

GUIDANCE FOR ORGANISERS PLANNING EVENTS ON THE RIDGEWAY

This guidance is provided to sit alongside the national event guidance covering all National Trails in England and Wales. Both this Ridgeway-specific guidance and the national guidance are available as downloads from the National Trail website. This guidance sets out tables of Ridgeway information to assist event organisers. It is not possible to provide this information in GIS/GPX format due to restrictions on our Ordnance Survey licence. Grid references are provided to enable event organisers to create their own GPX files.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVENTS ALONG THE RIDGEWAY

Events on The Ridgeway are a great way to encourage and support the public in enjoying the Trail. The Trail Team welcomes well-organised events and seeks to promote a range of events that offer opportunities to walk, run, cycle and horse ride along the Trail. Events which introduce people to new activities and new locations, as well as those events for the more professional athlete, play an important part in enriching people's experience of the Trail and the countryside more generally, and also in supporting people's wellbeing.

The Ridgeway follows public rights of way and public roads for 87 miles (139km) from Overton Hill in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire. Public rights of way cross land which is privately owned, giving the public a right to pass along the route (but not do anything else such as picnic or loiter). The Trail must be kept free from obstruction at all times so that people can pass along it. Rights of way are legally set out under highways legislation and the Countryside Code also provides a useful framework for appropriate visitor behaviour along the Trail.

All 87 miles of the Trail are open to people on foot and also disabled people in a mobility scooter or other 'carriage'. In comparison, cyclists and horse riders have public rights to pass along only those sections of the Trail which are bridleway, restricted byways and byway, i.e. not the footpath stretches. The same applies to the surrounding rights of way network. There is therefore greater opportunity for walking and running events, although plenty cycling and horse riding events demonstrate that great routes can be found using the parts of the Trail that are open to them. Signs along The Ridgeway clearly indicate the status of the route along its length (footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway).

Other users of the Trail include people driving a carriage with horse(s) on restricted byway and byway stretches and also motorised vehicles. The public can drive cars or motorbikes or other motor-powered vehicles on byway stretches only (and only if there are no Traffic Regulation Orders in force) but farmers and shooting parties also drive along the Trail using their private rights.

The Ridgeway surface is vulnerable to damage during periods of wet weather, particularly stretches where the Trail surface is unmade/natural/grass turf, such as Smeathe's Ridge in Wiltshire. Event organisers must plan to avoid causing damage to the surface. Some

activities present a higher risk of damage than others, particularly in the winter months e.g. events involving lots of horses. Climate change is making weather patterns less predictable and extreme weather events are more likely – this means the risk of sudden downpours is greater and so surface damage is becoming increasingly more likely.

The Trail passes through some remote areas of countryside, isolated houses, villages and market towns. Local residents and regular visitors to the Trail often value the tranquillity and calm of the Trail so it is important that event organisers engage with local residents to understand their interests and manage event impacts upon these interests. The Trail Team can help you engage with local communities and regular users, particularly through social media, Trail signage and parish councils. In addition, the countryside around the Trail is a working landscape, with farmers making a living from crops and livestock in the fields. The horse racing industry also has a significant presence in the western half of the Trail. Tractors, livestock and other machinery needs to have access along the Trail and, as per the Countryside Code, event participants must avoid distressing livestock and horses. The Trail Team can help event organisers engage with landowners, farmers and racing stables.

FIRST STEPS IN ORGANISING AN EVENT ON THE RIDGEWAY

Get in touch with the Ridgeway Officer as early in the planning process as possible. There are some long-established events on the Trail which take place around the same time each year, so it is advisable to check the Ridgeway calendar as a starting point. The current calendar and also an event registration form and event guidance are available as pdf downloads from the Ridgeway's event webpages. The registration form provides some useful prompts to ensure events are planned properly and local stakeholders are informed, including how to add event details to the website.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE TRAIL TEAM

Ridgway Officer – Sarah Wright ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk 01844 810224 www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway/events

OFFICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIDGEWAY

• The Ridgeway National Trail Guide - by Anthony Burton, Aurum Press, 2016. This is the official guide with written route description and Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps.

• National Trail website <u>www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway</u> - there is a wealth of useful and free information online, including an interactive map showing car parking areas, places to eat, nearby train stations etc. There is a gpx file of the route of The Ridgeway available to download. There are also free leaflets to download.

MAPS

- **Ridgeway**: (Harvey Maps). Detailed waterproof map at scale of 1:40 000 of the route of The Ridgeway including locations of services close to the Trail.
- Ridgeway A-Z Adventure Atlas: (Geographer's A-Z Map Company Ltd). Detailed OS mapping at scale of 1:25 000 in booklet format.
- Ordnance Surveymaps the following sheets cover the length of The Ridgeway: Landranger series (pink cover, 1:50 000 or 2 cm to 1 km)
 173 Swindon & Devizes
 174 Newbury & Wantage
 175 Reading &Windsor
 165 Aylesbury & Leighton Buzzard
 Explorer series (orange cover, 1:25 000 or 4 cm to 1 km)
 157 Marlborough & Savernake Forest
 170 Abingdon,Wantage & Vale of White Horse
 171 Chiltern Hills West
 181 Chiltern Hills North

TRAIN STATIONS AND LONG DISTANCE COACH STOPS NEAR THE RIDGEWAY (from west to east along Trail)

Information last updated March 2019.

Train Station Name						
(stations/coach					Distance from Ridgeway	
stops under 2km					for a walker using roads	
from The Ridgeway	Train/coach				and rights of way,	
are highlighted)	operators	Eastings	Northings	Postcode	shortest distance (km)	Address

Swindon 414926 Great Western 185213 SN1 1DQ 9 Station Road, Swindon, Wiltshire Pewsey Train **Great Western** 416054 SN9 5EL TBC North Street, Pewsey Station 160366 твс Bedwyn (BDW) TBC TBC TBC The Knapp, Great Bedwyn TBC First Great Hungerford (HGD) Station Road, Hungerford Western TBC TBC TBC TBC Didcot Parkway Didcot Parkway Station, Station Road, (DID) 9.5 Didcot, Oxfordshire **Great Western** 452529 190510 **OX11 7NR** Cholsey (CHO) Railway Approach, Cholsey, Oxfordshire **Great Western** 458445 186032 **OX10 9LN** 3.7 Goring and Streatley Gatehampton Road, Goring, Oxfordshire 460254 RG8 0ES Great Western 180641 0.5 Reading Station, Station Hill, Reading, First Great Reading (RDG) Western TBC TBC TBC TBC Berkshire **Princes Risborough** (PRR) **Chiltern Railways** 479962 202764 HP27 9DD 0.7 Station Approach, Princess Risborough Monks Risborough (MRS) **Chiltern Railways** 480957 204807 HP27 9LW 1.6 Lowbrook Road, Monks Risborough Little Kimble (LTK) 482350 HP17 OXN 1.6 **Chiltern Railways** 206629 Risborough Road, Little Kimble 481308 198108 HP14 4LJ TBC Saunderton (SDR) **Chiltern Railways** Slough Lane, Saunderton

Amersham (London						
Underground –	Transport for					
Metropolitan line)	London	ТВС	ТВС	ТВС	TBC	Amersham, Buckinghamshire
Chesham (London						
Underground –	Transport for					
Metropolitan line)	London	ТВС	ТВС	TBC	TBC	Chesham, Buckinghamshire
Amersham	Chiltern Railways	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Amersham, Buckinghamshire
Great Missenden						
(GMN)	Chiltern Railways	ТВС	TBC	TBC	TBC	Station Approach, Great Missenden
						Station Approach, Pound Street,
Wendover (WND)	Chiltern Railways	486524	207773	HP22 6BT	0.3	Wendover
	London					
Tring (TRI)	Northwestern	495058	212223	HP23 5QS	0.1	Station Road, Tring
Aylesbury (AYS)	Chiltern Railways	TBC	ТВС	ТВС	TBC	Station Way West, Aylesbury
	London					
Cheddington (CED)	Northwestern	492231	218558	LU7 OSQ	TBC	Station Road, Cheddington
Luton (LUT)	ТВС	ТВС	ТВС	ТВС	TBC	Station Road, Luton
Berkhamsted (BKM)	ТВС	ТВС	ТВС	ТВС	ТВС	Station Approach, Berkhamsted
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Beckhampton coach						
stop	National Express	409022	168927	SN8 1QL	ТВС	Beckhampton, Wiltshire
Lewknor coach stop	Airline	472132	197702	OX49 5TJ	ТВС	Lewknor, Oxfordshire
Lewknor coach stop	Oxford Tube	472132	197702	OX49 5TJ	ТВС	Lewknor, Oxfordshire

ROAD AND RAIL CROSSINGS AND ROAD SECTIONS

The Ridgeway crosses a number of roads (and a railway track in one location), some of which are major roads. In a few places, the Trail follows roads for short distances, some of which do not have a pavement. All road/rail crossings and road sections need to be assessed for

safety, but a list of crossing points is provided below to inform risk assessments. Highlighted information refers to locations where the Trail Team have had feedback that the roads need careful assessment, e.g. event organisers have noted speeding traffic, Network Rail safety assessments.

Information last updated March 2019.

LOCATION	County	Easting	Northing
A4 Overton Hill	Wiltshire	411865	168063
Minor road - Hackpen Hill, Wilts	Wiltshire	412905	174718
Minor road - unamed road west of Ogbourne St George High Street	Wiltshire	419230	174593
Minor road - unamed road, Southend	Wiltshire	419698	173585
A346 Southend near Ogbourne St George	Wiltshire	419800	173500
B4192 east of Liddington Castle and for 200m	Swindon	421800	180500
Minor road - The Ridge Way, M4 crossing	Swindon	422551	180838
B4000 Ashbury Hill, South of Ashbury	Oxfordshire	427400	184400
Minor road - Blowingstone Hill south of Kingston Lisle	Oxfordshire	432300	186300
B4001 Tour of Berkshire, South of Sparsholt	Oxfordshire	434300	185100
A338 Manor Road, South of Wantage	Oxfordshire	439400	184500
B4494 Chainhill Road, South of Wantage	Oxfordshire	441900	184100
Minor road - Bury Lane at Bury Down north of West Ilsley	West Berkshire	447900	184000
Minor road - Rectory Road, Streatley	West Berkshire	457951	181469
A329 Wallingford Road, Streatley	West Berkshire	459136	180892
B4009 High Street Streatley	West Berkshire	459399	180781
B4009 High Street Goring	Oxfordshire	459729	180800
Minor road - Thames Road, Goring on Thames	Oxfordshire	459829	180914
A417 Wantage Road, where Ridgeway joins road at Streatley	West Berkshire	459000	181500

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A4074 Portway at Mongewell/start of Grims Ditch section	Oxfordshire	461700	187900
A4130 - Gangsdown Hill, at Nuffield	Oxfordshire	467500	187800
B480 Howe Road, south of Watlington	Oxfordshire	469400	193300
Minor road - Hill Road nr Watlington Hill	Oxfordshire	469900	194000
A40 east of Lewknor, near Aston Rowant NNR	Oxfordshire	472800	197700
Minor road - Kingston Hill near Kingston Blount, south of Chinnor	Oxfordshire	474100	198700
A4010 Wycombe Road, south of Princes Risborough	Buckinghamshire	480700	201900
Minor road - Cadsdean Road at Lower Cadsden for 100m	Buckinghamshire	482600	204500
Minor road - Ellesborough Road at bottom of Bacombe Hill just west of Wendover	Buckinghamshire	486400	207500
Minor road - Beggars Lane, west of Tring Station just before Canal	Hertfordshire	494800	212100
Minor road - Station Road east of Tring Station	Buckinghamshire	495300	212400
Railway level crossing - Saunderton, south of Princes Risborough	Buckinghamshire	480100	201000
Minor Road - Stocks Road, Pitstone	Buckinghamshire	495545	214894
Minor Road – The Twist, Wigginton	Hertfordshire	493880	210769
Minor Road – Fox Road, Wigginton	Hertfordshire	493460	210559
Minor Road – Bottom Road, Chivery	Buckinghamshire	490550	208499
Minor Road – Hale Lane, The Hale	Buckinghamshire	489770	207409
Minor Road – Peters Lane, Whiteleaf	Buckinghamshire	482265	203591
Minor Road – New Road, Princes Risborough	Buckinghamshire	481262	203124
Minor Road – Lee Road, Saunderton	Buckinghamshire	479901	200361
Minor Road – Wigan's Lane, Bledlow Ridge	Buckinghamshire	478459	200511
Minor Road – Hill Road, Chinnor	Oxfordshire	476039	200263
Minor Road – Hill Road, Lewknor	Oxfordshire	472089	196891
Minor Road – Britwell Hill, Britwell Salome	Oxfordshire	468101	192196
Minor Road – Church Lane, Swyncombe	Oxfordshire	468303	190391
Minor Road – Old Icknield Way, Ipsden	Oxfordshire	463603	187571

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Minor Road – Cox's Lane, Ipsden	Oxfordshire	463058	187671
Minor Road – Copse Drove, Woodsend	Wiltshire	421490	175375
Minor Road - Ivinghoe Beacon	Buckinghamshire	496030	216318

PUBLIC TOILETS (from west to east along Trail)

Information last updated March 2019

					Baby	Opening				
Location	Address	Male	Female	Disabled	Changing	hours	Cost	Contact	Eastings	Northing
Marlborough,	George Lane,							Marlborough Town		
George Lane car	Marlborough,							Council - 01672		
park	Wilts SN8 4BX	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	24hours	TBC	512487	418902	168914
								Swindon Borough		
	Wroughton,							Council Ranger Centre,		
Barbury Castle	Swindon, Wilts							Coate Water Park -		
Country Park	SN4 0QH	TBC	ТВС	TBC	ТВС	ТВС	TBC	01793 490150	4155	1762
	Court Hill Road,									
	Letcombe Regis,									
Court Hill Centre	Wantage, OX12	Unise						Court Hill Centre -		
Letcombe Regis	9NE	x	Unisex	TBC	ТВС	ТВС	Free	01235 760253	4393	1849
								Healthmatic Ltd -		
								01249 822063 9am-		
								5pm office hours		
Goring, Wheel	Station Road,							(Monday-Friday) or		
Orchard Car	Goring, Oxon							01249 823143 Out of		
Park	RG8 9HB	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	24hours	Free	hours	4602	1807
Wallingford,	New Road,							Healthmatic Ltd -		
Cattle Market	Wallingford,					8.00am-		01249 822063 9am-		
car park	Oxon OX10 0AU	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7.30pm	Free	5pm office hours	460844	189218

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								(Monday-Friday) or 01249 823143 Out of		
								hours		
								Healthmatic Ltd -		
	The Street,							01249 822063 9am-		
	Crowmarsh							5pm office hours		
	Gifford,					1 March - 27		(Monday-Friday) or		
Wallingford,	Wallingford,					October only		01249 823143 Out of		
Riverside	Oxon OX10 8EB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	, 24 hrs a day	Free	hours	461134	189477
								Healthmatic Ltd -		
								01249 822063 9am-		
								5pm office hours		
Wallingford, St	High Street,							(Monday-Friday) or		
Albans/Waitros	Wallingford,							01249 823143 Out of		
e car park	Oxon, OX10 0XB	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	24hours	20p	hours	460671	189461
	High Street,							Watlington parish		
Watlington High	Watlington,							council - 01491		
Street	Oxon, OX49 5QP	Yes	Yes	Yes	TBC	24 hours	free	613867	4689	1945
Princes	Horns Lane,									
Risborough	Princes							Princes Risborough		
Horn Mill car	Risborough,							Town Council - 01844		
park	Bucks, HP27 0AW	TBC	ТВС	Yes	Yes	7.15am-8pm	TBC	275912	4809	2033
	High St,									
	Wendover,							Aylesbury Vale District		
Wendover,	Aylesbury HP22					7:30am -		Council - 01296		
public library	6DU	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7:30pm	TBC	585858	4868	2078
	Forge Car Park,					Monday to		Dacorum Borough		
Tring, Forge Car	High Street,					Saturday		Council - 01442		
Park	Tring, HP23 5AH	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7am – 5pm	TBC	228000	492536	211506

INDOOR CHECKPOINT LOCATIONS – VILLAGE HALLS

A list of village halls and other similar venues around The Ridgeway is available to those events making the suggested donation to The Ridgeway.

CAR PARKING AND OUTDOOR CHECKPOINT LOCATIONS

There are numerous places where it is possible to park a car but event organisers need to ensure their activities do not impinge on other users and affect landowner activities. Congestion is one of the major gripes of local residents too, so it is best to minimise the number of cars being brought into the area and along rural roads. The huge majority of events will need to find event parking elsewhere for their participants, although it is possible to negotiate use of one of Bury Down's twin parking areas since there is space to cater for a number of cars or horse boxes in some circumstances. It is best to promote substituting the car for more sustainable travel in any case, encouraging participants to make use of local train stations with event organisers providing a minibus from train station to Ridgeway.

Setting up a checkpoint requires landowner permission. The following list of locations are provided as a <u>starting point</u> for check point locations, not as places for event participants to park.

It is worth noting that numerous landowners along the Trail are interested in providing temporary car parking, camping sites etc for events on land that is otherwise private or not usually accessible to the public. The Trail Team can assist in contacting and negotiating with landowners if appropriate.

All the parking locations listed below are marked on the interactive map on the National Trails website. There are additional parking locations to those listed below.

Information last updated Jan 2020.

Car Parking Area Name from west to east Highlighted areas are <u>on</u> the Trail	County	Contact	Car Park grid reference	Car Park on OS 25k map as blue P?
Overton Hill	Wiltshire	Contact Trail Team	SU119681	у
Hackpen Hill	Wiltshire	Contact Trail Team	SU129747	у
Barbury Castle	Swindon	Swindon Borough Council	SU157760	у

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Ashbury Hill	Oxfordshire	Contact Trail Team	SU274844	У
Uffington White Horse	Oxfordshire	National Trust	SU293866	у
Sparsholt Firs	Oxfordshire	Contact Trail Team	SU344851	у
Wantage Monument	Oxfordshire	Contact Trail Team	SU418841	n
Scutchamer's Knob	Oxfordshire	Contact Trail Team	SU458851	у
Bury Down	Berkshire	Contact Trail Team	SU479841	у
Rectory Road, Streatley (Thurle Down)	Berkshire	Contact Trail Team	SU567813	у
Goring Village	Oxfordshire	Parish council	SU599807	?
Watlington Hill	Oxfordshire	National Trust	SU710936	у
Bledlow village	Buckinghamshire	Parish council		n
Princes Risborough Town	Buckinghamshire	Town council	SP810034	n
Whiteleaf Hill	Buckinghamshire	Chiltern Society	SP824036	у
Pulpit Hill	Buckinghamshire	National Trust	SP833045	Υ
Coombe Hill	Buckinghamshire	National Trust	SP852062	у
Wendover village	Buckinghamshire	Town council	SP868077	n
Wendover Woods	Buckinghamshire	Forestry Commission		у
Tring Town	Hertfordshire	Town council		n
Tring train station	Hertfordshire	London Northwestern Rail	SP951123	Ν
Pitstone Hill	Hertfordshire	National Trust	SP955149	у
Ivinghoe Beacon	Buckinghamshire	National Trust	SP962162	n

LANDOWNERS

The Trail Team can assist with contacting landowners if an event is making the suggested donation to the Ridgeway. For example, the Trail Team are in contact with a number of landowners relating to the parking areas along the Trail. Other ways of making contact with landowners is through asking parish councils and in local shops and pubs.

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Parish and town councils are a useful means of engaging and informing local residents and businesses about your event, although their level of interest can be variable. Some produce newsletters which are delivered to local residents, for example. There are hundreds of parishes along the Trail. Local authorities have lists of parish council clerks available online but note that the Trail Team keep an updated list for parishes and town councils near to The Ridgeway. Many parish and town councils are on the Ridgeway newsletter mailing list so they routinely receive updates about events on the Trail in this way.

HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES

For events using rights of way and roads connecting to The Ridgeway, event organisers need to liaise with the highway authorities as well as the Trail Team. If your event doesn't involve roads, just ask for Rights of Way departments. The Trail Team can easily put you in touch with rights of way officers who cover the network around The Ridgeway.

Highway authority	Website	Phone	
Wiltshire (excl Swindon) Wiltshire Council	www.wiltshire.gov.uk	0300 456 0100	
Swindon Swindon Borough Council	www.swindon.gov.uk	01793 445500	
Oxfordshire Oxfordshire County Council	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 810226	
West Berkshire West Berkshire Council	www.westberks.gov.uk	01635 42400	
Buckinghamshire County Council	www.buckscc.gov.uk	0845 370 8090	
Hertfordshire Hertfordshire County Council	www.hertsdirect.org	0300 123 4040	

SAFETY ADVISORY GROUPS

It is essential that events liaise with SAGs to ensure the appropriate public safety measures etc are in place. These groups will check for necessary insurance and risk assessments. Any licences required for the event will also be arranged through this group.

Note that a map showing The Ridgeway relative to SAG boundaries is available from the Trail Team.

Information last updated Jan 2020.

SAG area	Contact email
Dacorum	SafetyAdvisoryGroup@dacorum.gov.uk
Aylesbury Vale	licensing@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
Wycombe	neil.stannett@wycombe.gov.uk
South & Vale	events@southandvale.gov.uk
West Berkshire	licensing@westberks.gov.uk
Swindon	TBC
Wiltshire	kevin.oliver@wiltshire.gov.uk

POLICE

The Safety Advisory Groups are the first step in making contact with the emergency services. However, it is sensible to be aware which police force covers your event area.

- Wiltshire Police: www.wiltshire.police.uk
- Thames Valley Police (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire): www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- Hertfordshire Police: www.herts.police.uk

HOSPITALS (from west to east along Trail)

Information last updated 2017.

Туре	Name	Address	Postcode	Phone	Opening times
Minor injuries	Devizes Community	New Park Rd, Devizes,	SN10 1EF	01380 723511	Mon-Thurs 8.30-17.00,
	Hospital	Wilts			Fri 8.30-16.30
A&E Open 24 hours	The Great Weston	Marlborough Rd,	SN3 6BB	01793 604020	Open 24 hours
	Hospital	Swindon			
A&E Open 24 hours	Oxford - John Radcliffe	Headley way,	OX3 9DU	Tel: 01865 741166	Open 24 hours
	Hospital	Headington, Oxon			
Minor Injuries	Abingdon Hospital,	Marcham Road,	OX14 1AG	Tel: 01865 904346	ТВС

		Abingdon, Oxon			
Walk in centre / Urgent	West Berkshire	London Road, Benham	RG18 3AS	Tel: 01635 273300	TBC
care	Community Hospital	Hill			
		Thatcham, Berkshire			
A&E Open 24 hours	Reading - Royal	London Road, Craven	RG1 5AN	Tel: 0118 322 5111	Open 24 hours
	Berkshire Hospital	Road, Reading,			
		Berkshire			
Walk in centre /Urgent	Reading	1St Floor	RG1 7QA	Tel: 0118 902 8300	ТВС
care		103 Broad Street Mall			
		Reading, Berkshire			
First Aid Unit	Wallingford Hospital	Reading Road,	OX10 9DU	Tel: 01865 425200	Mon - Fri 8.30 – 18.30
		Wallingford, Oxon			
Walk in centre / Open	Wycombe Hospital	Queen Alexandra Road	HP11 2TT	Tel: 01494 526 161	Open 24 hours
24 hours		High Wycombe			
		Buckinghamshire			
A&E Open 24 hours	Aylesbury - Stoke	Mandeville Rd,	HP21 8AL	Tel: 01296 315000	Open 24 hours
	Mandeville Hospital	Aylesbury, Bucks			
A&E Open 24 hours	Luton and Dunstable	Lewsey Road	LU4 0DZ	Tel: 01582 491166	Open 24 hours
	Hospital	Luton			
		Bedfordshire			

LOCAL PRESS CONTACTS

The Trail Team has a database of local media contacts which may be useful to engage with local communities along the Trail. This can be provided to events making the suggested donation to The Ridgeway.