

Ride the Trailway from Sturminster Newton to Stourpaine

Trailway Entrance Sturminster Newton



The trailway entrance in Sturminster Newton, is adjacent to the main car park. Alternatively there are free but limited parking facilities next to the recreation ground, which can be found up a short narrow lane, 20m on the right, down the hill from the market square. The seven mile section from Sturminster Newton to Stourpaine, follows the Stour Valley and crosses the River Stour twice. The first bridge is at Fiddleford, about 2km south of Sturminster Newton. A right turn

20m past the bridge, and another right turn into a lane, offers a detour to Fiddleford Mill and the historic Manor House. There is also ample free parking here as an alternative starting point for the ride. It is signed on the right, from the A357 half a mile north of the Fiddleford Inn.

Back on the trailway heading south, the route crosses Hammoon Lane and carries on down to a left turn, off the old railway line onto Bere Marsh Drive. On entering the drive, there is a separate cycle path on the left. Half a mile on is Bere Marsh Farm, with its old listed barn and pond a little further on to the left. After crossing the road at the end of Bere Marsh Drive, there is access ramp onto the old rail track bed



The Shillingstone Railway Project can be found 50 metres further on. This is a heritage project to renovate the old station and the surrounding area. The Trailway runs along the down line platform through the site, and follows the River Stour along the rear of the village. A hundred metres on there is a small 'hide' on the left, set up to observe the river wildlife which frequents the area below this point. There are owl boxes in

the trees and kingfishers often nest in the opposite river bank. Otters are also sometimes seen here. Fifty metres on there is an access route to the right, which brings you to Hine Town Lane. To follow this lane to the right and then left into Church Road, will bring you to the village shop. Further down the Trailway a sign points the way to the village pub, The Old Ox Inn. Another 200m on, past the recreation and cricket ground, a right hand track, the Wessex Ridgeway, leads to The Willows Tea Room.

The trailway leaves Shillingstone and heads south to Gains' Cross. Here a filled in cutting gives rise to a short climb, rewarded by good views of The Stour Valley. The route winds left and right to negotiate the old railway bridge parapet and cross a drove way. A short distance to the right past the cottages, there are limited parking facilities. These are mentioned in the Circular Mountain Bike Route

A down hill gradient takes the route back to the original track bed level and to the second river crossing at Enford. Half a mile further on, the route swings left onto a surfaced track into Stourpaine. Over the crossroads in the village centre and up a slight incline stands the village pub, The White Horse Inn, which also houses the village shop. Edie_Mae's tea room a short way south of the White Horse also welcomes cyclists.