



DISTANCE: 18miles/30km

DIFFICULTY:

TIME: Approx. 2-3hrs

Grade 2

The Crown Inn, Marnhull:  
MARK SIMONS

This route takes you through Marnhull and Stalbridge, crossing the River Stour as you go round. Stop and admire the former Kings Mill, now a private residence.

#### Interesting places to stop:

As you cross the Stour, stop to admire the river. **Kings Mill** is still an impressive sight and has been beautifully restored as a private residence. You may be lucky enough to see footprints of Otter, as the Stour is an important stronghold of this elusive mammal.

**Stalbridge** has a bike shop where you can hire a bike for the day or get that new piece of kit you wanted for months.

**The listed market cross** in Stalbridge is known to be one of the best

preserved in the South West and is built of golden Ham Hill stone.

#### Refreshments:

**Stalbridge** has various shops, cafes and 3 pubs where you can purchase refreshments including the Stalbridge Arms which you will pass on the ride.

**The Crown Inn** at Marnhull offers a warm welcome to all who enter through its door. It has been serving punters for over 500 years and can count Thomas Hardy as one of its clients. It even made a guest appearance in the Tess of the D'Urbervilles as the Pure Drop Inn.

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SUGGESTED STARTING POINT:

GRID REF: ST 781 191



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Marnhull Village Hall, Church Hill.

#### Directions:

**Start from Marnhull Village Hall. The Hall is away from the main road up a short track. It is signed from the village by small wooden signs.**

- After leaving the car park turn left. Take the 1st left signposted to Todber and then left again into Nash Lane.
  - Follow this narrow road signposted to Todber until you get to the T-Junction at main road opposite Northfield House.
  - Turn left onto this busy road and then after 200 yards turn left again signposted Fifehead Magdalen. The White Post Lakes are on your left.
  - Follow the road to Fifehead Magdalen, past the church and the telephone box
  - At the T-Junction, turn left and follow the downhill stretch.
  - As you leave Fifehead Magdalen bear right at the junction.
  - Follow the flat stretch until the left turn after the main depot at Gibbs Marsh trading estate.
- Follow the road up into Stalbridge. In Stalbridge turn left at the T-Junction with the main road opposite the Post Office.
  - Go through the town and bear left; you will pass the Stalbridge Arms Pub on your right.
  - Carry on to the crossroads and then turn left to Marnhull.
  - Keep on this road, travelling past the quirky, Pig & Whistle Cottage and the beautiful Kings Mill, then through Pleck, into Marnhull.
  - When you reach the church turn left, then left again and downhill back to the car park, following the signs to the Village Hall.

