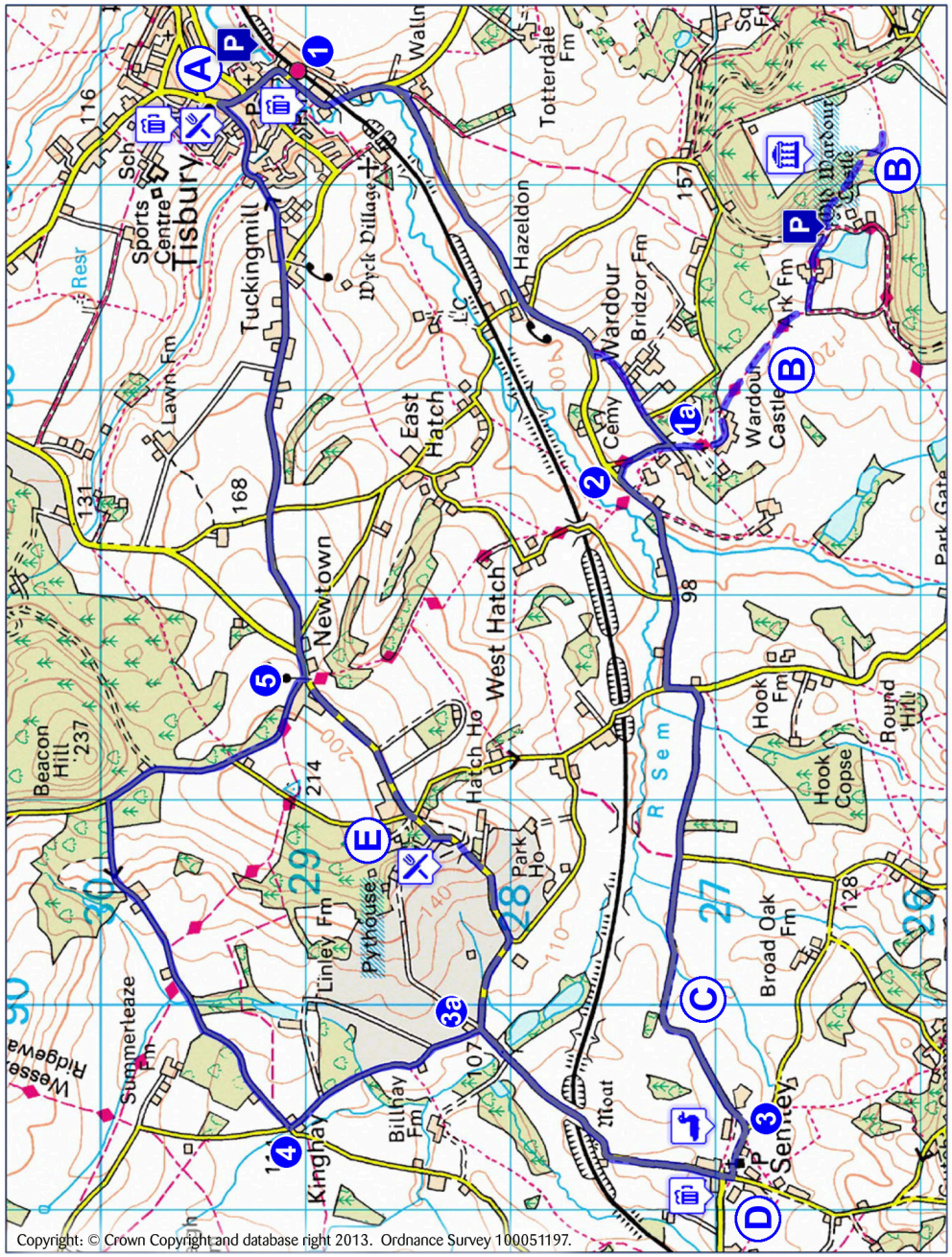
Cycle Trail 8: From Tisbury to Semley

Length of Cycle
10 miles (16km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 143
Cycle Start: Nadder Valley Car-park ST 945 294



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

Key

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

Distance: 17.5 miles (28km)
Time: Allow 2.5 hrs
Terrain: Mostly tracks or quiet lanes, moderate gradients, one steep climb, one long descent
Difficulty: Easy
Suitable for: Road Bike
Start: Nadder Valley Car Park, Tisbury
Start Grid Reference:
X : 394554
Y : 129400
Latitude : 51.0639
Longitude : -2.0798

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)
Warminster & Trowbridge No. 143

Notes & Refreshments:
A kiosk in the grounds of Old Wardour Castle, The Bennett Arms pub in Semley, Pythouse Walled Garden and Cafe 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 gentle family cycle ride around the lanes between the historic villages of Semley and Tisbury. Easy going with one steep incline and descent down Tisbury's quaint High Street.

1. From Tisbury Railway Station, turn L and follow the road round to the L and under the railway arch out of the historic village of Tisbury. Turn R at brown tourist sign marked Old Wardour Castle and continue along lane (Hazeldon Lane) which runs parallel to the railway. At St Mary's Cottage, bear L and go up the side road which leads to Bridzor Farm. Carry straight on past Bridzor Farm on the L and turn sharp R at the end of the road heading towards Hazeldon Lane.

1a. Alternatively, if you wish to take a short detour to Old Wardour Castle, after passing Bridzor Farm, ignore the first lane on the L (Nightingale Lane) and take the next lane on the L continuing along the driveway and past the magnificent New Wardour Castle (now private residential flats). Continue straight on across a field heading towards Ark Farm. After passing Ark Farm on the L continue straight ahead for Old Wardour Castle. After visiting the Castle, retrace your route. Alternatively, if using a road bike turn sharp R at the end of the road heading towards Hazeldon Lane.

2. Turn L along Hazeldon Lane and continue straight on past Share Farm on the R. At the T junction turn L. Continue straight on and take the first R turn along lane towards the village of Semley. Continue straight along this lane past areas of scrub and woodland on the L, part of Semley Common.

3. Turn R at the T-Junction and head through the village towards the Church of St Leonard on the L. After visiting the church, for refreshments you can either turn L for the Semley Village Stores and Café, or turn R for The Benett Arms. Carry on northwards crossing the railway line and then approach the south lodge of Pythouse Park at Billhay Bridge. Turn L in front of the lodge, and follow this road until you reach cottages at the Kinghay crossroads and then turn R along Tokes Lane.

3a. Alternatively, at Billhay Bridge, you can turn R and head to Pythouse Walled Garden and Café for refreshments (closed on Tuesdays), carrying on to Newtown on that road (missing out 4 below).

4. Follow this road past Cool's Farm on the R which has B&B and self-catering accommodation, and where the road begins to climb steeply. At the top of this hill, turn R at the junction and go through woodland, past West Gate Lodge on your L, keep straight on for Newtown and Tisbury, and then into Newtown. Turn L at the T-junction.

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

Cycle Trail 8: From Tisbury to Semley

Length of Cycle
10 miles (16km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 143
Cycle Start: Nadder Valley Car-park ST 945 294

5. Bearing L in Tucking Mill, follow Hatch Lane into Tisbury. This becomes Vicarage Road and sweeps around the north of the village taking you to the top of the High Street, into which you turn R and go downhill. After having sampled the delights of the High Street, you can either head straight onto the railway station at the south end of the town or detour R through The Square to the tranquillity of St. John the Baptist Church and a riverside path before emerging opposite Tisbury Railway Station completing your journey.

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 St. John the Baptist Church. Tisbury is the largest village in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its origins date back to Saxon times. It is an excellent base from which to explore the beautiful unspoilt countryside of the AONB. There is a thriving High Street with good selection of shops, pubs and a tearoom along which to browse. St. John the Baptist Church is also worth a visit. The parents of Rudyard Kipling, famous author, are buried in the churchyard, and there is also a giant yew tree believed to be over 4,000 years old, one of the oldest in Britain.

B Old and New Wardour Castles. Old Wardour Castle is managed by English Heritage and one of the Nadder's 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 two Civil War sieges between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. The family built New Wardour Castle (now private flats) close to the old one. It was reputedly the largest Georgian house in Wiltshire and includes the most exquisite Roman Catholic Chapel where Sunday morning services are still held.

C Semley Common. Over 300 acres in size, Semley Common stretches for the best part of 1 mile in most directions from the Church. The land was gifted by Queen Elizabeth I to the Arundell family in 1572 who were major landowners and their descendents still retain the freehold over it. Over the Centuries, commoners have grazed an assortment of animals including cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, even geese! There were once numerous gates on the common's lanes and roads to prevent the animals from straying, however all were removed by the Army during WWII to improve access. By the 1950s, the sight of livestock on Semley Common was a becoming a thing of the past. Today, it can be enjoyed by people for recreation and by wildlife such as great spotted woodpecker, bullfinch and the nationally rare willow tit.

D Semley and Church of St. Leonards -Semley derives its name from the River Sem which meets the River Nadder near the village. It is a tranquil village largely untouched by time with immense charm. Associated with dairy farming, most villagers at one time or other kept cows-even the vicar and pub landlord! The village even had own railway station and milk distribution depot which distributed an endless supply of milk on a daily basis to the London market. The station closed in 1966 after just over 100 years of operation but some of the former buildings and Dairies Depot (now an Antique Centre) can be found along Station Road. The Church of St Leonard is worth a visit. There is a beautiful stained glass window and touching tribute in the Lady Chapel to WPC Yvonne Fletcher shot and killed in the Libyan Embassy Siege in 1984

E Pythouse. Pronounced Pit-House and described as a 'fine classical house'. Its design was probably inspired by nearby Philipps House in Dinton. Owned by the Benett family for generations until the 1950s when death duties forced its sale. John Benett, MP for Wiltshire was a reformer and brought in new machinery like threshing machines which replaced rural jobs. In 1830, rural despair and starvation broke into rebellion and John Benett and the Pythouse Estate was subject to one of the most violent riots in the country involving over 400 angry rioters. One labourer was shot dead and others imprisoned or transported, mostly to Tasmania.

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

Supported By: