

## Ride the Trailway from Sturminster Newton to Stourpaine



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, twenty metres on the right, down the hill from the market square.

### Trailway Entrance Sturminster Newton

and another right turn into a lane, offers a detour to Fiddleford Mill and 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.



### Entrance to Bere Marsh Drive

on. This is a heritage project to renovate the old Shillingstone station and the immediate surrounding area. The Trailway runs along the down line platform through the site, and follows the River Stour along the rear of the village of Shillingstone.

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 200 metres on, past the recreation and cricket ground, a right hand track leads to The Willows Tea Room.



### Gains' Cross

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.

A visit to the map page will give details of the surrounding area and subsequent bridleway connections. The Wessex Ridgeway passes under the Trailway at the southern end of Shillingstone, a hundred metres past the track to the Willows Tea Room and is signposted down an access ramp.

The Stourpaine to Blandford section is under construction and is planned to open in the spring of 2013.

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 a mile and a quarter south of Sturminster Newton. A right turn fifty metres past the bridge, and another right turn into a lane, offers a detour to Fiddleford Mill and 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 the 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, and negotiating the access ramp onto the old rail track bed again, The Shillingstone Railway Project can be found 50 metres further



### Shillingstone Railway Project