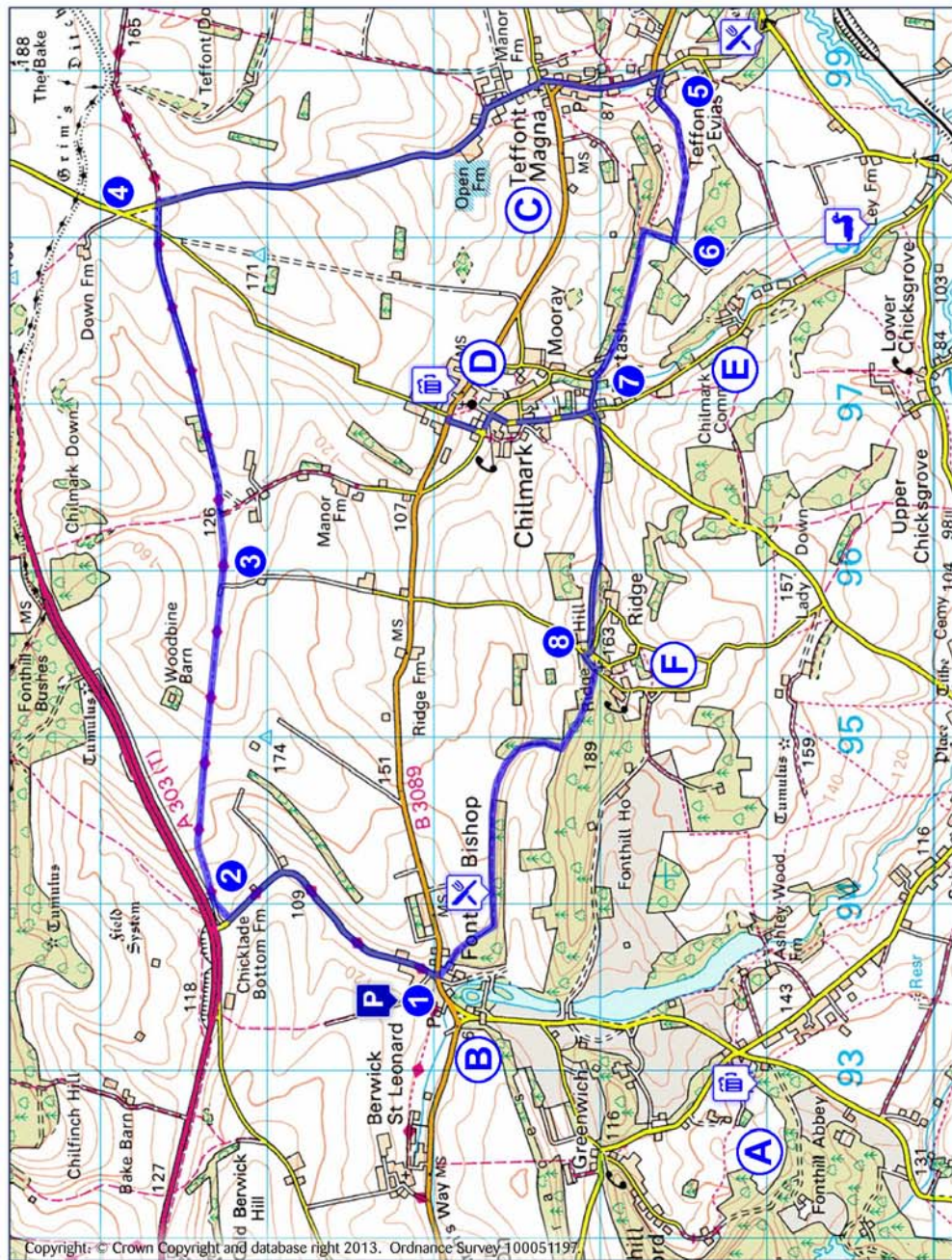


Cycle Trail 6: Fonthill Bishop to Teffont Magna on the Chilmark Stone Trail

Length of Cycle
10 miles (16 km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 143
Cycle Start: ST 985 328



Key

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

Distance: 10 miles (16km)
Time: Allow 2 hrs
Terrain: Mostly country roads, lanes and woodland tracks with moderate gradients and a good section of The Monarch's Way along an Old Drive Road
Difficulty: Moderate
Suitable for: Mountain Bike
Start: The Riverbarn, Fonthill Bishop Cycling Groups; please notify well in advance
Start Grid Reference:
X : 398500
Y : 132800
Latitude : 51.0945
Longitude : -2.0227
ST 985 328

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

Notes & Refreshments:
Howard's House Hotel in Teffont Evias, The Black Dog Inn in Chilmark, The Riverbarn, in Fonthill Bishop

A moderate circular route starting at the historic village of Fonthill Bishop and its links with magnificent mansions of Chilmark stone that have graced the Fonthill Estate for centuries, through scenic countryside passing the village of Chilmark, renowned for its links with quarrying dating back to Roman times, and on to Teffont Magna, with its pretty cottages of Chilmark stone and thatch

1. From the car-park of The Riverbarn, turn R onto the B3089 (take care as this is a busy road) and head north towards the A303. At the junction with the slip road off the A303, look for the byway on your R (The Monarch's Way) and follow this uphill to the east.

2. The metalled road bears to the L and follows the line of the A303 for a while, but then head through the field gate in front of you signposted The Monarch's Way and follow the field edge path until you enter a larger field and then carry on in the same general direction you have been going, until you reach a belt of woodland and through a gate into a green lane with hedges on both sides.

3. Emerging from the enclosed section, follow the field edge, the Ox Drove, an ancient route along which farmers would once have led their livestock to markets in Wilton and Salisbury, until you join a track from the R. Go through a gate and continue gently uphill until you get to Cow Grove, one of the roads from Chilmark. Cross straight over this and carry on the concrete road.

4. You will shortly meeting a lane at right angles. Turn R here and enjoy the downhill journey and views to the south across the Nadder Valley passing Magna Chalets at Farmer Giles Homestead heading south into the village of Teffont Magna. Join the busy B3089 (Hindon Road) on the R hand-bend in Teffont Magna and carry straight on southwards. The main road turns sharply eastwards (L) but you continue straight on towards its neighbouring village of Teffont Evias on the quieter road.

5. Turn R over bridge just after Evias Cottage along a single track which is a No Through Road (Holt Lane). Follow this to the end past Long Meadow on your L, until the surfaced road becomes a bridleway/track between fields. Continue across fields and silted up cattle grids to a small belt of woodland on R.

6. Turn R after this and follow bridleway uphill to the corner of the field then turn L following field edge path and keeping the woodland (Cleeve Copse) to your R.

Route description continues overleaf.....

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7. At the cottages on the woodland edge, turn L and go up the lane, past pheasant pens on your R. (Or continue straight ahead into the village of Chilmark and enjoy the distinctive Chilmark stone buildings and refreshments at The Black Dog, a 15th Century Inn). At the end of the lane, cross over the larger road with caution and proceed westwards towards the tiny hamlet of Ridge.

8. Entering Ridge, you pass Ridge Hill House on your L and then turn R onto the bridleway through Little Ridge Wood. Go downhill through the trees and keep to the L as you reach the bottom, passing between mature beech trees, before bearing L and climbing a track diagonally up the side of the chalk valley. Keeping the woodland belt to your L, follow the field edge bridleway west-wards and then north until you begin to descend into the estate yard of Fonthill Estate. Turn R out of the yard and L onto the B3089 (take care as this is a busy road) and back to The Riverbarn for refreshments.
Square

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 The Fonthill Estate and Fonthill Abbey. Comprising over 9,000 acres of outstanding beauty in the heart of Wiltshire with its administrative offices based in Fonthill Bishop. The Estate has a fascinating architectural history as a series of grand country mansions have been built near Fonthill Bishop over the centuries in fine Chilmark stone. The latest, Fonthill House, was built in 1972 in a classical style. Perhaps the most famous and extravagant of buildings was Fonthill Abbey built at the turn of the 19th Century. 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. It later collapsed due to faulty workmanship destroying most of the building. A small fragment remains today but this is hidden from public view.

B The Fonthill Arch. Just past the Riverbarn, there is a splendid archway, which would have been the gatehouse and entrance to the different mansions and abbey and is believed to be the work of original Palladian architect Inigo Jones.

C Teffont Magna and Teffont Evias. Pretty Nadder Valley villages with an air of timelessness about them. The name Teffont is derived from their stream location along The Teff which rises from its spring in Teffont Magna. The name Evias comes from Harold Ewyas of Hereford, powerful lord of the area in the 13th Century. St Edwards Church in Teffont Magna has a simple dignity about it and is believed to be late 13th Century and much older than St. Michael and All Angels Church in neighbouring Teffont Evias built of Chilmark stone. It is named after Edward, King of the Saxons who reigned for just 3 years from the age of 13 before being murdered at Corfe Castle in Dorset by his stepmother Queen Elfrida in AD 978.

D Chilmark. Mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, the village would have belonged to the Abbess of Wilton until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539 by Henry VIII. However, there is evidence of earlier settlement dating back to the Bronze Age and Roman period. There is an interesting connection with Chilmark, a township in Massachusetts in America with Thomas Macey, one of Chilmark's sons and his cousin Thomas Mayhew from Tisbury, who bought island development rights there. The Macey family name still lives on in America today as the owners of the famous Macy stores in New York. The 13th Century church dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch and built of fine Chilmark stone, is worth a visit. To the north west of the church in fields, great sheep fairs were held in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

E Chilmark Quarries. Chilmark is very well known for its stone used in the building of world famous Salisbury Cathedral 12 miles away. Quarries for extracting stone were even in existence during the Roman era. During the Middle Ages, most of the men of the Parish would have worked in near darkness in the quarries often suffering injury or even death. In 1936, the quarries were taken over by the MOD and used for storage. Today, there is still some quarrying of the stone in nearby Chicks Grove Quarry.

F Ridge. This hamlet has always been small and during the 18th and early 19th Centuries, there were only 5-10 isolated farmsteads. Today, just a few like Ridge Farm still survive.