



06 DISTANCE: 12miles/20km

TIME: Approx. 2-3hrs

DIFFICULTY:

Grade 3

Experience a scenic off road cycle ride around Blandford Forest and Turnworth with an opportunity to see a wealth of wildlife all-year-round.

Interesting places to stop:

At Ringmoor, which is owned by the National Trust, you can still see the remnants of a Roman or Iron Age settlement and field system, with its tracks and shallow hollows. This 134 acre site, made up of woodland and chalk downland, hosts a wealth of wildlife and is well worth a stroll around at any time of the year.

The fantastic show of bluebells in spring both at Turnworth and through Blandford Forest is well worth a visit. During June & July enjoy the wealth of wildflowers and butterflies on the chalk

downland along the route. On a clear day, far reaching views across the Blackmore Vale as far as King Alfreds Tower.

Refreshments:

Okeford Fitzpaine has a village shop called the Ye Old Bell Stores. The Royal Oak pub has a nice garden and inside, some large inglenook fireplaces to warm up beside. The pub is unusual as it has a skittle alley upstairs, so if the ceiling begins to shake, you know why!

The Crown Pub at Ibberton has a lovely garden but it doesn't open on Mondays.

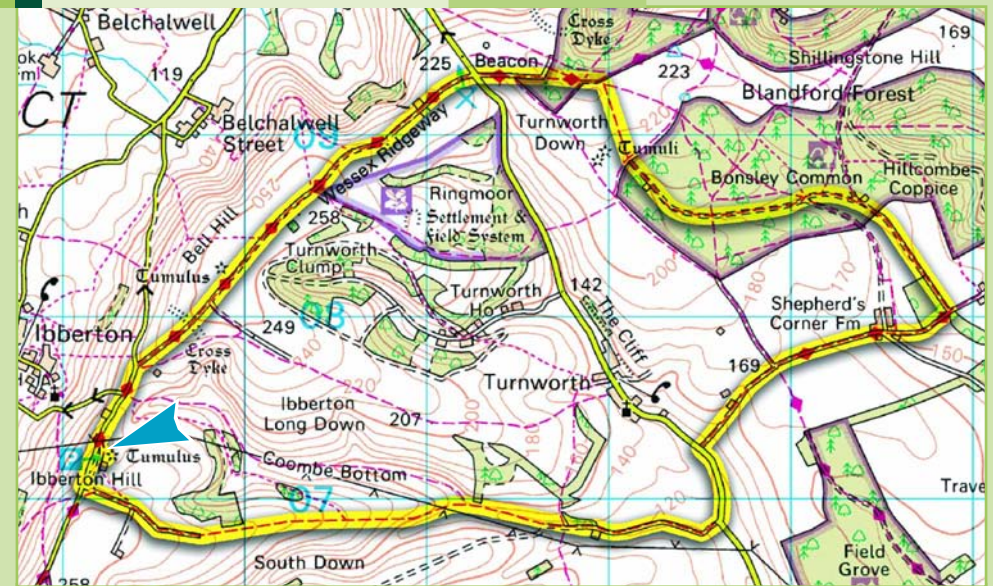
There are some nice picnic sites at Woolland Hill and Okeford Hill.

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SUGGESTED STARTING POINT:
GRID REF: ST 792 073



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Directions:

Start at the Ibberton Hill Picnic site.

- Follow the bridleway downhill at the back of the site.
- Go past the farm buildings on the right to join the road.
- Turn left and then right up the Bridleway signposted to Shepherd's Corner Farm.
- Turn left following the bridleway to Bonsley Common.
- On entering the forest follow the left track.
- At the field boundary turn left for about 50 yards and then right into the bridleway.
- This track joins the Wessex Ridgeway, turn left and cross the road at Okeford Hill Picnic Site.
- This picnic site can be used as an alternative start/finish.

- Keep on the Wessex Ridgeway (bridleway) above Turnworth and Ringmoor.
- At the end of the bridleway turn left onto the road towards Ibberton.
- Continue along the lane till you reach Ibberton Hill Picnic Site.

NB: This ride can be done in either direction but the directions above provide an easier route.

