

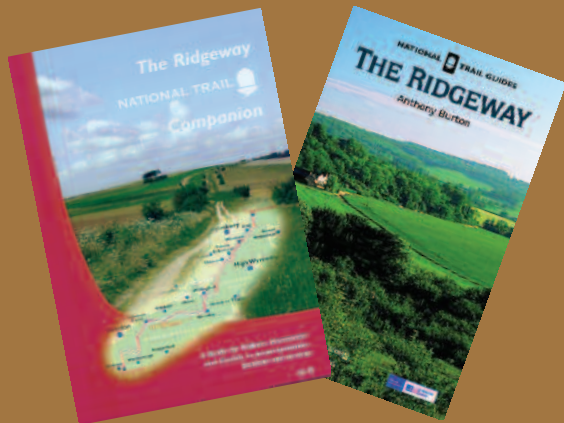


Chiltern woodlands

Your first steps

In partnership with Aurum Press, Natural England has published an official guide for The Ridgeway National Trail written by local expert Anthony Burton (ISBN 978-1-84513-309-2).

The Trail is reasonably served by trains and buses, particularly the eastern half – visit our website for details. The Trail Manager publishes a comprehensive Companion to the Trail detailing all the accommodation, services and facilities on the Trail and close by. For a copy and to find out about other merchandise and information please contact the Trail office or visit the website.



Photography © Jos Joslin, Tina Stallard, Ann Seth/Natural England; Chilterns Conservation Board; Gerry Whitlow

National Trails

in England and Wales

The Ridgeway



National Trail ———
 Pennine Bridleway (not yet open) ———

0 50km



For help, advice or publications please contact:

The National Trails Office, Environment & Economy,
 Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ.

Tel: 01865 810224 Fax: 01865 810207

Email: ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk

or visit our website: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway

Step Back in Time



Uffington White Horse and Manger

Step Back in Time

The Ridgeway

Starting in the World Heritage Site of Avebury most of the 87 miles (139 km) of this Trail still follow the same route over the high ground used since prehistoric times by travellers, herdsman and soldiers.

The vast views of rolling open downland to the west of the River Thames in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), where The Ridgeway runs as a broad track, is scattered with Iron Age forts, ancient burial mounds and chalk hill figures. Further east, amongst the more wooded and intimate valleys of the Chilterns AONB, other monuments from the past such as lengthy sections of Grim's Ditch are as easily found.



Uffington Castle



The Whitehorse Inn,
Woolstone



Wayland's Smithy

Step Back in Time

Walk, cycle or ride

Escape for up to a day or a week on foot, bike or horseback along or around this peaceful and not too strenuous Trail, where skylarks and corn buntings still sing to keep travellers company. Cyclists and horse riders can use all the western half of the Trail and note that recreational vehicles can also legally use around a third of this section, mostly only during the summer – in reality they represent just a handful of users.

April through to November is the best time to visit when the path surface, the wildlife and the views are at their best.

There are many promoted circular routes along the length of The Ridgeway, usually passing a pub, that enable you to start and finish a walk or ride in the same place – see our website for details.



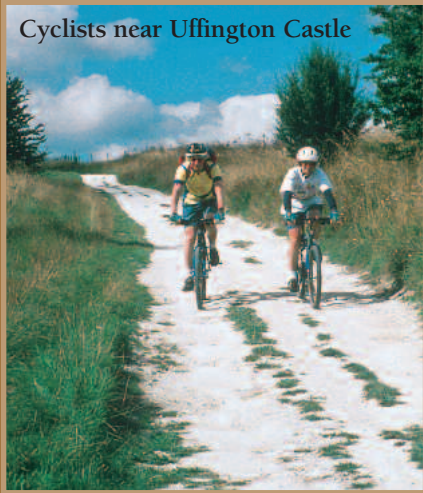
Horse riders above Sparsholt



St Botolph's, Swyncombe



Walkers near Wendover



Cyclists near Uffington Castle



Bluebells on Grim's Ditch east of Wallingford

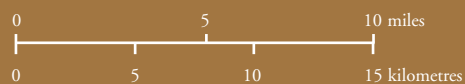


Red kite



Ashdown House south of Ashbury

| Key | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| The Ridgeway National Trail | |
| Motorway | |
| Main Road | |
| River Thames | |
| Railway Station | |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | |



In good company

Many famous people have made their mark or unwound and found inspiration on The Ridgeway: the poets Edward Thomas and John Betjeman relished The Ridgeway, the singer Marianne Faithfull remembers it fondly from her childhood when she lived locally, and all the Country's Prime Ministers have enjoyed strolling along part of the Trail as it passes through the grounds of Chequers. Before them all, King Alfred the Saxon King led his army along The Ridgeway to victory against the Danes at the Battle of Ashdown in 871AD.

