



#### Follow the acorn with confidence

its distinctive black signs which give visitors confidence they will find their way along the route. Signage shows what activities

stretches, although damaged or eroded surfaces can hardgoing for novice mountain bikers and mobility scooters

### Be a caring, friendly visitor

looking after The Ridgeway and making it a friendly place. Report problems to the Ridgeway Officer and share your favourite photos and stories on social media. Ensure you are a considerate visitor by knowing the

Countryside Code and adhering to Trail signage

Walking, cycling and horse riding are carbon-free activities. Visitors can further educe their environmental impact by travelling to the Trail without their car and choosing locally-sourced

and sustainable products and services. Our website provides further details about sustainable choices including public transport and cycle hire (including electric bicycles).

**Dog walkers** – please keep your dog under control to reduce distress to livestock ground-nesting birds and other visitors. Use bins to dispose of dog waste responsibly.

Cyclists - slow down around

walkers and horse riders and. if approaching from behind, call out 'hello' in advance.

#### Take it easy or take on a challenge!

Some visitors sample the highlights and take time to soak up the atmosphere, whilst others complete all 87 miles and take part in endurance events. Events and holiday companies appeal to visitors who welcome support in planning a visit and trying something new. Everyone can plan ahead with confidence thanks to numerous guide books and our free enquiry service and online resources which include a GPX file, leaflets, events calendar and interactive map incorporating a distance calculator.

The Ridgeway is a great 'introduction' for people less familiar with the countryside and long distance adventures because, compared to other National Trails, the route is relatively short and close to populated areas with facilities Weary travellers can call taxi firms for a lift and accommodation providers often to help their guests too. Whatever your level of endurance, check weather forecasts and be prepared for rough surfaces and exposed high ground.

Celebrate completing all the miles with a certificate and enter our Facebook Hall of Fame!

### **Getting to The Ridgeway**

Car parks are dotted along the Trail but visitors are encouraged to consider sustainable travel using nearb train stations, coach stops, cycle hire and National Cycle Network routes. Visitors travelling from far away can make use of motorways, an airport coach stop at Lewknor and direct trains from London. Our website and free enquiry service provides further details and tips.



**The Ridgeway National Trail** 

The Ridgeway brings you to places rich in history, stories and myths involving Chewbacca,

Use this leaflet to inspire your next day trip or longer holiday and keep it as a record of your time travel' adventures along The Ridgeway Timeline!

Churchill, J.R.R Tolkien, Mary-

Ann Ochota and more....

Time travel back over 5,000 years at Wayland Smithy (shown right) where a Saxon God made swords and jewellery.

Free to visit and always open, The Ridgeway National Trail is an 87 mile signposted, off-road trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to explore scenic countryside



# **The Ridgeway** Timeline

## Before Homo V sapiens

Chalk bedrock formed 100-72 million years ago. Sarsen stones (2) formed 23-2.5 millions years ago.

Places with a number are shown on the map overleaf.

2850-2200BC, sarsens are moved from Fyfield Down to Avebury (1) to create the largest stone circle in Britain

Great Pyramid, Egypt,

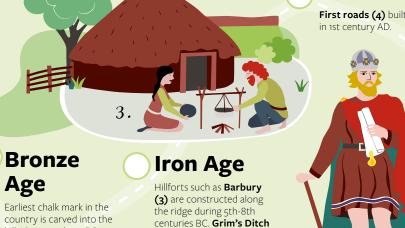
## Neolithic Wayland Smithy (5)

long barrow is created 3460-3400BC. Later in

# **Bronze**

Earliest chalk mark in the country is carved into the hillside around 500BC Uffington White Horse (6).

Tick off the places you visit as you time travel along The Ridgeway



(12) is dug near Wallingford

onger feature dividing the

around 100BC, part of a

and for miles around.

### Anglo-Saxon

Roman

King Alfred (8), born near Wantage in 849AD, battles against the Vikings, Coins buried near Watlington (13) become

A more detailed timeline with precise locations is provided online.



#### Norman

In 1067 AD, William the Conqueror orders a castle (10) to be built at Wallingford.

Easter Island statues. Polynesia, created

## Medieval

Black Death decimates the population in 1348 and sheep farming expands. Drovers walk miles with thousands of sheep to East Ilsley's

Machu Pichu, Peru, constructed 1500AD.

17 The Swan pub

East Ilslev, RG20 7LF

18 The Four Points pub

Aldworth, RG8 9RL

19 South Stoke shop

South Stoke, RG8

20 Blue Tin farmshop

20 King William IV pub

Nuffield, RG9 5SN

Nuffield, RG9 5SJ

23 Ewelme village store

Ewelme, OX10 6HP

Ewelme, OX10 6HQ

23 The Shepherd's Hut pub

22 Maker Space café

21 Nuffield church cream teas

19 The Perch and Pike pub

South Stoke, RG8 oJ9

### Stuart

#### Pitstone windmill (17) built before 1627 to mill grain into flour (it's now the oldest surviving post mill

in the country).

Wealthy society brings race meetings and winning thoroughbred horses to the Berkshire Downs

Georgian



First bridge built between Goring and Streatley (11) to replace a ferry the 1840s-50s, Chiltern beechwoods (14) were cutting and 'turning' timber for chairs.

Victorian

#### Inter-war years In 1920s-30s, artists Eric

Ravilious, Paul Nash, John Nash and Clare Leighton chalk marks (6) and (15). In 1933, England's largest at Whipsnade (18).

#### War II Post WWII In the 1940s, Prime

World

Minister Churchill works on his radio speeches at Tolkien publishes Lord of Chequers (16). Pillboxes and the Rings in 1954, inspired by places along The Ridgeway. In anti-aircraft guns are installed in strategic places. 1973, The Ridgeway becomes a new National Trail.



#### Adventure to suit you, friends and family

Take your pick of stunning viewpoints, famous prehistoric monuments, welcoming country pubs, wildlife-rich nature reserves cosy bed-and-breakfasts and more.

You can design your own adventure or choose ready-made itineraries and events.

Our selection of circular walks, runs and rides combine several attractions and cover a range of distances and technical difficulty.

With London, Oxford and Bath just a train ride away, it is easy to combine a city break with an escape to the country along The

Ridgeway.



#### The Ridgeway connects three county high points: Uffington hillfort (Oxon), Coombe Hill (Bucks) and Pavis Woods (Herts). The Trail's highest point is

267m at Liddington Castle. Chewbacca climbed Ivinghoe Beacon to film Star Wars Episode IX! On average, people walk about 2.5 miles an hour,

slowing down on climbs and descents. Guide books break the Trail into 6 or more day walks. It is possible to cover greater distances per day with a bicycle or horse. Some people use electric bicycles and baggage carrier services to make the going easier

#### Year-round, all-weathers

Enjoy seasonal highlights on any outing with the #RidgewaySpotter challenges featuring famous outdoor mum-of-two Mary-Ann Ochota. When the weather turns bad, head indoors to enjoy numerous pubs, cafes and shops as well as National Trust properties and local museums along the Trail.

# Eat, drink, sleep

Pubs, cafes, farmshops, bed-andbreakfasts, campsites, stabling and more are dotted along The Ridgeway in villages, towns and countryside. Places to eat and drink in the countryside are listed here with their map number (check website for updates).

- 1 Waggon and Horses pub Beckhampton, SN8 1QJ
- 2 The White Horse pub Winterbourne Bassett, SN4 9OB
- 2 The Crown pub Broad Hinton, SN4 9PA
- 3 The Bell pub West Overton, SN8 1QD

- 4 The Who'd A Thought It pub Lockeridge, SN8 4EL
- Chiseldon, SN4 oH 6 The Crown pub Aldbourne, SN8 2DU

5 Three Trees café/shop

- 6 The Blue Boar pub Aldbourne, SN8 2EN
- 7 The Village Inn
- Liddington, SN4 oHE 8 Rose and Crown pub
- 8 Ashbury tea room/shop
- 9 White Horse Inn Woolstone, SN7 7OL
- 9 Mobile catering van
- 10 The Blowing Stone pub Kingston Lisle OX12 9OL

Sparsholt, OX12 9PL

10 The Star Inn

- 11 Childrey Stores Childrey, OX12 8UE
- 11 The Greyhound Inn Letcombe Regis, OX12 9JL 12 Court Hill Centre café
- Letcombe Regis, OX12 9NE 13 The Boar's Head pub Ardington, OX12 8QA
- 13 The Grocer Chef café/shop rdington OX12 8PS
- 14 Hendred Stores shop
- 14 Eyston Arms pub 15 The Harrow pub
- West Ilslev. RG20 7AR 16 The Rose and Crown pub Chilton, OX11 oRZ

East Ilsley, RG20 7LH

16 The George and Dragon pub Upton, OX11 9JJ 17 Crown and Horns pub

fairs and markets (9).

# 24 Fox and Hounds pub

Christmas Common, OX49 5H

- 25 The Leathern Bottle pub 18 The Bell pub Aldworth, RG8 9SE Lewknor, OX49 5TW
  - 25 The Lambert Arms hotel Lewknor, OX49 5SO
  - 26 Lions of Bledlow pub Bledlow, HP27 9PE
  - Vhiteleaf, HP27 oLL 28 The Plough at Cadsden pub

27 Red Lion Whiteleaf pub

- 29 Buckmoorend Farmshop Butler's Cross, HP17 oU
- 30 The Cock and Rabbit pub The Lee HP16 at 7
- 31 Wendover Woods café Wendover, HP22 5NF
- 32 Wigginton village shop/café Wigginton, HP23 6HH
- 33 The Greyhound Wigginton pub Wigginton, HP23 6EH

34 Grand Junction Arms pub Bulbourne, HP23 5QE

34 Red Lion pub

36 Ashridge café

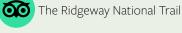
- Marsworth, HP23 4LU 34 Angler's Retreat pub Marsworth, HP23 4LJ
- 34 Water's Edge restaurant Marsworth, HP23 4LJ
- 35 The Greyhound Inn Aldbury



# THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL

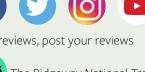
Free visitor information is available from the Ridgeway Officer

01865 810248









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