

# Cycle Trail 4: Boyton and the Ginger Piggery to Historic Hindon

**Length of Cycle**  
15 miles (24km)

**Ordnance Survey map:** Explorer 143  
**Cycle Start:** ST 950 397

## Key

-  Cycle route with waypoint
-  Parking
-  Pub
-  Place to eat
-  Historic Site
-  Nature Reserve
-  Point of Interest

**Distance:** 15 miles (24km)  
**Time:** Allow 4.5 hrs  
**Terrain:** AMostly quiet lanes and tracks. Gradual ascents and descents  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Suitable for:** Mountain Bike  
**Start:** Car-park of The Ginger Piggery, Boyton BA12 OSS. Cycling groups- please notify The Ginger Piggery in advance. Check out opening times prior to leaving.  
**Start Grid Reference:**  
**X :** 395028  
**Y :** 139738  
**Latitude :** 51.1568  
**Longitude :** -2.0724  
**ST 950 397**

**OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)**  
Warminster & Trowbridge No. 143

**Notes & Refreshments:**  
The Angel Inn and The Lamb at Hindon, The Beckford Arms in Fonthill Gifford, The Riverbarn in Fonthill Bishop, and The Trough Restaurant at The Ginger Piggery

Journey through a pastoral landscape of wide open spaces, ancient woodland and historic villages from the beautiful Wylve Valley to the Nadder Valley. A varied route which starts from The Ginger Piggery in Boyton which farm traditional breeds like the ginger Tamworth Pig, to Hindon, a Medieval village and once prosperous location for country fairs, markets and trading.

1. From the car-park of The Ginger Piggery, part of Boyton Farm, a family run working farm attraction specialising in the Tamworth Pig and other traditional breeds, as well as a restaurant, farm shop, art gallery and craft workshops, turn R through the village of Boyton.

1a. If you are interested in a short detour to see the 12th Century Church of St. Mary the Virgin and Boyton Manor, a fine English manor house with an interesting history, after the Ginger Piggery, take the first L turn and continue along the lane. Just as the lane bears L, the Church is on the R with Boyton Manor immediately behind the Church. You can continue along the lane and turn R to see a better view of Boyton Manor (a private residence). Retrace your journey along the lane heading back towards The Ginger Piggery.

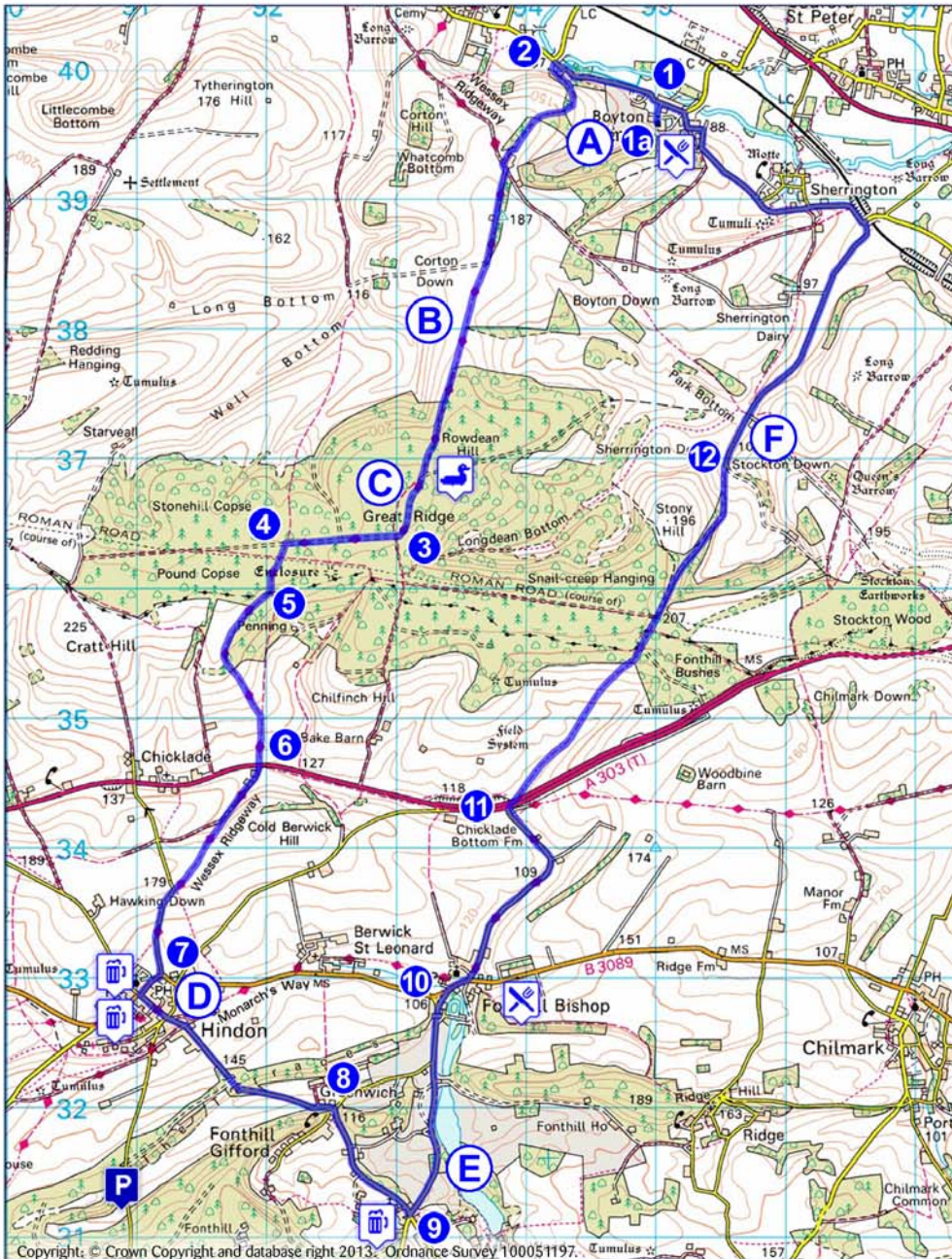
2. At the junction, turn L heading for the hamlet of Corton. After two cottages set back on your L, turn L and follow a sunken bridleway uphill past Vineyard Wood on the L until you reach Corton Field Barn buildings on the L, where you turn L then R onto the Wessex Ridgeway following the distinctive round waymarker discs which show Wyvern, a 2-legged dragon associated with the kingdom of Wessex. Continue along the Wessex Ridgeway through Corton Down following the gravel track southwards and into the extensive Great Ridge Woods.

3. Continue straight on through the woodlands of Great Ridge and turn R at a sharp bend. Ignore bridleway on the L and continue straight on heading west for approximately half a mile.

4. Where the next bridleway crosses the gravel track, turn hard L and follow the Wessex Ridgeway way-markers. Bear L until you come to a 5-way crossroads and go straight across and head downhill.

5. Bear slightly R and aim for the field edge of the bridleway beside Berwick Bushes. Follow this through a gap in the hedge with a reservoir on your R. Joining the chalky track, continue all the way down to the busy main road (A303).

6. Cross over the busy road (making sure that it is safe to do so) and continue along lane uphill. This lane gradually narrows and steepens and becomes a cross field bridleway. Carry on in a south westerly direction into the corner of the field and follow the path between hedges until it exits onto a metalled road. Bear L and follow this road towards the village of Hindon.



## Cycle Trail 4: Boyton and the Ginger Piggery to Historic Hindon

**Length of Cycle**  
15 miles (24km)

**Ordnance Survey map:** Explorer 143  
**Cycle Start:** ST 950 397

7. Turn R to join the B3089 which leads directly into the historic village of Hindon and joins the crossroads at the top of the High Street. Here, if you wish to stop for refreshments, there is a choice of two former coaching inns, The Angel Inn opposite or The Lamb at Hindon on the L. The Hindon Village Stores is also on the R. Turn L down the High Street to the bottom and follow the road ahead (Stops Hill) towards Tisbury. Go through the tunnel (take care) and continue straight ahead.

8. At Stops Farm on the L, ignore the first turning opposite the farm (Stop Street) but take the second along Hindon Lane through the village of Fonthill Gifford towards The Beckford Arms, where you can stop for refreshments.

9. After passing The Beckford Arms, turn L and head downhill passing horse and sheep grazed fields owned by the Fonthill Estate and the beautiful Fonthill Lake on your R, and pass under the Fonthill Arch, a magnificent Palladian style ornamental arch across the road.

10. Turn R onto the B3089 (take care as this is a busy road) into Fonthill Bishop at the heart of the Fonthill Estate, turning L after the church. Follow this road until you reach the A303

11. Cross over the A303 (take care as this is a busy road) and bear R onto a restricted bridleway heading north-east across a field to the corner of Fonthill Bushes Wood, part of the extensive Great Ridge Woods. Stay with larger forestry track. Heading downhill follow R hand, un-gated route.

12. At the end of the woodland, you meet a metalled road from the R. Follow this past Stockton Down to the R to the junction at the end of the road near the village of Sherrington where you meet the railway line and Wiltshire Cycleway 24. Turn L and follow this through Boyton and back to the Ginger Piggery (and its aptly named The Trough Restaurant for refreshments. Also, why not spend a little time browsing its collection of art studios, farm shop/butchers, all housed in the converted old piggery.

### Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



### Points of Interest

**A Church of St Mary the Virgin and Boyton Manor.** The Church is a good example of early English architecture. It was founded in the 12th Century by the Giffard family and contains an effigy of a knight in armour which may date back before the building of the chapel, and memorial slabs of the Lambert family who resided at Boyton Manor (now a private residence). Boyton Manor was built by Thomas Lambert in 1618 and the interior still has its original Jacobean features. Many wealthy families have owned the Manor over the generations-the Giffards, the Lamberts, the Benetts and the Fanes. Its most famous tenant in c.1877 was H.R.H Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany and youngest son of Queen Victoria.

**B Wessex Ridgeway.** A magnificent long distance walking, horse-riding and cycling trail including a ridge top route with stunning views which crosses through Wiltshire and the heart of Dorset.

**C Great Ridge Wood.** One of the largest woodlands in Southern Wiltshire which lies on a chalk downland ridge between the picturesque Wylde and Nadder Valleys. It has been designated as a County Wildlife Site by Wiltshire Council due to its wildlife value and a Roman road runs through the centre of it from east to west.

**D Hindon.** A pretty Medieval village of fine Chilmark stone houses. In the 13th Century, it was a prosperous centre for country fairs and weekly markets and a lot of the houses were occupied by artisans and craftspeople. However, by 1754, a great fire had broken out which destroyed over 140 houses along the High Street. The village soon recovered and by the mid 18th Century, it had become a popular centre for mail coaches and travellers with a staggering 14 inns and public houses, most of which kept horses and had facilities for stabling. In the 1800, The Lamb Inn was said to have kept 300 horses used for the mail coaches. Today, there are just two Inns remaining, but there remain visible signs of its great coaching history. Can you spot them? The Angel Inn (formerly known as Grosvenors Arms) still bears the words 'Grosvenors Arms good stall stabling and lock up coach houses'. There are also large arched entrances and cobbled courtyards along the High Street where former pubs have been converted to houses.

**E Fonthill Estate and Fonthill Abbey.** Covering over 9,000 acres of outstanding beauty in the heart of Wiltshire. The Estate has a fascinating architectural history and a series of grand country mansions have been built over the centuries. Perhaps the most famous and extravagant of buildings was Fonthill Abbey. This was an immense Gothic revival house with the grandeur of the finest cathedrals, built on Hinkley Hill in the heart of Fonthill Abbey Wood by super rich author William Beckford Junior, but which later collapsed due to faulty workmanship destroying most of the building. A small fragment remains today but this is hidden from public view. Fonthill Lake and Fonthill Arch also form part of the Estate. The lake is over 1 mile in length and was used as a film location for romance film Chocolat starring Johnny Depp in 2000 and the grand arch is believed to be the work of original Palladian architect Inigo Jones.

**F Stockton Down.** This forms part of Stockton Wood and Down, a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of national importance for wildlife. It includes areas of chalk grassland, scrub and oak/ash/hazel woodland supporting diverse flora including several rare and notable species such as lesser butterfly orchid and green winged orchid. The occurrence of many hundreds of juniper bushes is also of particular note.