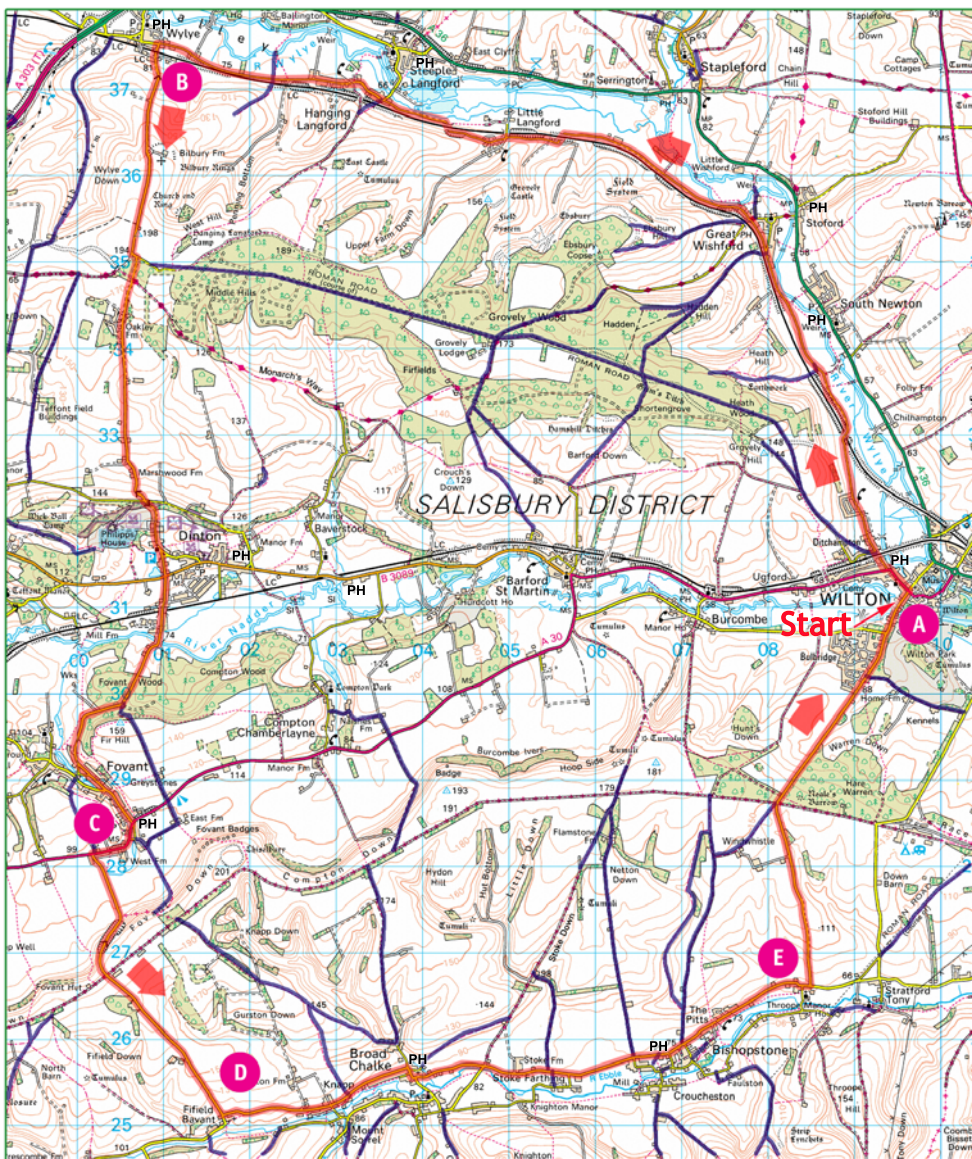


Ride No. 2 Hills and Valleys from Wilton

Length of Ride:
25 miles, allow 4 Hours

Ordnance Survey Map: Landranger 184



Key

- Cycle Route
- Bridleway
- PH Public House

Facilities

A number of public houses on route and some small village shops. Ample opportunities to take on provisions before, or after the ride, in Wilton.

Start/Parking

Start:
There is a convenient car park just south of the town centre on South Street.
409508, 131050

Terrain

There are two serious climbs and a very steep winding descent north west of Dinton. Good brakes and bike handling are needed. Low gears for the hills - but one can always walk up and take in the view. Lanes are likely to be affected by farm activity (stones, soil), though the surfaces are generally satisfactory.

A circuit of some 25 miles of rustic roads and a mix of rural terrain with some expansive views.

A From the car park, the A30 is a few yards to the north. Turn left onto the A30 (traffic lights). After a short distance (less than half a mile) turn right at the Bell Inn across the traffic, and head north west under the railway bridge to Great Wishford, Little Langford, and Hanging Langford. Following the railway line and the River Wylye, this is a fairly flat lane.

B After Hanging Langford, continue to Wylve where we turn left, over the railway, and reach for the gear lever! This climb rises over 110 metres vertically. To the right is Wylve Down and to the left, as the gradient slackens, Bilbury Rings. Shortly before a wooded area to the left is the trig point, at 194 metres spot height.

Towards Dinton, the road steepens significantly before a minor cross roads where one keeps on heading south. Bear right, avoiding Dinton main village, crossing the B3089 towards Fovant. We soon cross another railway line, followed by the River Nadder. Through Fovant Woods, the road is hard going with a steady drag.

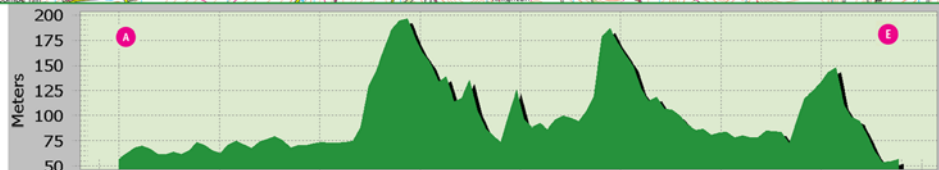
C Fovant is picturesque and on reaching the A30 it is well worth turning left for a few hundred yards to appreciate the regimental badges cut into the hillside during World War 1. Many thousands of troops passed through Fovant, including many wounded.

Retracing to the junction, after a short distance we turn left towards Fifield Bavant. Although a steep climb, the views are the reward. A major track crosses the land at the top of the hill. If one turns left for about a mile along the top of Fovant Down, there are magnificent views from the footpath at Chiselbury Ring. A strenuous circuit on foot via footpath to Fovant is on offer.

D After Fovant Down comes the sweeping descent towards Fifield Bavant. This is an open clear lane, and a reward for earlier efforts. At the junction, we turn left and follow the delightful valley of the River Ebble through Broad Chalke, Stoke Farthing and Bishopstone. The road is well surfaced, flat and the whole locality is pleasing to the eye.

E Shortly after Bishopstone turn left to head directly back into Wilton and to the car park. There is a steady climb of about a mile. At the top one passes Neal's Barrow and the road crosses the same track which we referred to at Fovant Down. It is then downhill to the finish of the ride.

For information on access in **England**: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk
Wales: www.ccw.gov.uk and **Scotland**: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com



This information is intended only as a general guide. Recommended Ordnance Survey maps are listed. With thanks to Peter Walsh for providing the information.

Copyright note: This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
Produced by Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Office. OS Copyright Wiltshire County Council. 100023455. 2008