

The Ridgeway National Trail



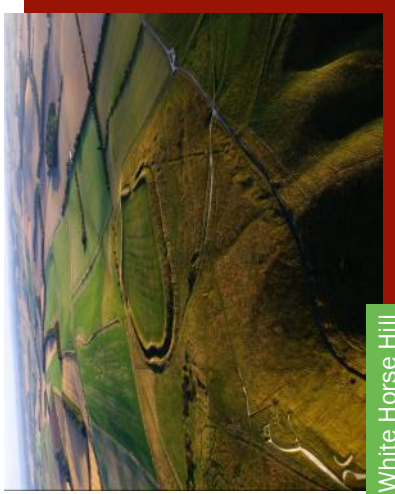
The Ridgeway National Trail is the 87-mile central section, between Ivinghoe Beacon in the Chilterns, and the Avebury World Heritage Site in Wiltshire, of an ancient trade route along the chalk downs stretching from Norfolk to the Dorset coast.



Barbury Castle



Hackpen Hill



White Horse Hill



Coombe Hill



Ivinghoe Beacon



Watlington market town

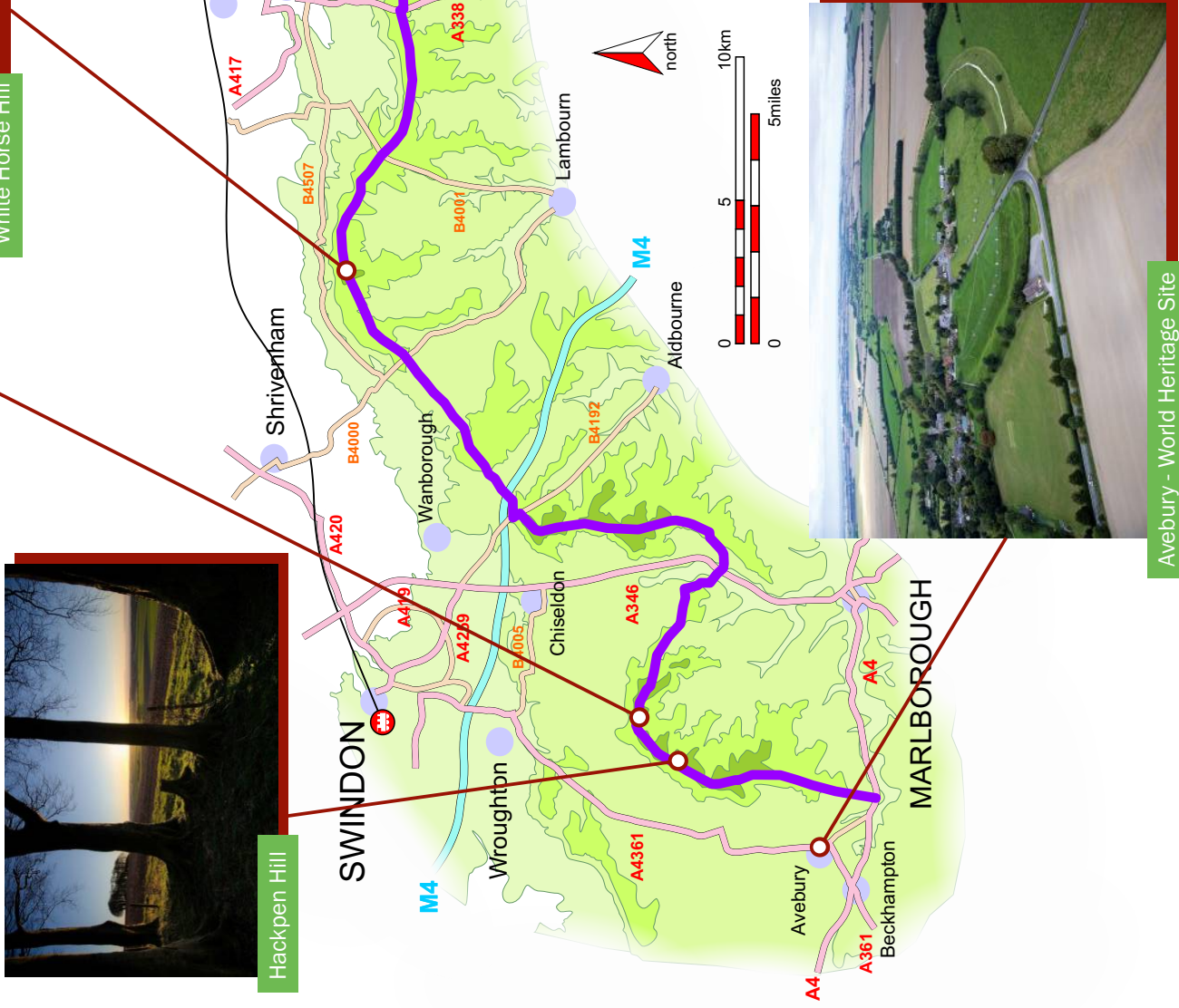


The River Thames at Goring



Grim's Ditch

Established in 2006, Natural England is the government's independent adviser on the natural environment. Its work is focused on enhancing England's wildlife and landscapes and maximizing the benefits they bring to the public. It promotes access to the wider countryside, helping establish National Trails and ensuring that the public can enjoy and benefit from them.



Avebury - World Heritage Site



The Ridgeway Partnership

The Partners

- The Lead Partner (accountable body) - Oxfordshire County Council
- Other local authorities:-
 - Buckinghamshire County Council
 - Hertfordshire County Council
 - Oxfordshire County Council
 - Swindon Borough Council
 - Wiltshire Council
 - West Berkshire Council
- Natural England
- North Wessex Downs AONB
- Chilterns Conservation Board
- Stakeholders:-
 - Amenity
 - Archaeology
 - Cyclists
 - Environment
 - Landowners
 - Equestrians
 - Special Interest
 - Tourism/Business
- Chiltern Society
- Sustrans and Mountain Biking Clubs
- Natural England
- Country Landowners Association
- British Horse Society
- The Friends of the Ridgeway
- Vale of the White Horse and South Oxon DC
- Economic Development Department
- The National Trust
- The Ramblers
- World Heritage Site
- Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site

The National Trails Team based with Oxfordshire Countryside Access in Eynsham helps to maintain The Ridgeway and supports volunteers in providing monitoring and maintenance for both The Ridgeway and The Thames Path National Trail. In addition organisations like the Friends of the Ridgeway, Chiltern Society and Ramblers provide volunteers to help maintain this ancient path and they make a substantial contribution. Ridgeway Officer Sarah Wright works closely with the National Trails Team and with all Ridgeway volunteer groups.

Contact The Ridgeway Partnership: The Ridgeway Officer, c/o Oxfordshire Countryside Services, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4TL

The Ridgeway Partnership

From 1st April, 2015, The Ridgeway Partnership will manage, develop and promote The Ridgeway National Trail and its wider Ridgeway corridor and environment.

Now it will be easier than ever to enjoy the spectacular scenery and monuments of this ancient route through the heart of Southern England.



Ian Ritchie, Chair of The Ridgeway Partnership, says

“ The Partnership represents a great opportunity to bring the delights of the UK's oldest path to a much greater number of people, pursuing a wide range of activities. The Ridgeway has some spectacular scenery and prehistoric sites such as the Uffington White Horse and the series of Iron Age hill forts along its length. We aim to encourage more people to get out and enjoy it, and we want to introduce it to young people and make it accessible for the less mobile and those with disabilities.”

The Ridgeway National Trail is the 87-mile central section, between Ivinghoe Beacon in the Chilterns, and the Avebury World Heritage Site in Wiltshire, of an ancient trade route along the chalk downs stretching from Norfolk to the Dorset coast. Its glorious scenery, wide-ranging views and cloudscapes, the hill-forts and ancient monuments, nature reserves and biodiversity along the route provide users with a rich variety of delights.

The Ridgeway is one of the family of only 16 high-quality National Trails overseen by Natural England in England and Wales.

Find out more: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/Ridgeway
www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk



My Ridgeway:

Which aspect most appeals?

These themes are our key aspirations:-

The Natural Ridgeway:

The Ridgeway forms a natural corridor through the length of the Chilterns and the North Wessex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a precious reserve of bio-diversity in the heart of South-east England, that we'd like to see designated and protected as well as enjoyed.

The Ancient Ridgeway: Itself an ancient monument, the Ridgeway links hill-forts, barrows, hill-figures such as the famous Uffington White Horse, and the Avebury World Heritage Site. We plan to raise awareness of this rich heritage and support its further discovery and understanding.

The Sporting Ridgeway: We plan to extend the scope for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, plus kite and model flying, geo-caching and orienteering, and challenge events, with improved access and facilities.

The Creative Ridgeway: The peaceful atmosphere and associations of the path and its unrivalled scenery have inspired writers and artists of all sorts. We shall encourage them to share the results, and others to learn and develop their skills in this exalting environment.

Artist Anna Dillon - The Ridgeway towards Uffington



The Living Ridgeway: A feature of people's daily lives in communities along the route, for dog-walking and picnics, chillingax or just admiring the view, The Ridgeway links walkers to welcoming pubs, shops and country fare,

to public transport and beds for the night. We'll try to make sure that the Ridgeway always provides quiet enjoyment for everyone.

Dave Cavanagh of the Ramblers, a Partnership member, says

“ We shall enhance the visitors' experience by improving the approach paths to The Ridgeway with the help of volunteers from Ramblers and the Chiltern Society. This will encourage people to park in villages or use public transport, explore the many circular routes that take in sections of The Ridgeway, and enjoy local pubs and tea shops on their return.”



The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL

The Ridgeway Partnership will:-

- Give a voice to everyone with an interest in The Ridgeway, either through the Partnership or a new Ridgeway Forum.
- Ensure clear responsibility and a constant point of contact through a full-time Ridgeway Officer.
- Ensure maintenance and development with dedicated volunteer help to at least National Trail standards.
- Improve access from and integration with local communities and services.
- Raise awareness and appreciation of The Ridgeway by both locals and visitors.
- Boost visitor numbers and benefits to local economies.
- Work closely with landowners, farmers and local residents to ensure a good experience for users with minimum impact on the environment.



Sarah Wright, the new Ridgeway Officer, says:

“ I'm here to help local communities, local businesses and visitors make the most of The Ridgeway. It is a part of our national heritage to be proud of and we have the opportunity to realise further benefits and to secure a sustainable future.”

The Swan at Streatley (Ron Bridle)

How Can I Get Involved?

As a Volunteer?

Join the Volunteer maintenance or monitoring scheme; help to clear encroaching vegetation, mend signs and fences, pick litter or just check paths for damage.

Join The National Trails Team for The Ridgeway:
e-mail Sarah.Wright@oxfordshire.gov.uk
or join the Chiltern Society volunteers in your area:
tel 01494 771250

Help with information, communications, publicity and fund-raising;

Contact The Ridgeway Officer:
c/o Oxfordshire Countryside Access, Signal Court,
Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4TL;
tel 01865 810248
or e-mail Sarah.Wright@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Help with Funding?

Natural England provides a core grant, but extra funds are needed to ensure standards are maintained and to cover operating and development costs.

Donate on line at MyDonate:
mydonate.bt.com/donation/ridgewaypartnership
Donate to The Friends of The Ridgeway:
www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk



The Ridgeway Partnership



The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL

