

The Ridgeway

The Ridgeway National Trail is the central section of what has often been called Britain's oldest road, stretching from the Dorset coast to The Wash. Never a single road, but rather a complex of braided tracks which successive generations have used for their own purposes. Pre-historic barrows and burial mounds and hillforts line the route.

This is a superb trail for walkers, cyclists and riders.

But it is more, much more than a walking route. It is a wonderful landscape from Ivinghoe Beacon, an ancient signal point and hillfort, through the beech woods of the Chilterns to the River Thames and then up to the large skies of the chalk downs to Overton Hill, Avebury. It is an artistic inspiration, and a historic monument.



Join Us

Apply for membership online at www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk and click on the 'join us' button.

Make a Donation

Please help us by making a donation. We rely on the support of our members and other donations. All money donated is used to benefit The Ridgeway. To make a donation go to the web site at www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk and click on the 'donate now' button.

The Friends of The Ridgeway is a registered charity (No. 1107926).



THE FRIENDS OF THE
RIDGEWAY



**JOIN THE FRIENDS
OF THE RIDGEWAY**



**Preserving the
spirit of The Ridgeway**

*If you love the countryside
and enjoy the peace and
inspiration it gives you, join us!*

Katherine Foxhall 'Into the manger'



Who are the Friends?

The Friends of the Ridgeway is a campaigning charity committed to preserving and promoting both the Ridgeway National Trail and the Great Chalk Way.

Our Patron is Sir Chris Bonington and our President is Lord William Bradshaw. The Vice-Presidents are those MPs whose constituency includes a section of the Ridgeway National Trail.

We are run by an Executive Committee, elected annually, whose members are also Trustees of the Charity. We have no employees; everyone involved is a volunteer.

What do the Friends do?

The Friends of the Ridgeway have been active in protecting the Ridgeway from misuse by motorised vehicles, and were instrumental in shaping the NERC Act 2006. They were influential in establishing the Ridgeway Partnership, a key group of local authorities, landowners, user groups and other stakeholders.

Today our objectives are the preservation of all the ridgeway trackways along the chalk downs of Southern England, and of their associated features, monuments and access paths, including the Ridgeway National Trail.

Present threats to the Ridgeway include funding issues, continuing illegal motor vehicle use, inappropriate development impacting on the trail, and vandalism and damage.

We have established the annual Swire Arts Prize, to promote the artistic inspiration of the Ridgeway, and working with others have established the Great Chalk Way. Additionally we have raised funding for projects including the Oxford Plant Sciences Department Project as well as projects carried out by the Ridgeway Partnership.

Membership

Why join the Friends of the Ridgeway?

The overwhelming reason for joining the Friends of the Ridgeway is to support the campaign to preserve the Ridgeway and keep it safe. The Ridgeway is a wonderful resource for all the communities that live along its route. It must be preserved and protected for future generations with its benefits brought to the attention of as many people as possible.

The greater our membership, the louder our voice in protecting the Ridgeway in all its aspects.

Benefits of joining the Friends

As well as the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to protect the Ridgeway, you will get;

- **A free quarterly newsletter and Annual Review**
- **An invitation to the annual Friends Day**
- **The opportunity to volunteer at special events held along the Ridgeway**
- **A chance to meet like-minded people with an enthusiasm for protection of the Ridgeway**
- **To influence decision makers about the future of the Ridgeway**
- **The opportunity to form your own local supporters' group.**

How to Join the Friends

You can now apply for membership online. At our website **www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk** click on the 'Join Us' button and pay your membership fee using Internet Banking.

