

DIRECTIONS

M Km

- 0 0 From Chepstow Castle turn left onto the bridge across the Wye
- 0.6 0.9 Turn left onto the path towards the bollards into Tutshill
- 0.8 1.3 Turn left onto Coleford Rd / B4228
- 1.2 1.9 Turn right onto Bishton Lane
- 2.0 3.3 Follow the path onto the Wye Valley Greenway and turn left under the bridge
- 5.5 8.8 At the end of the Greenway, continue onto the bridge into Tintern
- 5.6 8.0 Turn left onto the A466 then immediately right by The Wild Hare pub onto Forge Rd
- 7.1 11.4 Follow the road to the right ↗ **Devauden**
- 7.3 11.6 Turn left ↗ **The Fedw**
- 8.3 13.2 Easy to miss! Take the right fork (there's a small lay-by to the left of the junction)
- 9.2 14.7 Turn right at the T-junction onto Devauden Rd
- 9.7 15.6 In Devauden turn left by the green and then left again onto B4293
- 10.1 16.1 Take the first right ↗ **Kilgwrrwg**
- 13.0 20.9 At the junction in Gaer Llwyd cross straight over then turn right by the red telephone box
- 13.6 21.7 Turn left ↗ **Shirenewton**
- 15.4 24.6 Turn right ↗ **Shirenewton**
- 16.5 26.4 In Shirenewton turn left at the Tredegar Arms pub
- 16.7 26.7 Turn right (follow the Cycle Route 42 signs)
- 18.2 29.2 Turn left ↗ **Cycle Route 42**
- 18.9 30.2 At the mini roundabout, turn left
- 19.7 31.6 At the A466 cross onto Mounon Rd
- 20.0 32.0 Turn right onto Vauxhall Rd then immediate left onto Vauxhall Lane
- 20.2 32.2 Dismount and turn left onto the path
- 20.2 32.3 Turn left onto Steep St
- 20.3 32.5 Turn left into Chepstow town centre
- 20.4 32.6 Follow the road through Chepstow Town Gate (dismount when road is closed)
- 20.4 32.7 Turn left onto Bank St
- 20.6 32.9 Turn left onto Middle St
- 20.7 33.1 Chepstow Castle is on your left



Main route █
 Alternative route when Tidenham Tunnel is closed ●●●
 Short-cut back to Chepstow ●●●

- 1 TIDENHAM TUNNEL**
Bored through the limestone bedrock in 1876, this is Britain's second-longest tunnel open to cycles.
- 2 TINTERN ABBEY**
Wales's first Cistercian abbey is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture and now a picturesque ruin that has inspired poets and painters for centuries. Entrance fee. www.cadw.gov.wales
- 3 FILLING STATION CAFE, TINTERN**
Cyclists' favourite for light snacks and first rate coffee and cake. Bike spares and tools available. Open Fri-Mon.
- 4 ABBEY TINTERN FURNACE**
Early industrial remains including an early blast furnace that once ran day and night. Free entry.
For a short cut back to Chepstow, turn left onto national cycle route 31 (follow ●●●) via St Arvans and the shared use footpath alongside the A466 past Chepstow Racecourse.
- 5 VEDDW HOUSE GARDENS**
Ornamental garden with lush plantings, stunning topiary and a serene reflecting pool. Limited opening times. Entrance fee. www.veddw.com
- 6 DEVAUDEN**
Village green where Methodist leader John Wesley preached his first sermon on Welsh soil.
- 7 WERN-Y-CWM**
Public woodland with a gravel track leading to a viewpoint across the Usk valley to the Black Mountains.
- 8 NEWCHURCH FARM SHOP**
Well-stocked farm shop with light snacks, coffee and cake. Great views of the River Severn from Newchurch churchyard.
- 9 CHEPSTOW CASTLE**
Dating back to 1067, this imposing Norman fortress guards the mouth of the Wye. Entrance fee. www.cadw.gov.wales



DIGITAL NAVIGATION



Scan QR code for links to digital navigation



This route is available on **RideWithGPS** and **Komoot** (mapping websites with free apps that provide turn-by-turn navigation on smartphones and GPS devices).

Find other routes and more information about exploring the Wye Valley by bike at www.wyevallyaonb.org.uk/cycling

BIKE SHOPS AND BIKE HIRE

Wye Valley Experience Bike shop, repair workshop and bike hire just outside Tintern. 01291 619177. Kingstone Brewery, Meadow Farm, Tintern, NP16 7NX

Ace Bicycles Bike shop and repair workshop. 01600 715071. Unit 3 Rockfield Rd, Monmouth NP25 5AU

Pedalbikeaway Bike shop, bike hire, coaching and guiding. 01594 729000. Main base at Cannop Valley, near Coleford GL16 7EH and with a seasonal branch for bike hire only at the National Diving Centre, Tidenham NP16 7LQ at the start of the Wye Valley Greenway

Tools, a public bike pump and repair spares are available at the **Filling Station Cafe**. 07770 544592. Tintern NP16 6SF (open Fri–Mon)

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Tidenham Tunnel is currently open as follows: 1 April – 30 April, 8am–6pm; 1 May – 15 Aug, 7am–7pm; 16 Aug – 30 Sep, 8am–6pm. Tunnel closed 1 Oct – 31 March. More information, including any changes to tunnel opening times: www.wyevallygreenway.org

For places to stay and tourist information: www.visitdeanweye.co.uk/stay

CAR PARKING ON THE ROUTE

Castle Dell, Chepstow NP16 5GA. Charges apply.

Wyedean School, Sedbury NP16 7AA (non-school days). Donation.

National Diving & Activity Centre, NP16 7LQ (weekends only). Free.

Wireworks Car Park, Tintern NP16 6TQ. Free



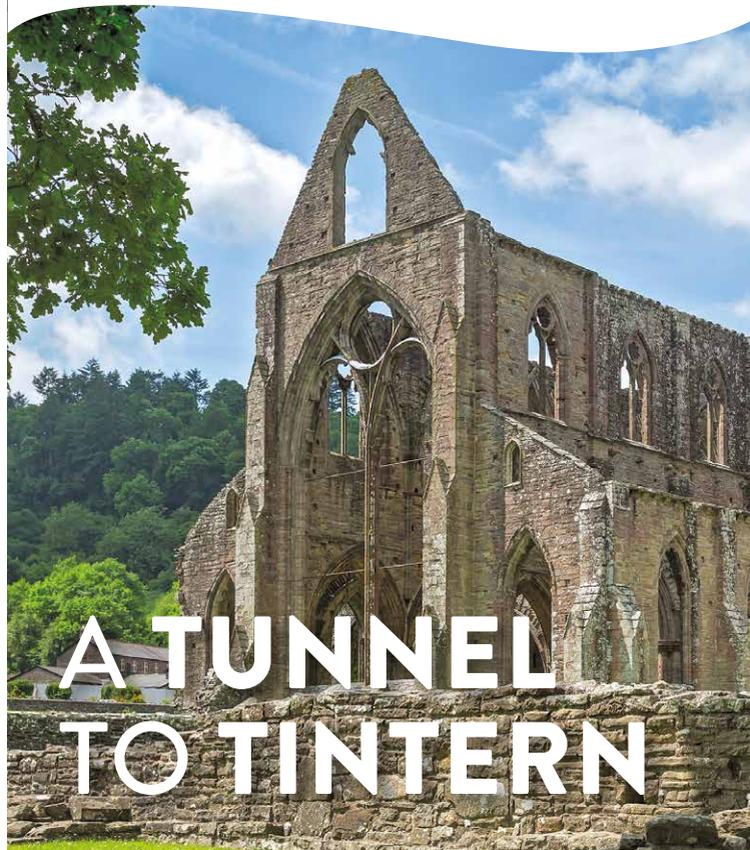
Route devised by Jack Thurston, author of the *Lost Lanes* cycling guidebooks, for the Wye Valley (AONB) Partnership (2021).

We would like to thank Chepstow Cycling Club for their help.

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BIKE RIDES IN THE WYE VALLEY

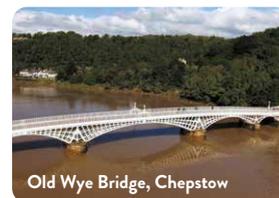


Ride 1

A 35km loop from Chepstow to Tintern, taking in the Tidenham Tunnel and returning via the wooded hills on the west bank of the Wye

RIDE SUMMARY

Terrain: Quiet lanes with a 6km section on unsurfaced forest tracks, which can be muddy after rain.



Old Wye Bridge, Chepstow

The route begins by crossing from Wales into England on the **Old Wye Bridge**. The River Wye at Chepstow has the fastest rising tide in the world (over three vertical metres an hour) and the elegant cast iron span, built in 1816, is the perfect vantage point to watch the waters ebb and flow.

It's onto roads through Tutshill towards the National Diving and Activity Centre, a scuba diving school that also has zip wires, bungee jumping and kayaking as well as glamping pods for overnight stays. The Centre stands at one end of the Wye Valley Greenway, a new traffic-free cycling and walking route that uses the track bed of the old Wye Valley Railway. A highlight is the 1079m long Tidenham Tunnel, which is currently open from 1 April to 30 September in daylight hours only. At other times it is closed so as not to disturb the bats that roost and hibernate inside. There is low-level lighting – ride carefully while your eyes adjust to the darkness (bike lights are not permitted). When the tunnel is closed, there's a detour on lanes via Boughspring and the forest track through Boatwood Plantation.



Tidenham Tunnel

After the tunnel, the route continues on unsurfaced forest tracks and back across the river into Wales at **Tintern**. The gothic grandeur of its huge ruined abbey, the swirling waters of

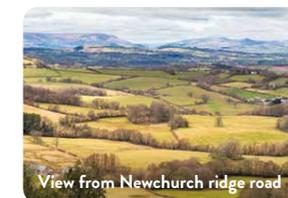


the Wye and sublime vistas framed by the steep cliffs of the gorge made Tintern a favourite location for poets and artists of the Romantic movement – and visitors taking the two-day Picturesque Wye Tour by boat from Ross to Chepstow. It remains popular with visitors to this day.

It's hard to imagine now, but Tintern once echoed to the roar of blast furnaces and the clang of forge hammers. The raw materials required by the early metal industry – iron ore, limestone, water power and timber to make charcoal – were plentiful in the surrounding landscape. By 1600 the wireworks at Tintern was the largest industrial enterprise in Wales.

A mile up the Angidy brook it's possible to explore the extensive and partly conserved remains of 17th century **Abbey Tintern Furnace**. It's then a long steady climb on ever-narrower lanes through the **Chepstow Park Wood**, once a hunting ground for the lords of Chepstow castle. In late spring the air is thick with the scent of wild garlic while in the autumn, the trees are ablaze with reds, golds and yellows.

The hill-top village of **Devauden** marks the end of the big climb. The effort of the climb is rewarded by a gloriously scenic few miles past panoramic viewpoints at Kilgwrwg, Wern-y-Cwm, Newchurch and Earlswood.



View from Newchurch ridge road

National Cycle Route 42 leads back to Chepstow following the Mounton Brook, a tiny stream which once powered at least eight paper mills in the area.

