

Woodford Valley Circuit



WILTSHIRE TOURISM

Explore some of Wiltshire's finest villages, delight in the natural beauty of the River Avon and see the ancient archaeology of Old Sarum & Stonehenge.

The ride

1 Start

From Old Sarum car park ride back to bridleway near entrance, turn R at down hill. Proceed with caution past rabbit holes in track. Cross main road and continue north. After two miles the track narrows through a small wood and crosses Monarch's Way. Continue north along fence line. After ¼ mile cross farm track and continue north with fence on L.

2 4.5km/ 2¾ miles

Bridleway meets concrete road, turn L and follow for 300 yds. Past building on L, turn L down unsealed track (not signed). NB

concrete road continues straight on to main road as footpath only. The track descends and forks R at top of wood down narrow path to main road. Proceed with caution, path may be muddy with exposed tree roots in places. Turn R and then L at T-junction. At next T-junction turn R and then R again, following signs to Great Durnford.

3 7.5km/ 4¼ miles

Cycle through village and past the Black Horse Inn. At the end of the village the road bends sharply R uphill. After ½ mile, pass wooden fence and turn L onto bridleway. Wide track climbs hill and continues

to 'no entry' signs. At this point, bridleway narrows and forks R through bushes and a gate. Continue along field margin northward. Stay on high ground and after 1 mile, pick up signs for Amesbury and proceed up gravel track.

4 11km/ 6¾ miles

At crossroads turn R signed South Mill. After 350 yds fork L down hill and then R along the river. The track at this point may be muddy and wet in places but turns to tarmac by the old water mill. Continue to the main road (A345) and turn L towards Amesbury town centre.

5 13km/ 8 miles

Turn L by the bus station into the high street containing several cafés, pubs and an excellent bakery. Hills Cycles (in Smithfield Street) supply cycling and fishing equipment. Once refreshed, turn L out of the High Street over the River Avon and around the corner to the R. NB Recreation Road leads L off this corner to a car park and alternative start point for the ride. After ½ mile turn L to West Amesbury, following brown sign to Heale Gardens.

6 17km/ 10½ miles

Follow valley road through Normanton and Wilsford to Lake. Here you have the option of turning R by the phone box and following a byway north for a stunning view of Stonehenge (five miles return). Afterwards continue south past Lake House.

7 19km/ 11¼ miles

Enter Upper Woodford and pass Bridge Inn on R (beer garden on L). From here Heale Gardens is just ½ mile further south (eight acres of magnificent gardens, open all year). Afterwards return to bridge and cross over river following Wiltshire Cycleway signs through Netton and on to Little Durnford.

8 24km/ 15 miles

Turn R by Manor House and Avon Bridge towards Old Sarum. Climb hill and after ½ mile intersect bridleway back to Old Sarum castle. Turn R and retrace route to start.



IS THIS RIDE FOR YOU?

Terrain 85% level riding interspersed with short gentle climbs. 30% off-road mostly on wide bridleways in good condition
Suitable for Occasional and regular cyclists

PLANNING

Start/Parking Old Sarum car park at SU 138327

Nearest town Salisbury

Refreshments Great Durnford (5m): Black Horse Inn (food & drink). Amesbury (8m): Shops, cafés and hotels. Upper Woodford (12m): Bridge Inn (open all day, riverside beer garden & cream teas). Heale Gardens (12½m): tea room, shop and plant nursery.

Public toilets Old Sarum (Start), Amesbury and pubs en route

COMMENTS & OPTIONS

Alternative start: Amesbury Recreation car park at SU 151412. For side trip options to Stonehenge add five miles and to Heale Gardens add one mile. NB it is not advisable to cross A303 from byway.

MAPS

OS Landranger 184, Salisbury & The Plain

ACCOMMODATION

If you would like to find somewhere to stay in Wiltshire, please go to www.visitwiltshire.co.uk, Where to Stay.