

Travelling by public transport to either end of The Ridgeway National Trail

When we heard that two people completing The Ridgeway in 2023 had travelled by public transport from their homes in Germany and Belgium, we were inspired to update our information about public transport. We encourage Ridgeway visitors to travel sustainably and this guidance note is to help people travel to the ends of the Trail at Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire and Overton Hill in Wiltshire.



In the last ten years, The Ridgeway area has benefitted from new train stations (Aylesbury Vale Parkway), new train lines (Chiltern Railways now links Oxford to London Marylebone) and a new guided busway (Luton-Dunstable Busway). These service improvements combined with easier travel planning using websites and mobile apps, make it much simpler to take public transport and avoid the hassle of parking the car. If buses are a step too far, taking the train and then arranging taxis or hire bicycles to make your way from the train station to the Trail can work well. Public transport is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and there can be financial incentives to leave the car at home too. [For example, the National Trust take £1 off entry ticket prices to Avebury if you show your bus ticket](#) and there's no need to buy a parking ticket! Travelling to and from The Ridgeway can be part of the adventure into the countryside, especially if you take a scenic bus/train route or follow a pleasant off-road National Cycle Network route to and from the Trail.

How to get to Ivinghoe Beacon by public transport

There is a bus stop at the bottom of the hill of Ivinghoe Beacon known as the '[Ivinghoe Beacon bus stop](#)'. From the bus stop, you can see a sign pointing the way uphill to The Ridgeway National Trail. There is also a bridleway route nearby as an alternative to the steep footpath. Operators [Red Eagle](#) and [Star Travel](#) provide buses stopping at this stop on their way to Dunstable, Ivinghoe village, Tring (the town is a considerable distance from the train station), [Wendover](#), [Aylesbury](#), [Luton](#), Leighton Buzzard and Bletchley. The last five places have train stations with trains to London, Oxford, airports etc. Note that the Red Eagle X61 bus service to/from Luton operates once a day only and does not run on Sundays.

Further from the Trail, there is a [bus stop in Ivinghoe village](#) which has buses to the same places as the Beacon's bus stop but has a third bus service provided by [Vale Travel](#) which means buses are more frequent. This bus stop provides a connection to the nearest train station at [Cheddington](#). Ivinghoe village is a pretty place and it is straight-forward to follow the road (with a pavement) from the village to Ivinghoe Beacon.



A third bus stop by the village hall in Dagnall offers the option to enjoy a pleasant walk along the Icknield Way to reach Ivinghoe Beacon. Star Travel operates the 162 bus connecting Dagnall to Leighton Buzzard which has a train station.

Further away again is a fourth bus stop at [Ashridge Monument Drive near Ringshall](#) and this has [Red Eagle](#) buses connecting to different places - Hemel Hempstead and [Berkhamstead](#), both of which have trains to London and elsewhere. Long distance coaches also serve [Hemel Hempstead bus station](#). The walk from this bus stop through the Ashridge estate to Ivinghoe Beacon is very scenic and there is a café near to the bus stop.

[Tring train station](#) sits adjacent to The Ridgeway south of Ivinghoe Beacon and there is a bus stop alongside. However, there is no direct bus service between the train station and Ivinghoe Beacon so it is not as convenient as you would expect. There are options to walk to Ivinghoe Beacon from Tring train station however, including through the Ashridge estate which is very scenic.

Example: Travelling to Ivinghoe Beacon from London Luton airport/train station

The journey from London Luton Airport to Ivinghoe Beacon is surprisingly easy when you take the [Luton-Dunstable Busway](#) which opened in 2013. The Busway is a new bus-only route that makes the connection between the airport, [Luton train station](#) and Dunstable in a speedy 15 minutes without the risk of traffic jams. The connection on from Dunstable to Ivinghoe Beacon is onboard the scenic [Red Eagle](#) R61 that drops you off at the bus stop at the bottom of the hill of Ivinghoe Beacon - ask the driver for the '[Ivinghoe Beacon bus stop](#)'. From the bus stop, you pick up Ridgeway National Trail signs to get you uphill to the start of the Trail in around 10 minutes.

How to get to Avebury or Overton Hill by public transport

Travelling via [Swindon train station](#) and the [Red Lion bus stop](#) in Avebury is the best option and this is detailed in the next section.

An alternative option is to take the Great Western Railways train to [Great Bedwyn](#) which connects to London, Bristol, Reading etc. From Great Bedwyn, catch the [Swindon Bus](#) Number 20 to Marlborough High Street. There is then a lengthy walk from Marlborough to The Ridgeway following [National Cycle Network routes](#) shown on the interactive online map – tick ‘Additional cycling routes’.

Other options were always constrained but now the bus stops at Beckhampton and West Kennet are virtually redundant since the National Express coach service connecting to Bath and London ceased in 2020. These bus stops are only served by the [Swindon Bus](#) X76 running once a day between Bath-Melksham-Calne-Marlborough.

Example: Travelling to Avebury from London Paddington

The journey from London to Avebury involves a direct Great Western Railway train from London Paddington to [Swindon](#). When you arrive in Swindon, you will find the bus station a five minute walk away and [Stagecoach West](#) bus 49 will take you to the ‘[Red Lion](#)’ bus stop outside the pub in Avebury village. From the bus stop, there are two options to reach The Ridgeway and these are detailed on the Ridgeway website’s interactive map as ‘Link routes’. There’s a [pleasant off-road route taking in Silbury Hill and The Sanctuary to reach the start of the Trail at Overton Hill](#) or a direct, shorter route along [Green Street to join the Trail near Fyfield](#) Down.

Planning journeys to other parts of the Trail



For journeys from other places and to other places, check out the tips on our website under the FAQ ‘How do I get to The Ridgeway?’. Planning a journey using public transport is easy with websites and mobile phone apps such as Traveline and Google Maps because public transport information is continuously updated, including bus stops and bus routes. Each bus stop has a unique name and reference code so you can be sure you know where you are headed by finding the bus stop on the map shown on the website or app. These digital tools also make it possible to check live bus and train times whilst out and about, so rest assured you don’t need to run for the bus stop unnecessarily!

Please share your public transport experiences and tips with the Ridgeway Officer by email (ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or social media so that we can pass useful information on to other visitors.

We will endeavour to keep this guidance note updated. Last updated July 2023.