

## How do I drive lawfully and care for The Ridgeway?

- **Just as you have to drive safely on roads, the law requires the same on Byways.** The Ridgeway is a shared space so keep your speed low. Horses can be frightened by the noise of an approaching motorcycle so stop, switch off, and ask horse riders if it is safe to pass. More details at <https://www.trf.org.uk/equestrian/>
- **Get tips and recommendations from responsible drivers/riders,** starting with organisations such as the **Trail Riders Fellowship** [www.trf.org.uk](http://www.trf.org.uk) (motorcyclists), **GLASS** [www.glass-uk.org/](http://www.glass-uk.org/) (4x4 drivers), **Tread Lightly** [www.treadlightly-uk.org](http://www.treadlightly-uk.org). If you are in a group, the leader should demonstrate good practice.



- **Plan around ground conditions as well as the weather, to avoid causing damage and attracting complaints.** The Ridgeway's Byways are never tarmac and some are simply grass. Don't proceed if The Ridgeway surface is soft/wet, especially with heavy loads. Farmers should note that substantial compaction will mostly be due to excessive axle loads, so switch to wider tyres with larger diameters, or even twin them. Landowners damaging the surface of a right of way risk enforcement action and are required to reinstate any damage they cause at their own cost.
- **Take numerous steps to reduce your impact.** Practice driving styles that don't break up the surface, bring up dust or create lots of noise. Adapt your vehicle with low pressure tyres, use low weight models, exhaust silencer etc. Conserve archaeology and wildlife by keeping to the worn track - do not drive on the verges, create new tracks or erode verge edges.
- **If you own land around The Ridgeway, review your access points and routes.** Move your gateways and use your private tracks to minimise use of the Trail and avoid conflict with the public.



- **Find lots of mud and laughs at a site designed for off-roading, not on public rights of way where it attracts complaints.** Local clubs linked to the TRF, GLASS etc can recommend events and sites suited to your interests.
- **Contact the police** if you see a road traffic offence being committed.
- **Report obstructions and damage to** [ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk). Donate and volunteer to maintain the Trail.

Check for two types of sign on the Trail – status of the right of way and Traffic Regulation Order signs.

The black Ridgeway sign below indicates a Byway Open to All Traffic. The metal round sign (inset below) indicates a Traffic Regulation Order is in force from 1st October to 30th April each year which means that the public can drive on the Byway only from 1st May to 30th September each year.



The Ridgeway can be enjoyed in all sorts of ways but it should always be done responsibly. This leaflet and signs on the Trail indicate what is lawful in relation to vehicles. Police patrol The Ridgeway to enforce the law, including issuing fines, and they do not accept excuses about not seeing signage.

**Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byways are NOT open to the public driving motor vehicles or riding motorcycles.**

Landowners can drive wherever they like on their land, whatever the status of a route. They can give permission for others to do so too. However, the law requires everyone to drive responsibly.



@ [ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

f [RidgewayNationalTrail](https://www.facebook.com/RidgewayNationalTrail)

t [TheRidgeway1972](https://twitter.com/TheRidgeway1972)

☎ 01865 810248

[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway)

Use the non-emergency number 101 to report a road traffic offence to police.

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# THE RIDGEWAY

NATIONAL TRAIL

Please see map inside



## Vehicles on The Ridgeway and connecting Byways

Information for the public and landowners

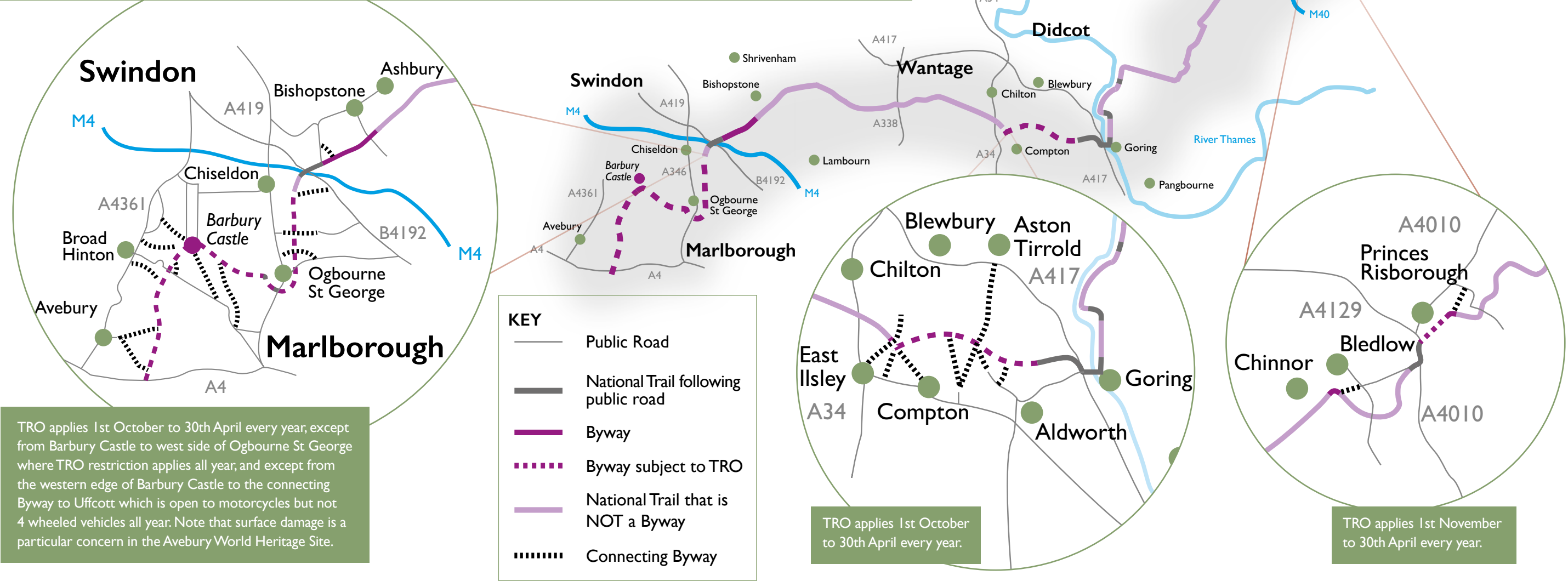


[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway)



# Illustrative map showing Byway sections of The Ridgeway and connecting Byways

The Ridgeway National Trail comprises several Byway stretches totalling 33km (20 miles). Details of these Byways and other rights of way can be checked for free on interactive maps ('Definitive Maps') provided on council websites: Wiltshire, Swindon, West Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Other mapping is available but has limitations; for example, Ordnance Survey maps can become out-of-date and Google Maps does not provide adequate information about route status. A simplified summary of the current permanent TROs is provided on this map but details need to be checked with the relevant highway authority and/or signs on the Trail. Notices about temporary and emergency TROs on The Ridgeway are posted on the news pages of The Ridgeway website and on the Trail's social media. Details about TROs on connecting Byways can be obtained from the highway authority. Always use the most up-to-date version of this leaflet which is available as a free download from [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway/leaflets](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway/leaflets).



## Where and when can I drive a car, motorcycle or other mechanically propelled vehicle?

Members of the public are legally permitted to drive a car, motorcycle or other mechanically propelled vehicle (MPV) on parts of The Ridgeway and connecting rights of way only in the following circumstances:

- Route is classified as Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT), often signed as 'Byway'. See map for details.  
**AND**
- Route does not have a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in force to restrict driving. See over for details.  
**AND**
- Vehicles are fully road legal (taxed, insured etc) with drivers and riders appropriately licenced.

