

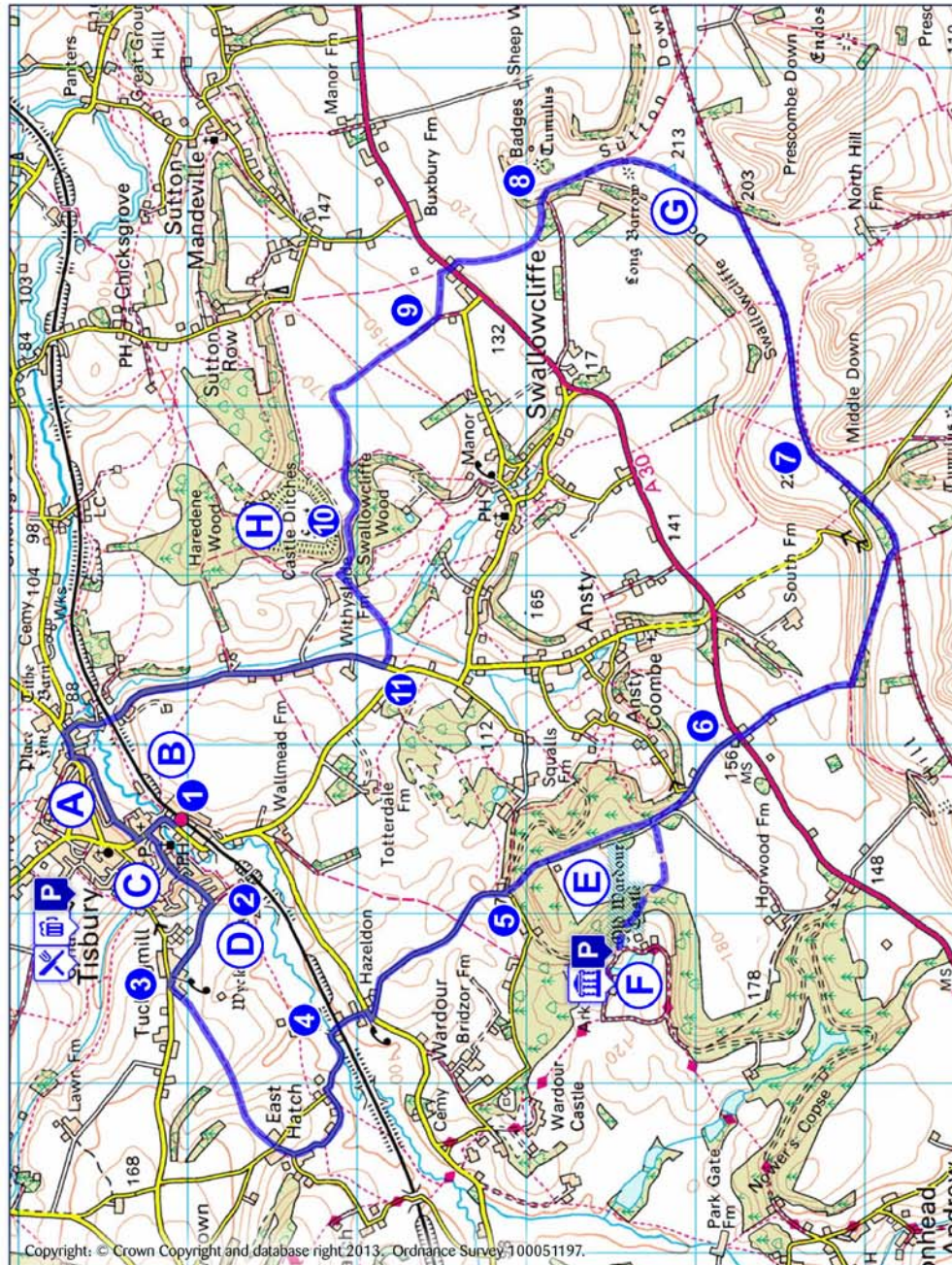
Cycle Trail 7: Tisbury and Downs

Length of Cycle

11 miles (17km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 118

Cycle Start: ST 945 294



Key

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

Distance: 11 miles (17km)

Time: Allow 2.5 hrs

Terrain: Mostly tracks, quiet lanes, moderate gradients

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Suitable for: Mountain Bike

Start: Tisbury Railway Station or Nadder Close Car-park behind Tisbury High Street

Start Grid Reference:

X : 394500

Y : 129400

Latitude : 21.0639

Longitude : -2.0798

ST 945 294

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase

No. 118

Notes & Refreshments:

A kiosk at Old Wardour Castle and good selection of places to eat and drink in Tisbury's vibrant High Street including Beatons Tearooms and Bookshop, a deli, and traditional pubs like The Benett and The Boot

A stunning cycle route which starts from the historic village of Tisbury, past an historic church and hill fort, through the grounds of the magnificent Old Wardour Castle, and up onto the chalk downs with dramatic views across the Nadder Valley.

1. From Tisbury Railway Station, turn R and head towards the town, heading up towards the High Street. As you approach the square, turn L onto Church Street. If you park in the Nadder Close Car-park, you will turn L and L again onto the High Street and immediate R into Church Street passing the large church of St. John the Baptist and Crown Inn. Carry on as the road becomes Union Road, across a mini roundabout and then steeply uphill and turn R onto Monmouth Road.

2. Carry on along Monmouth Road towards Tuckingmill, turn L onto Hatch Lane and take the first turning L along the bridleway after Quarry House on your L and continue to the end of the drive. Carry on in the same direction down the steep valley, up the other side and across fields until you reach Manor Farm.

3. Turn L into the lane at Manor Farm and then fork R into the lane to East Hatch and take the first L turning to go through the hamlet. The lane bears around to the L until you reach a sharp R hand bend. Follow this downhill until you cross the railway line.

4. Continue past Hazeldon Farm, turn R then immediately L across Hazeldon Lane (Tisbury to Semley Road) and carry on until you come to an estate lodge style house on your L.

5. Take the byway here into High Wood and head in a southerly direction following the forest track past the large house on your R. Keeping the open fields to your R and Twelve Acre Copse on your L passing along Park Pale, an ancient boundary. Carry on until you meet another track on the R. Here, you can either turn R and take a short detour along the track to the magnificent Old Wardour Castle, or continue southwards. Further on, the track becomes a metalled road and you follow this to the A30 at New Barn.

6. Continue straight ahead in a slightly staggered direction to follow the bridleway along a farm track (Shave Lane) which runs between fields towards Ansty Down. Bear L and go diagonally up the slope until you reach the byway at the top. Turn L and head east. When you reach the lane, take a L and stop a while to admire the stunning views northwards across the Nadder Valley.

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



7. Returning to the byway, carry on until you come to a crossroads with a bridleway on your L and another byway to the R. Turn L and head towards Buxbury Hill. The bridleway skirts the hill to the L and begins to head downhill through a gate and then look follow a bridleway off to the R on the outskirts of a R hand bend.

8. Heading downhill and northwards, follow Buxbury Hollow until you meet the A30 at Cribbage Hut. Cross straight over and take the bridleway to the R of the bus garage. First L through the bridlegate, then across a field behind the yard. (Note; follow the fence line rather than trying to force a route across the field). Enter the trees via the bridlegate on the far side and then turn R onto another bridleway.

9. Follow the field edge northwards until you turn L at a field boundary. Follow this field edge towards Swallowcliffe Wood, with Castle Ditches, an Iron Age Hill Fort on your R.

10. Entering the edge of the wood, follow the bridleway downhill and westwards, past Withyslade Farm on your r, where you meet a track. Turn R then L and follow the bridleway gently downhill towards the valley bottom. Crossing the meadow, follow the bridleway towards houses on Tisbury Row.

11. Emerging onto the road, turn R and head northwards towards Tisbury. Go under the railway and then enter the eastern outskirts of the village. Turn L into Court Street, then L into The Avenue and continue back to the High Street for refreshments and back to the car-park or Railway Station.

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 Tisbury and High Street. The picturesque village of Tisbury has an air of timelessness about it. It is the largest village in the Nadder Valley and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and was first settled in Saxon times possibly with a monastery. Its name is derived from the Saxon name Tysse's Burgh, meaning 'the stronghold of Tysse's people'. A village however, may have existed as far back as the Bronze Age 3-4,000 years ago with its very own henge monument or stone circle near Place Farm. The Stone circle has long gone but the last 3 central stones were used to construct the grotto at Old Wardour Castle. It is an excellent base from which to explore the surrounding countryside and AONB. Wander along its friendly High Street browsing in the assortment of gift and craft shops.

B Tisbury Railway Station. Constructed in 1859. Currently managed by South West Trains and on the London Waterloo to Exeter Line. Salisbury is only about 10 minutes away via train.

C St John the Baptist Church. The parents of famous author Rudyard Kipling are buried in the churchyard of this 12th Century church. There is also a giant yew tree believed to be over 4,000 years old and one of the oldest in Britain.

D The Medieval Village of Wyck. A field of rough grass crossed by tracks and a footpath overlooking the Nadder Valley on the South West edge of Tisbury along Monmouth Road is all that remains of the ancient lost village of Wyck.

E Park Pale. This marks the boundary of a Medieval deer park which was an enclosed area for deer bounded by a ditch and bank with wooden fence of stakes on top to stop them escaping.

F Old Wardour Castle. Managed by English Heritage, it is one of the Nadder Valley's best kept secrets. Built late 14th Century as a fortified dwelling, it is unusually hexagonal in shape. It was owned by the Arundell family in 1547 and the scene of 2 Civil War sieges between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in 1643-4. Explore the castle rooms and grotto built in the 18th Century and all that's left today of Tisbury's Stone Circle as the last three standing stones were used in its construction.

G Buxbury Hill. The site of several Scheduled Ancient Monuments; its clump of beech trees covers a Bronze Age bowl barrow (rounded shape) excavated in 1922, a probable Neolithic Long Barrow (elongated shape) on the L which may have covered many burial chambers, and an undated Cross Ridge Dyke.

H Castle Ditches. This is a substantial Iron Age Hill Fort over 24 acres in size where early Celtic Britons once settled, fought and carried out their druid rituals.