

Vision for Ridgeway circular and linear routes promoted by The Ridgeway Partnership

We aspire to offer a set of circular and linear walks and rides which:

1. Provide opportunities for all Ridgeway user groups – walkers, cyclists, horse riders.
2. Offers experiences for the full range of abilities within these user groups, from easy/introductory to moderate to difficult/challenging. However, since a National Trail is pitched as being an ‘introduction’ to long distance walking/riding and since as many people as possible are invited to enjoy Trails, the main focus should be upon easy to moderate. This applies to The Ridgeway in terms of distance, complexity of navigation, distance from services/remoteness, gradient and surface condition. See table below.

User group	Distance range (miles)	Maximum gradient
Walkers - challenging		
Walkers – able bodied, moderate		
Walkers – easy access		
Cyclists – challenging		
Cyclists – able bodied, moderate		
Cyclists – easy access		
Horse riders - challenging		
Horse riders – able bodied, moderate		
Horse riders – easy access		

3. There should be at least one walk and one ride in the Chilterns and in the North Wessex Downs AONB which could be considered ‘easy access’, i.e. family friendly, accessible to disabled people using trampers.
4. Inspires people to visit The Ridgeway and try areas they have not visited before.
5. Provides positive visitor experiences throughout the year.
6. Is convenient to travel to, e.g. train station, car parking.
7. Promotes good quality and distinctive local businesses.
8. Encourages sustainable and responsible behaviour.
9. Meet or are close to meeting ? National Trail standards in terms of the quality of the signage, structures and surfaces.
10. Strengthens The Ridgeway and National Trail brand, including the website.
11. Recognises the assistance of partners and volunteers in the maintenance of the routes.
12. Celebrates the highlights/landmarks on and very near The Ridgeway, giving people positive experiences of these features. These features do not necessarily have to be well-known but they must be special. Together these features must convey the full ‘story’ and local distinctiveness of the Trail in terms of range of natural and cultural heritage, local communities, great local services, sporting challenge etc. They have been grouped into first and second tier and their attributes linked to the Partnership’s 5 themes – see following table.

First tier (national/international highlights marked yellow and * indicating it is marked on Ridgeway mapboards)

Ref	Highlight/landmark	County	Grid ref	Ancient / attractive historic	Natural / Landscape / viewpoints	Creative / Spiritual	Living	Sporting
A42	*Bledlow Cross	Buckinghamshire		Y				
A43	*Whiteleaf cross / *Neolithic barrow / Nash brother artists / Whiteleaf and *Brush Hill nature reserves Chiltern Society	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y	Y		
A44	*Granglands SSSI BBOWT	Buckinghamshire			Y			
A45	*Pulpit Hill SSSI / hillfort National Trust	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y			
A46	Chequers Knap SSSI	Buckinghamshire			Y			
A47	Kimble box woods	Buckinghamshire			Y			
A48	*Chequers / prime ministers	Buckinghamshire		Y			Y	
A49	*Coombe hill SSSI National Trust/ *Bacombe BBOWT / *monument / trig point	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y			
A50	*Chiltern Brewery, Butlers Cross	Buckinghamshire					Y	
A51	Wendover village	Buckinghamshire		Y			Y	
A52	*Wendover Woods and Aston Hill mountain bike centre Forestry Commission / *Boddington hillfort	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y			Y