

Cycle Trail 3: Dinton and Barford St. Martin Iron Age Settlement and Hill Fort Trail

Length of Cycle
13.5 miles (22km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 130
Cycle Start: SU 021 315

Key

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

Distance: 17.5 miles (28km)

Time: Allow 3 hrs

Terrain: Mostly tracks or quiet lanes, a short section of the busy A30 road, moderate gradients with some steep ascents and descents

Difficulty: Moderate-Strenuous

Suitable for: Mountain Bike

Start: Car-park of The Wyndham Arms, Hindon Road, Dinton SP3 5EG. Cycling groups please notify pub well in advance

Start Grid Reference:

X : 402100

Y : 131500

Latitude : 51.828

Longitude : -1.9713

SU 0962 3117

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Salisbury and Stonehenge No. 130

Notes & Refreshments:

The Wyndham Arms in Dinton, The Barford Inn in Barford St. Martin, and The Ship Inn, Burcombe

Journey through three historic Nadder Valley villages of Dinton, Barford St. Martin and Compton Chamberlayne, enjoy dramatic scenery and views, pass by mysterious Iron Age settlements and Hill Forts, along old drove roads, field tracks and quiet country lanes with some steep ascents and descents.

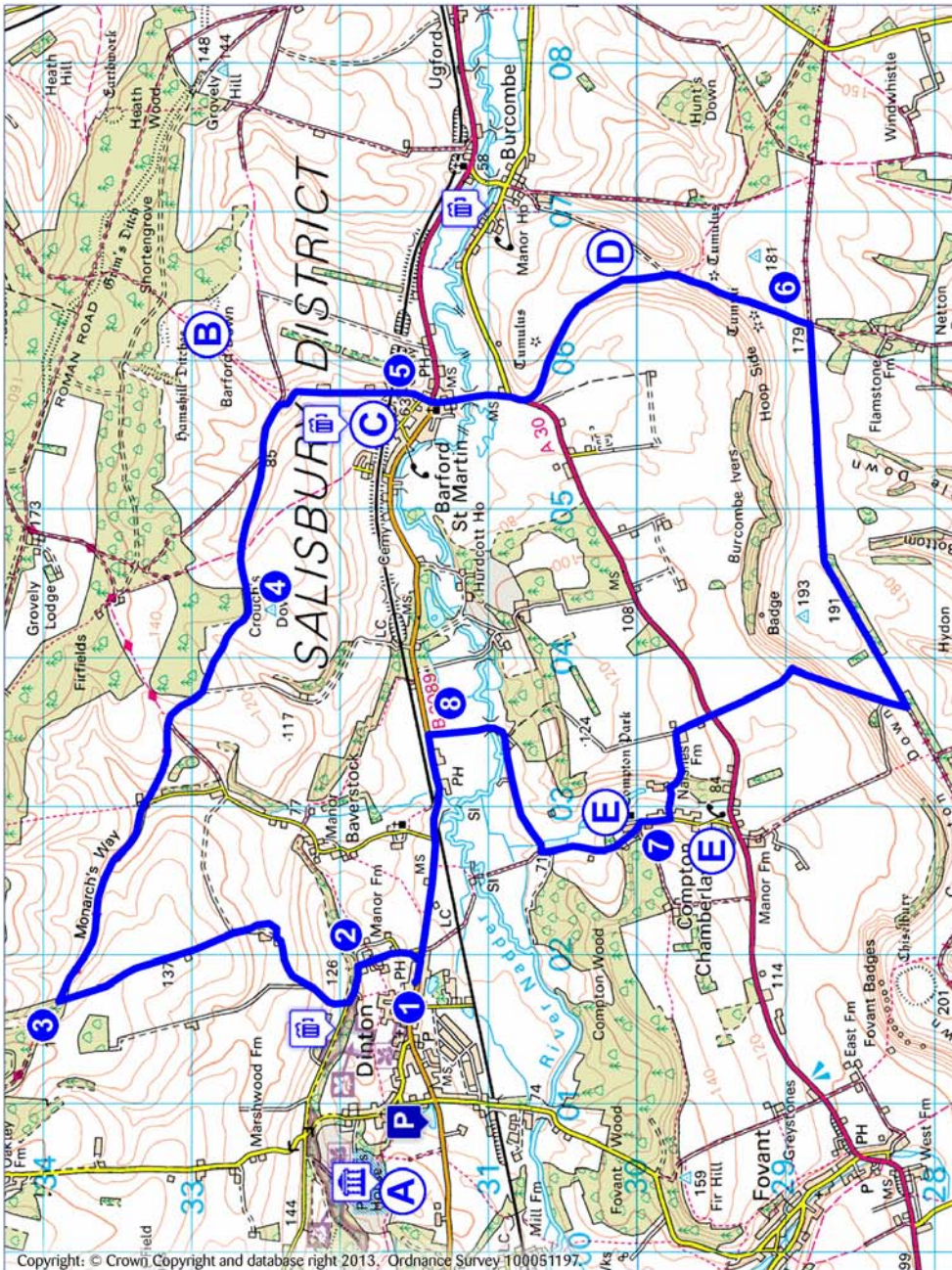
1. From the car-park of The Wyndham Arms in Dinton, turn L onto the main B3089 (Hindon Road) (ensuring that it is safe to do so). At Sandhills Road, turn L and continue gently uphill, past Manor Farm and The Duckyard B&B on the R.

2. Emerging from the houses, the lane turns sharply L and begins to climb uphill through the National Trust woodland, part of the Philipps House and Dinton Park Estate. As the road continues uphill, take the wide junction R into Field Barn Lane, go a short distance uphill and then down again, take the R fork, eventually passing Field Barns (houses) on your L. Continue straight on climbing the steep hill, admiring views all round of open countryside and then start descending carrying on along the field edge bridleway into Lodge Coppice.

3. Turn hard R here and head eastwards following the ancient Ox Drove Road which farmers would have used previously to transport cattle to markets in Wilton and Salisbury, until you come to some barns and a confluence of paths. Go slightly R and uphill into the trees ahead of you until you emerge onto a field edge byway, crossing The Monarch's Way (a long distance path), before ascending into Thornhills Wood.

4. Picking up speed downhill, go through open fields, past a pair of green storage tanks in the valley bottom. Barford Down and the ancient settlement of Hampshill Ditches are in the distance to the R. Carry on along this track until you bear R and head south, into the outskirts of the picturesque village of Barford St Martin on Grovely Road. At the end of Grovely Road, you can stop at The Barford Inn for refreshments and/or visit The Church of St. Martin near the pub.

5. From the pub, turn L onto the B3089, then immediate R joining the main A30 (take care as this is a busy road). Carry on southwards, passing Burcombe Lane on your L. If you wish you can take a short detour along Burcombe Lane for about 1 mile to the tiny village of Burcombe to The Ship Inn (whose beer garden backs onto the River Nadder) for refreshments and retrace your journey back to the A30. Continue straight ahead until another byway exits on your L. Take this and go uphill along the sunken lane until you reach the gate and enjoy the lovely views to the west. In spring/summer, the air is full of the sounds of skylarks on Burcombe Down behind you. Passing the Iron Age Hill Fort of Folly Clump on the L and The Punch Bowl, carry on uphill past a clump of beech trees on the R, an ancient burial site known locally as Kings Barrow, until you meet the Old Shaftesbury Drive, an ancient route once used by farmers to take livestock to markets in Salisbury and Shaftesbury running east-west along the chalk ridge.



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

Copyright: © Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey 100051197.

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



Cycle Trail 3: Dinton and Barford St. Martin Iron Age Settlement and Hill Fort Trail

Length of Cycle
13.5 miles (22km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 130
Cycle Start: SU 021 315

6. Turn R along the ridge until you reach a bridleway on your R and head north-east diagonally down the scarp of the down. Bear L at the foot of the slope and carry on across the fields. Cross the A30 (ensuring that it is safe to do so) and head on towards Naishes Farm. Follow the track around to the L, at the end follow the bridleway downhill through the trees until you emerge opposite the Dower House. Turn L and go up the lane to the High Street in the tiny picturesque village of Compton Chamberlayne.

7. Turn R into the High Street and stay on this road, past the turning to the 13th Century St. Michael's Church built at the same time as Salisbury Cathedral 10 miles away, and Compton Park on your R. Continue out of the village and the road becomes Horseshoe Lane. Follow this as it winds to and fro across the Nadder Valley and eventually meets the B3089 at a 'T' junction.

8. Turn L and with caution follow this road over the railway line and back into the village of Dinton and The Wyndham Arms on your R 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 Philipps House and Dinton Park. The house is an early 19th Century Georgian mansion built of local Chilmark stone presiding over its picturesque parkland. It was built in 1816 by William Wyndham and called Dinton House. Interestingly, it was renamed Philipps House by new owner Betram Philipps in 1916 who named it after himself! It was then granted to the National Trust in 1943. As well as being owned by wealthy landowners, it was used by the US Army during the Second World War and as a Christian Women's retreat. There are many interesting walks around the estate and from a clear day, the Spire of Salisbury Cathedral can be seen from the highest point. On the ridge behind the house, is Wick Ball Camp, an Iron Age Hill Fort and Dinton's ancient settlement site.

B Hampshill Ditches Settlement. An extensive Iron Age earthworks settlement with enclosures and ditches. It may have well been the earliest settlement in the area of what was to become the village of Barford. A large settlement, it continued well into the Roman period with settlers relying on Grovely Wood for food and trading from the Old Roman Road running through the middle of the woods and would have linked Winchester to the lead and silver mines at Charterhouse in the Mendip Hills.

C Barford St. Martin. A small picturesque village whose history can be traced back to the 11th Century. Referred to as Bereford in the Domesday Book of 1086 which is thought to have originated from Barleyford-a river crossing carrying wagons laden with barley; at one time a characteristic crop in the area. The villagers of Barford formerly enjoyed the same forest rights as the villagers of Great Wishford, and were able to gather wood from Grovely Wood on Oak Apple Day (29th May). Today, the Ceremony is only observed in Great Wishford.

D Folly Clump and The Punchbowl. Folly Clump is not a distinctive feature on the ground but is thought to have been an Iron Age Hill Fort enclosure which occupied high ground and would have been defended by ditches and possibly used on a seasonal basis for keeping livestock and growing crops like barley. The Punch Bowl has numerous ancient earthworks associated with it, memorials to Neolithic and Bronze Age tribes who were the first to inhabit the area. The Punch Bowl was even used as a rifle range during the Second World War! The Punch Bowl and the chalk escarpment known as Hoopside also form part of a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its wildlife value.

E Compton Chamberlayne and Compton Park: Mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and of all the Nadder Valley villages, one which has changed little over the years. During the First World War, thousands of Australian and Canadian troops encamped in the fields below the chalk escarpment before being shipped out to France. Compton Park and its great house was once the home of Colonel John Penruddock, an English Cavalier who led a Royalist uprising to overthrow Oliver Cromwell and the Parliamentarians and take Salisbury during the Civil War, but was executed for the attempt in 1655.