first house on the L hand side, take a sharp L onto Fortis Hill heading downhill to Dengrove Farm. You are now on the Wessex Ridgeway which has special way-marks. At the end of this lane, turn L and follow the Wessex Ridgeway up the farm track. Keep to this track over the crossroads until it becomes Shepherds Lane to the end where it meets Owerway Lane.

7a. Alternatively, if you wish to take a short detour into the village of Donhead St. Andrew where you can stop at The Forester Inn for refreshments, instead of turning L along Fortis Hill, carry straight on to the next turning and turn L and L again into the village passing the pub on your L. After visiting the pub, take next L turn passing Goulds Copse on your R back to crossroads and turn R along Shepherd's Lane to Owerway Lane.

8. Go straight across Owerway Lane and follow the steep, narrow bridleway downhill to the hamlet of Milkwell. Then continue straight across the lane at the bottom and staying on the ridgeway, head towards Lower Berrycourt Farm. Just past the farm, turn L towards Mullins Bridge on Watery Lane. Turn R and then L into Blackhorse Hill Lane, climbing steeply. This tree lined byway passes a radio mast and then levels out across fields, between hedges into the outskirts of Ludwell village. Passing the school in Coronation Drive, turn L and head towards the church of St. John and then to the main road (A30). Turn L (take care as this road is busy) and drop down the hill towards the Grove Arms on your L for refreshments.

Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Points of Interest

A Ludwell and Ferne Estate. The name Ludwell is of late Medieval origin. The village was first recorded as Ludewell in 1194. For Centuries, shepherds tended their sheep on the hills around the village and would bring them to the sheepwash at Ludwell which was a great attraction for all the villagers. The 16th Century coaching inn of The Grove Arms is named after the Grove family, wealthy landowners dating back to William the Conqueror. From 1563 to the end of the 19th Century, they owned Ferne Park estate and mansion below Win Green, as well as a fine town house in Shaftesbury. The Grove Arms still carries the family crest as the pub's logo.

B Win Green. At 277m high, this is the highest point in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB from which to enjoy panoramic views across the surrounding countryside. The site was bought by the National Trust in 1937. On a clear day, you can see as far as The Needles on the Isle of Wight in the south east to the Quantock Hills in the northwest. Over 26 acres of the area are designated as a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its rich chalk grassland, a nationally declining habitat due to agricultural intensification. It's a great place to see skylark and buzzard and enjoy the array of wildflowers and butterflies.

C Berwick St John. The name Berwick and the fact that it lies beside a spring suggests the village may be of Anglo-Saxon origin. The village has a large number of listed buildings such as The Talbot Inn, The Old Rectory, St. John's Church and farms like Easton and Dairy House and was designated a Conservation Area in 1975.

D Winkelbury Hill. Just to the south of Berwick St John village is Winkelbury Camp on Winkelbury Hill, an early Iron-Age Hill Fort covering 5 ha. A pagan cemetery has also been found 200m to the south of the Camp. The site has also been designated as a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its species rich chalk grassland habitat and the presence of the nationally scarce butterfly the adonis blue.

E Norrington Farm. The fine Manor House is Medieval and was once the home of the Gawen family, said to have descended from Sir Gawain, a knight of King Arthur's legendary Round Table. It was also owned by Sir Wadham Wyndham in the 1600s, a judge of the King's Bench (court). Some features of the house are believed to be 14th Century. The Farm once stood right beside the River Ebble in the Middle Ages and the river was dammed to create a large ornamental pond known as Norrington Pond in the 20th Century.

F Gallows Hill. A gallows once existed here which gave the site its name. The most northerly of the scots pine trees growing in the ditch are likely to mark the spot as it has footholds cut into it and marks of chains or ropes. In 1875, a skeleton (probably executed at the site) was found to the south of the trees. The site is also a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its diverse chalk grassland flora. It's also a great spot to see a range of birds such as yellow-hammer, linnets, kestrel and buzzard.

G Donhead St Andrew. The village is a short distance from the route, and once the home of an English noblewoman Anne Arundell, a member of the Arundell family, wealthy landowners who once owned Wardour Castle. Anne with her husband 2nd Lord Baltimore founded the American colony of Maryland in 1633. They both lived at Hook Manor in the village. The village also has an historic church which is worth a visit.