

Wylve Valley and Grovely Wood



WILTSHIRE TOURISM

Cycle the quiet, broad avenues of Grovely Wood then descend into the tranquil Wylve Valley for refreshments and an easy ride home. Choose from the long or short option to suit your time.

The ride

1 Start

From the town centre head out through a set of traffic lights along the A30 towards Shaftesbury. If you have started in South Street, head back to the lights and turn L. After 250 yds you will pass an Italianate church on the L. As the road bends L, turn R by the Bell Inn towards Great Wishford.

2 0.8km/ ½ mile

Pass under a railway bridge and turn immediately L, and take the L-hand fork, signed The Hollows. Beyond the housing estate the road turns to a track and enters woodland. Keep to the R and then

fork R up a lane past an information board. At the top, turn L and follow the main avenue (Roman Road).

3 4.8km/ 3 miles

The avenue ends at a single bar gate. Turn R and follow the track for 200 yds. At the T-junction turn R for the short route and head down hill to Great Wishford. This is a long, steep hill, which begins as a tarmac surface but midway becomes a loose and uneven stone surface, and could therefore become dangerous if encountered at speed. Pick up the main route again by the Royal Oak Inn (6).

For the long route, turn L at the T-junction and follow the main forest road around to the R past Grovely Lodge. After 50 yds, at the next junction, continue straight on through a gate, along the Roman Road once more.

4 10km/ 6 miles

Pass around a five-bar wooden gate and continue straight on along the main track. After 100 yds follow the road around to the L by a barn. Keep on the main track and after ½ mile, at a T-junction, join the main road. Turn R and cycle down into the valley.

5 12.8km/ 8 miles

Pass over a railway crossing into Wylve (the barrier may be down to allow a train to pass, so approach with caution). The route continues to the R but be sure to turn L first and explore the village before carrying on. Afterwards head east, out of the village along the Wilton Road. From here the ride back follows the valley road all the way. In Hanging Langford there is the opportunity to turn off L towards Steeple Langford and visit Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Langford Lakes site (100 yds on R). Here there is a visitor centre plus facilities to secure bikes and explore the wildlife sanctuary.

6 20.5km/ 12¾ miles

Enter Great Wishford with the Royal Oak Inn on the R at a crossroads. The road that passes under a railway bridge is the lane from Grovely Wood (3). Before following signs on to Wilton, be sure to explore this pretty village. Afterwards, from the Royal Oak, head out along Station Road back to Wilton.



IS THIS RIDE FOR YOU?

Terrain Quiet lanes, woodland tracks with one moderate climb and descent

Suitable for Occasional and regular cyclists

PLANNING

Start/Parking

South Street Car Park, Wilton at SU 095311. NB There is public parking in the town.

Nearest towns Wilton & Salisbury

Refreshments Various options in Wilton.

PO/shop and Bell Inn, Wylve. The PO/shop and Royal Oak Inn (food & beer garden), Great Wishford. The Rainbow Inn, Steeple Langford.

Public toilets Wilton, Langford Lakes and pubs along the way.

COMMENTS & OPTIONS

Cycle hire available in Salisbury

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Landranger 184, Salisbury & The Plain or Explorer 130, Salisbury & Stonehenge

ACCOMMODATION

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