

Welcome to the new series of **18 circular pub walks along The Ridgeway National Trail**. These walks have been designed by Charles Whyne-Hammond and the Friends of the Ridgeway.

Letcombe Regis and the Greyhound Inn and Court Hill Centre

This is classic Ridgeway walking through the heart of an Iron Age hillfort along bridleways and clear gravel tracks.



The view from the Court Hill Centre

Distance: 13.2 km (8.2 miles); distance on Ridgeway: 4.2 km (2.6 miles).

Maps: OS Explorer 170 West sheet, OS Landranger 174.

Accessibility: Moderate and stile-free.

Bus routes: Access to Letcombe Regis is on the Oxford Bus Company's 68 bus service, which runs between Wantage and Faringdon. The nearest train station is Didcot, from which you can take a bus to Wantage, and then transfer to the 68 bus for Letcombe Regis.

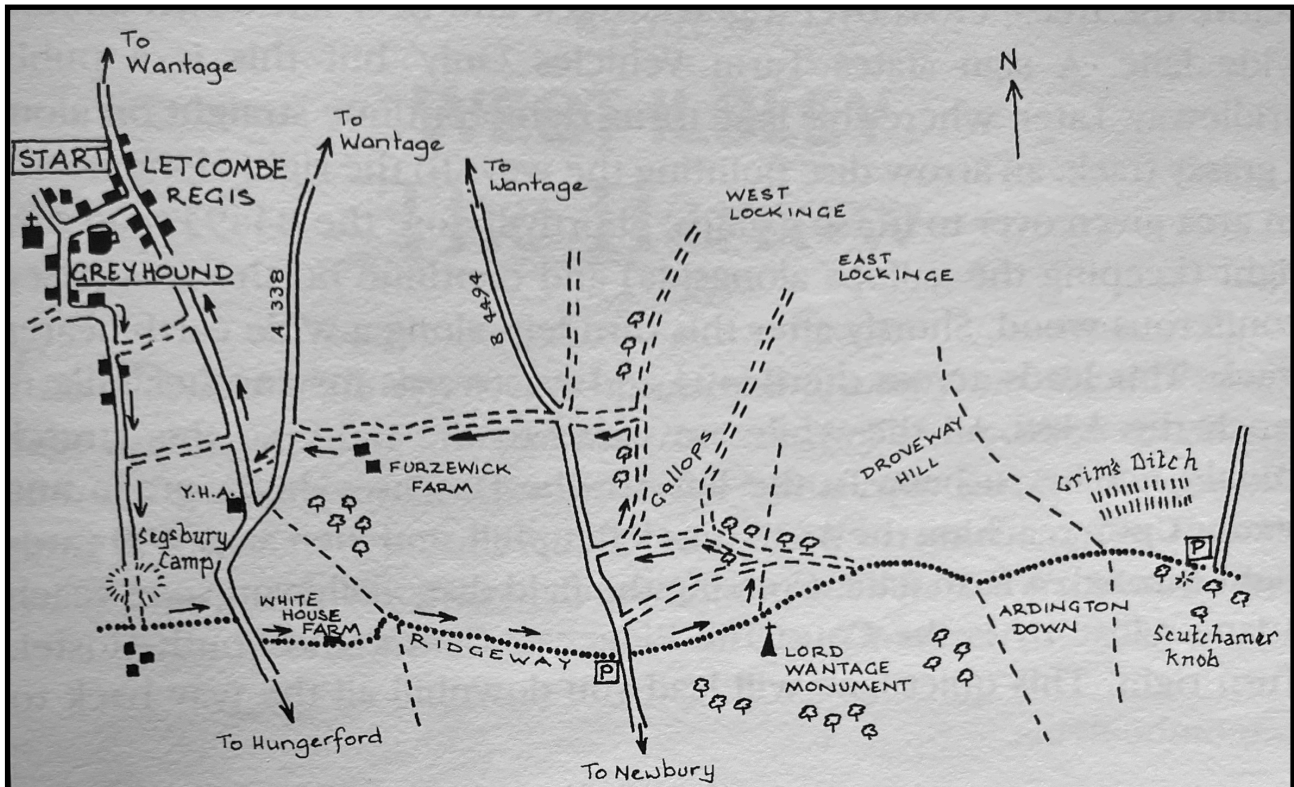
Parking: Letcombe Regis is just 2 miles south-west of Wantage, nestling in the shadow of the Lambourn Downs. It is close to the A338 to Hungerford and the B4507 to Ashbury and Swindon. The Greyhound is in the village centre with a car park, but check with them first. Cars can also be left on village streets, but please park with consideration and care.

Highlights: Segsbury Camp and the Lord Wantage Monument.

Refreshments: The Greyhound Inn, Main Street, Letcombe Regis OX12 9JL and mid-way is the Court Hill Centre on Ct Hill Rd, Letcombe Regis, Wantage OX12 9NE.

Walk Directions

Turn left outside the Greyhound and left again opposite the church. This lane is a no through road and leads directly to the downland escarpment. Follow it all the way to the point where it joins the Ridgeway, just over a mile (1.6 km) away. This agreeable walk with hedges on both sides and fine views to the right through the gaps. The lane becomes a gravel track as it cuts through the centre of Segsbury Camp, before meeting the Ridgeway on the other side. An interpretation board tells more of its fascinating story.



Segsbury Camp or Castle (also called Letcombe Castle or Camp) is another Iron Age hillfort, covering an enormous 26 acres. It has extensive ramparts and ditches, and four gateways. It is thought to date from the 6th century BC. Its earthworks were once fenced with sarsen stones, some of which can still be seen.

Turn left along the Ridgeway to follow it eastwards. Here the National Trail is a wide, fenced gravel trackway popular with cyclists and horse riders. Unusually the views are southwards across the sweep of the chalky Berkshire Downs, rather than northwards. This is because the land rises slightly to the left, the track being lower than the ridge top. The Ridgeway crosses the main A338 road, going right then left, and continues past White House Farm. Thereafter it bends sharp left to reach a T junction of bridleways. Those wishing to shorten the walk can turn left here. The track makes its way back to the A338, on the other side of which, just a few metres down the turning to Letcombe Regis, is the Court Hill Centre, a favourite for Ridgeway users, offering food and lodgings. To continue on the walk, turn right at the T junction. Along this next stretch the way is a grassy ride, rutted by vehicles. Ahead of you and to the right you will see the telecoms mast near Betterton Down, and now you will see the view to the left stretching towards Didcot. Lord Wantage's Monument will soon be reached, on the far side of the B4494.

This memorial commemorates Robert Loyd-Lindsay, 1st Baron Wantage (1832 to 1901), who was a soldier, politician and philanthropic landowner. He was a co-founder of

the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, which later shortened its unwieldy name to the British Red Cross Society.

To return to your starting point, turn left downhill opposite the monument towards a small woodland. Just before the trees, cross over a gravel track and bear left through the trees down another wide lane. When this lane turns right, continue ahead on a grassy track, with a horse gallops to the right. Shortly before the B4494, turn right, keeping the gallops to your right, and continue northwards past a wood. When almost at the end of the gallops railing, after a slight dip and rise, turn left through a gap in the trees with the wood now on your left and a hedge/fence on the right. This leads across the B4494 and goes westwards for another mile to reach the A338. Upon reaching the A338 turn left, uphill, and then, after 100m, turn right over a log barrier. Crossing the field diagonally left, as indicated by the signpost, you soon reach a lane, close to the Court Hill Centre. Turn right downhill and walk back to the Greyhound and Letcombe Regis.



The Greyhound Inn

With thanks to Countryside Books, Charles Whyne-Hammond author, Glenys Jones for the maps and Tim Lewis of Friends of the Ridgeway. Photo credits Mary Tebje.