



## **RIDGEWAY UPDATE TO BUCKS LAF**

## **RIDGEWAY RIDING ROUTE AND RIDGEWAY CIRCULAR WALKS AND RIDES**

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

***Sarah Wright - Ridgeway Project Officer***

***Kieran Foster – Cycling UK***

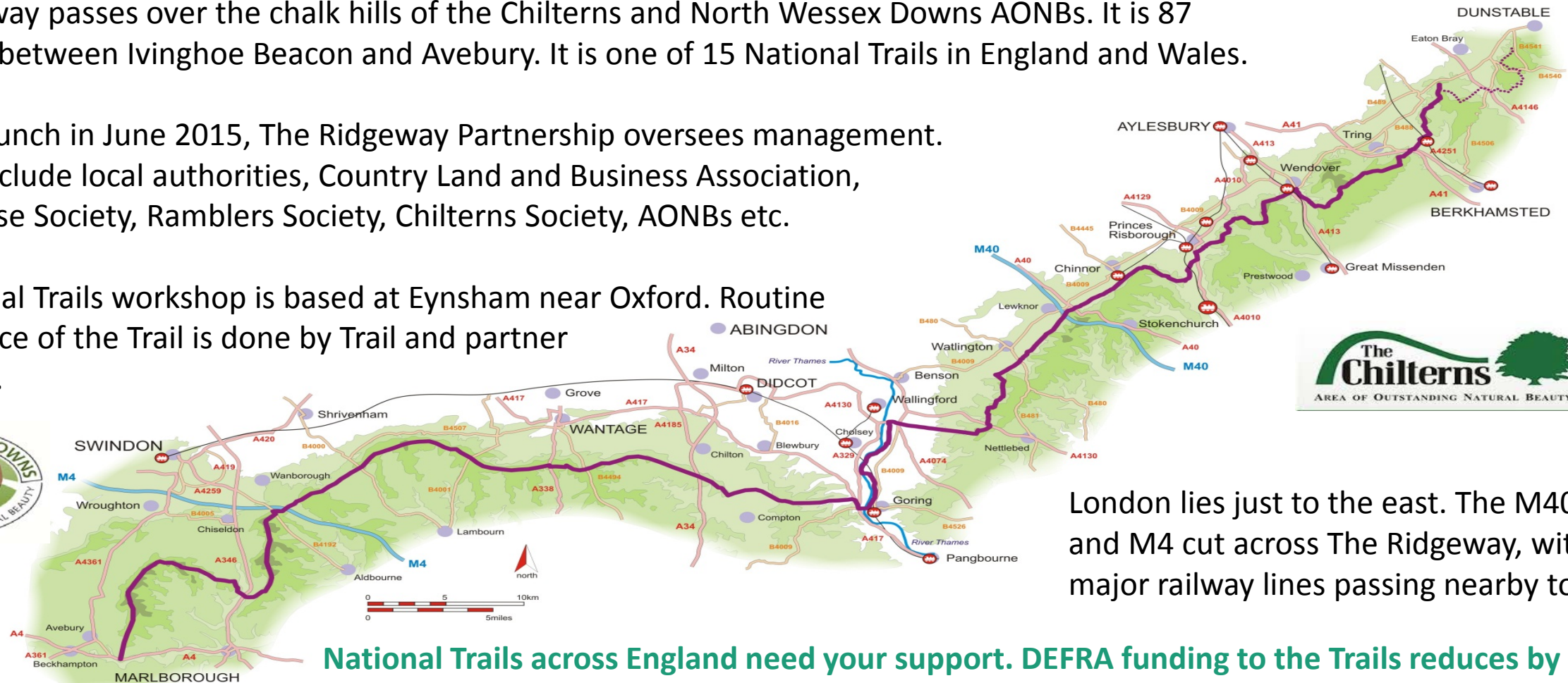
# The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



The Ridgeway passes over the chalk hills of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONBs. It is 87 miles long between Ivinghoe Beacon and Avebury. It is one of 15 National Trails in England and Wales.

Since its launch in June 2015, The Ridgeway Partnership oversees management. Partners include local authorities, Country Land and Business Association, British Horse Society, Ramblers Society, Chilterns Society, AONBs etc.

The National Trails workshop is based at Eynsham near Oxford. Routine maintenance of the Trail is done by Trail and partner volunteers.



London lies just to the east. The M40 and M4 cut across The Ridgeway, with major railway lines passing nearby too.

**National Trails across England need your support. DEFRA funding to the Trails reduces by 5% in 2019-20, with potential for further cuts in future years - the Ridgeway grant is £64,025. It is now critical to fundraise and pool resources in order to provide a great Trail to the public.**

# *The Ridgeway* NATIONAL TRAIL



## **DRAFT vision for Ridgeway circular walks and rides promoted by The Ridgeway Partnership**



- Opportunities for all Ridgeway user groups – walkers, cyclists, horse riders.
- Experiences for the full range of abilities within these user groups, but the main focus should be upon easy to moderate.
- At least one walk and one ride in the Chilterns and in the North Wessex Downs AONB which could be considered ‘easy access’.
- Inspires people to visit The Ridgeway and try areas they have not visited before.
- Provides positive visitor experiences throughout the year.
- Is convenient to travel to, e.g. train station, car parking.
- Promotes good quality and distinctive local businesses.
- Encourages sustainable and responsible behaviour.
- Meets or is close to National Trail standards.
- Strengthens The Ridgeway and National Trail brand.
- Recognises the assistance of partners and volunteers in the maintenance of the routes.
- Celebrates the highlights/landmarks on and very near The Ridgeway. 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.

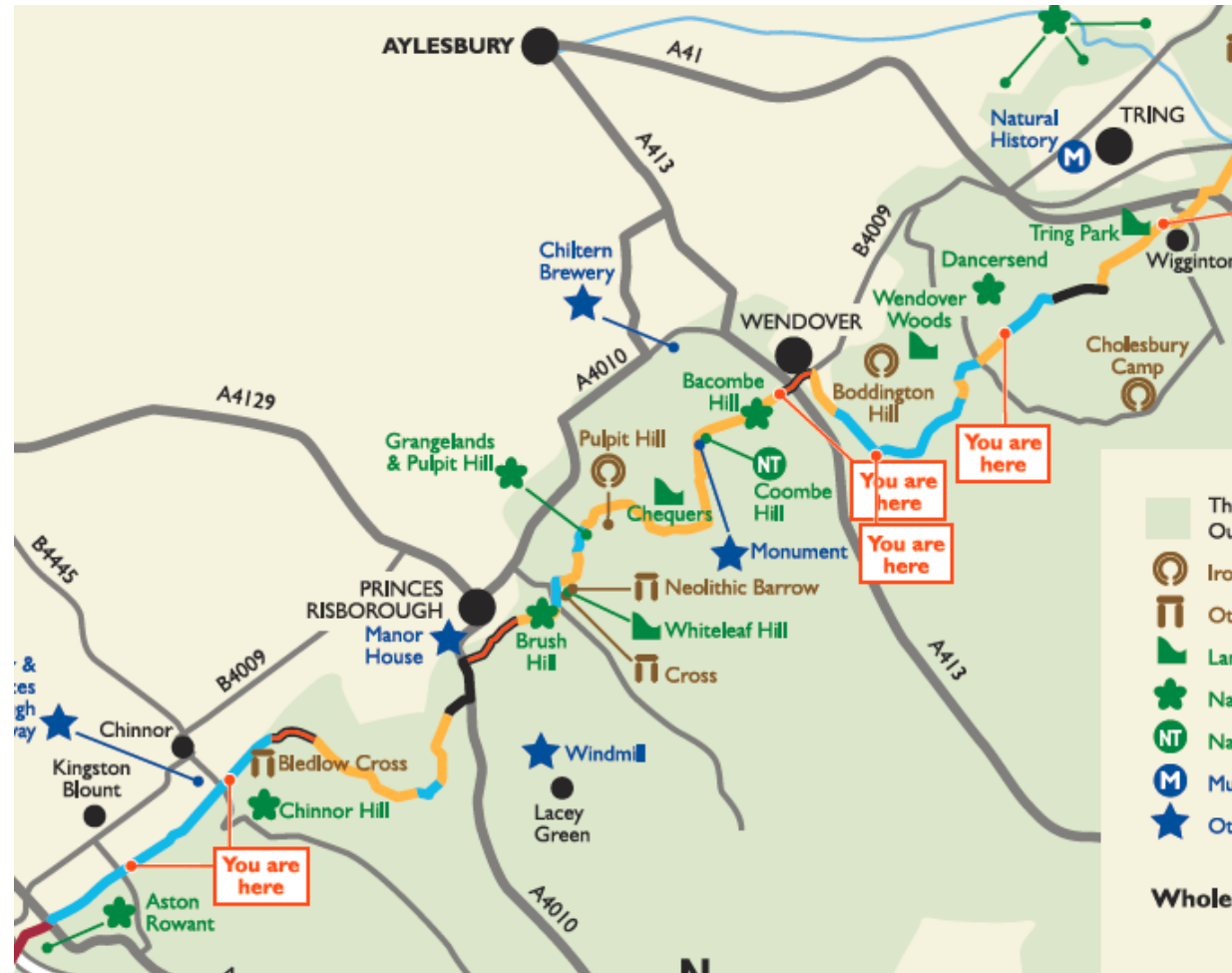
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Attractions to be incorporated:

- Great pubs, cafes, farmshops.
- Great viewpoints, especially scenic landscapes, striking landforms.
- Visible historic features and battlefields.
- Attractive historic buildings, churches and settlements.
- Innovative/unique visitor attractions including special shops, e.g. breweries, museums.
- Sporting challenges, e.g. county high points.
- Nature reserves open to the public.
- Spiritual and creative places, e.g. places in famous poems.

What does the Buckinghamshire stretch contribute to The Ridgeway's appeal?



Attractions to be excluded:

- Manor House, Princes Risborough – not catering for visitors particularly
- Cholesbury Camp, St Leonards – too far from Trail corridor

# The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



Tier	Highlight/landmark All highlights and landmarks along Ridgeway in Bucks - first tier (national/international highlights marked yellow) and second tier. Avebury World Heritage Site included in order to put Bucks highlights into context.	Ancient / attractive historic settlements	Natural / Landscape / viewpoints	Creative / Spiritual	Living	Sporting
1	Avebury henge / <b>World Heritage Site</b>	Y		Y		
1	Chinnor and Princes Risborough tourist railway	Y			Y	
1	Bledlow Cross	Y				
1	Whiteleaf cross / Neolithic barrow / <b>Nash brother artists</b> / Whiteleaf and Brush Hill nature reserves Chiltern Society	Y	Y	Y		
1	Granglands SSSI BBOWT		Y			
1	Pulpit Hill SSSI / hillfort National Trust	Y	Y			
1	Chequers Knap SSSI		Y			
1	<b>Kimble box woods</b>		Y			
1	<b>Chequers / prime ministers</b>	Y			Y	
1	Coombe hill SSSI National Trust/ Bacombe BBOWT / monument / trig point	Y	Y			
1	Chiltern Brewery, Butlers Cross				Y	
1	Wendover village	Y			Y	
1	Wendover Woods and <b>Aston Hill mountain bike centre</b> Forestry Commission / Boddington hillfort/ Haddington Hill highest hill in Bucks	Y	Y			Y
1	Pavis, Northill and Black Woods / highest hill in Hertfordshire		Y			Y
2	Bledlow village	Y			Y	
2	Lacey Green windmill Chiltern Society	Y				
2	Lodge Hill SSSI		Y			
2	Little Kimble church	Y				
2	Low Scrubs SSSI National Trust	Y	Y			
2	Dancers End SSSI BBOWT		Y			
2	Weston Turville Reservoir		Y			
2	Aston Clinton Ragpits		Y			

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**To report a problem on The Ridgeway, tell the National Trail Team and/or the local highway authority -**

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

**01865 810224**

**If urgent, call 07825 314791**

**If you see a crime in progress on The Ridgeway, call 999. Otherwise, call 101.**

**For visitor info and other enquiries:**

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

**01865 810224**

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

**Twitter: @TheRidgeway1972**