

Hinton St. Mary:  
MARK SIMONS

DISTANCE: 13miles/21km

TIME: Approx. 2hrs

DIFFICULTY:

Grade 1-2

This route starts in the old market town of Sturminster Newton and takes you through two of North Dorset's picturesque villages, Hinton St. Mary and Manston.

#### Interesting places to stop:

**Sturminster Newton** was once home to the biggest market in England. Sadly, the market has now closed but the town still maintains its market tradition. Market day is on Monday with a Farmers' Market on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Hinton St. Mary is famous for the 4th Century Roman mosaic that was discovered in 1963 by the village blacksmith. The mosaic is now housed in the British Museum and is currently the earliest known depiction of Christ.

#### Refreshments:

**Sturminster Newton** has various shops, cafes and pubs where you can purchase refreshments including Poet's Corner, Swan Inn and the White Hart Corner, Swan Inn and the White Hart

**The Plough Pub** at Manston has ample parking with a nice garden for relaxing on a summer's day.

**The White Horse** at Hinton St. Mary is on the route of the ride and may be a welcome stop as you will have the already done the majority of the ride.

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Sturminster  
Newton

**SUGGESTED STARTING POINT:**  
GRID REF: ST 786 143



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Main town car park.

#### Directions:

**Start from main town car park next to Hanson Fabrics.**

- Turn right out of the car park into Station Road. Take the road out of Sturminster towards Manston.
- Follow the road round the tight left hand corner and you will pass the Plough Pub on right.
- Take the left turn after the pub, signposted to Todber.
- Continue along this road, passing several farms.
- Turn left at the crossroads, following the signpost for the North Dorset Cycleway.
- Here you will travel through some traditionally coppiced woodland. After approximately 1mile, turn left following the North Dorset Cycleway signs.
- On reaching the White Horse Pub, turn left and cycle past the church.

- Turn right by the Manor House that is guarded by the majestic Storks. Follow the North Dorset Cycleway along the tree-lined avenue through a private estate and rejoin the main road back to Sturminster.
- Continue into Sturminster Newton, taking care on this road as it gets quite busy.
- Turn left to return to the car park.

Church at Hinton St. Mary:  
MARK SIMONS