

Friends of the Ridgeway



August 2026





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www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk

 @FriendsOfTheRidgeway

Welcome

Editor Dave Cavanagh
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Articles were written by the editor, Dave Cavanagh, unless credited otherwise.

Roger Baker, Coordinator of the Ridgeway and Thames Path Volunteers, ran The Race to the Stones 100km Ultra Marathon in the heat of July. Roger finished within the top 4%.

Photo Helen Baker



After five years at the helm of the Friends of the Ridgeway, Chair Mike Lewington (right) resigned to focus on his other charity work. Mike brought his organisational acumen to the Friends, and was a keen observer of the Ridgeway and its corridor during the many miles that he covered on his bicycle, particularly in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape section.



Switch now to the east – the Chilterns National Landscape – where our new Chair, Simon Kearey (left) lives. Simon is the Chair of the Ridgeway National Trail Partnership, and volunteers with the Chiltern Society and the Ramblers. Amongst other roles, he is Co-Chair of National Trails UK.



THE

RIDGEWAY

NATIONAL TRAIL FORUM 2026

*Exploring the Historic Ridgeway
& the Nature Recovery Project*



DATE:

Wednesday 9 September 2026



TIME:

10:00am – 1:00pm



VENUE:

Goring Village Hall
Reading RG8 9AG

Join partners, volunteers, land managers
and community groups for a half-day
forum dedicated to:



THE HISTORIC RIDGEWAY PROJECT

- Latest research and discoveries
- Protecting ancient landscapes
- Interpretation, heritage access and community involvement



THE NATURE RECOVERY PROJECT

- Habitat restoration along the Trail
- Chalk grassland, hedgerows and species recovery
- How the Ridgeway contributes to national nature recovery goals



MEND THE GAP PROJECTS



WORKING TOGETHER

- Update from the Ridgeway Partnership
- Update from Chiltern National Landscape
- Opportunities for volunteers, parishes and local organisations
- Q&A and open discussion



RESERVE YOUR PLACE:

Email –
ridgewaynationaltrail@gmail.com



MORE INFORMATION:

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway



Roger Baker's Race to the Stones

Roger is the Coordinator of the Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails Volunteers. Here is his account of his first, and probably last, Race to the Stones. He ran on behalf of the charity [Helen and Douglas House](#), a hospice ‘helping terminally ill children live life to the full.’

[The Race to the Stones](#)

starts at Lewknor, south Oxfordshire, and goes 100km along the Ridgeway, finishing among the megaliths of Avebury, Wiltshire. The total elevation is 1350 metres.

The day		of the		race		BBC weather forecast, as at 7 July			
Sat 11th		Sun 12th		Mon 13th		Tue 14th			
	31° 15°		28° 13°		28° 13°		29° 11°		
Fri 10th		Thu 9th		Wed 8th		Tue 7th			
	33° 17°		33° 18°		31° 17°		30° 15°		

As you'll be aware, conditions were not ideal for a 100km run in the sun, but I got underway at 6:30am from a field near Lewknor, knowing this was going to be a tough ask. I love the first section we run, having been up and down it many, many times on my bike over the years, but the true highlight was seeing Martin Beecher at Watlington Hill where he was safety volunteer for the road crossing. As the kilometres ticked by, I was feeling pretty good. The temperatures were cool(ish), the shade was ever present and the scenery stunning. We ran through fields of broom and golf courses before descending Grim's Ditch, freshly cleared recently by

Steve, Diane and Gordy [of the Ridgeway and Thames Path Volunteers]. Such work is invaluable as this section is beset with roots and off-camber single track.

Roger at the start in Lewknor. Photo Helen Baker



Joining the flat stretch

along the Thames after 20km was bliss and I had to really talk to myself to slow down – after all it is an ultra marathon, not a sprint.

Under Brunel's Bridge

(aka Moultsford Viaduct) at South Stoke I admired the fresh cut, thanks to Bob and Martin, and the fence we'd installed surrounding the sink holes (!).



Moultsford Viaduct (Brunel bridge). Photo Sandra Newton

Goring & Streatley mark 30km and I was there at 9:30am, way ahead of my realistic schedule. Here begins the first significant climb of the day and, like all others around me, a chance to walk and take on some extra supplies ahead of the scenery change on the North Wessex Downs.

As the trail went upwards, so did the temperature and the white surface meant that the sun was hitting us from all directions.

The nature of the Ridgeway here means that I've not spent a lot of time on task in this location so it was useful to remind myself of how it all links up as I passed the various photoboarders that Roger, John, Rich, Wendy and Martin dug in back in the winter when temperatures were a little more suitable for running! The next landmark was the A34 underpass, diligently cleared by Araba, Jo, Diane, Rich, Roger, Steve, Trevor and John. My wife was at Bury Down to hand me some cool water and electrolytes (the warm water at the 'pit stops' was not nearly as refreshing) and a pep talk before I checked on the regrowth of invasive species (looking good Rich, Mark, & John) and headed west towards the halfway point.

Here a difficult decision was being made by many. No fewer than 400 people unsurprisingly decided to call their planned 100km day short and settle for a 50km medal by doing the second half of the route on the following day.

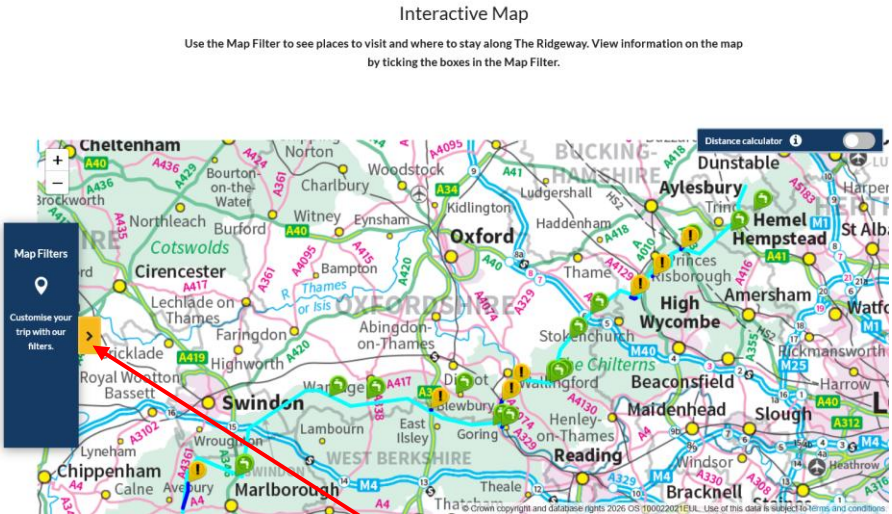
Photo Roger Baker



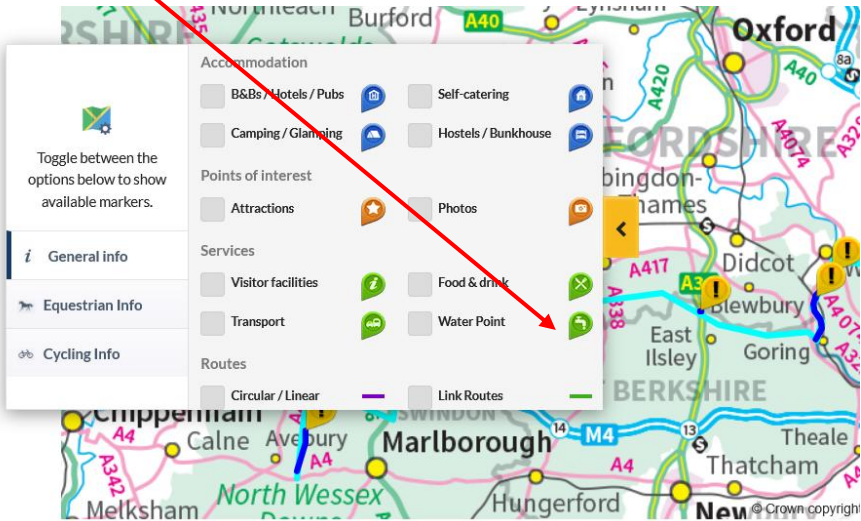
I felt “OK” so for me it was a quick refuel and back on the trail; passed Martin again almost before I realised it was him -he was now marshalling a different road crossing - and on to the pitstop by the Sparsholt tap installed this year by Bob, Ian (s), Dick and John.

Passing through the beautiful English landscape I felt very privileged to call this my place of work, admiring the well-tended trail thanks to mowing efforts over the last three weeks from Douglas, Kevin, Jo, Gordy, both Ians, Rich and Roger. Without this work, tired legs would surely come a cropper on the terrain and I was so appreciative of your help. Passing by the ‘remote dwelling gents’ near Ashbury, one was playing some upbeat techno, the other simply shouted “52” at me as I made my way towards the M4 near Foxhill. Making a note of the state of the mesh appearing through the surface that Gordy, Roger and I cut back recently, I was now 70km in and soon on the path that John and Ian helped me strim just two days previously. And thank goodness we had, as runners’ legs were very fatigued by now.

To find out where you can get drinking water along the Ridgeway, go to the Ridgeway National Trail website’s trail information page
https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/the-ridgeway/trail-information/



Click on the arrow head here to reveal a menu, then choose ‘water point’.



The route went along the blissfully shaded section at Snap and what I’d assumed would be a pleasant descent into Ogbourne St George. Only my quads had different ideas and screamed at me all the way down. I took advantage of the locals hosing us down through the village, before the crawl up to Smeathe’s Ridge and Barbury Castle where my family were waiting for me, 88km from the start.



Smeathe's Ridge, July 2022. Photo Dave Cavanagh

By this time, I was feeling quite nauseous, having eaten little other than gels and diligently drinking water and electrolytes for some time. I took a bit of time to eat some fruit and take on more fluids before waving my family off for the last time. I felt I could walk 12km in a little over two hours if it came to it so I was going to do this despite the growing protests of my left knee! I know this section well, which I think helped me piece it together in my mind, km by km. A couple of ice cubes handed to me near Hackpen Hill gave me a boost and I jogged past the resplendent fingerposts that Martin, Gordy, Ian and Roger installed, before Avebury and the finish line appeared in the distance to my right. They're a little evil in the way they've set

the course as you veer off after passing Avebury but not quite at Overton Hill. More than five km still remained as my addled brain was doing the maths: I knew that I was close to the average time I needed to finish in 12 hours, but also that it was actually more than 100km in total (I clocked 100.95km due to pit stops and gps variability). Having never expected to be anywhere to 12 hours due to the conditions, I was now thinking how irritated I'd be to finish just outside that time, so I started to stretch my poor legs one last time. They make you complete an 'out and back' around a cone before heading towards the finish which is soul destroying, but as I passed the '1km remaining' sign I knew I'd done it, eventually crossing the line at 11:58:18.



Avebury. Photo John Gordon, July 2022

My family were there to greet me and I got to wear my medal with pride before lying down just before I fell down. The random number-shouting man near Ashbury had obviously been counting my race position, as I was amazed to learn that, with a few overtakes in the final 20km, I had finished in 42nd place from 1174 starters overall. What a day, what an event. Never again!



Avebury. Photo Anthony Burdall

Apart from wanting to complete the distance (tick) and do it before midnight on Day 1 (tick) I wanted to get home in time for the England v Norway World Cup game on TV (tick). Photo Helen Baker



What is it about Ridgeway people?



Photo Pat Rosum

Roger Baker was not the only one who is closely associated with the Ridgeway that ran the Race to the Stones this year; Hayley Gray (pictured above), with her son, also did the first 50km. Hayley is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Historic Ridgeway Project.

And let's not forget Ian Black, the Ridgeway Officer, who prefers to zoom along the Ridgeway on his bicycle.

Drinking water is once again available at Sparsholt Firs.



Ridgeway National Trail

★ Favourites · 8h · 🌐

From the Ridgeway National Trail Facebook Page, composed by Mary Tebje.

Trail maintenance goes on no matter the weather!

We wanted to share a photo of the dramatic 'tap ice fountain' from 2018, when it was first apparent that additional insulation for the water tap located at Sparsholt Firs was needed. Thanks to our volunteers Dick and Bob involved in this small but important service upgrade. With this new housing in place means we can leave the tap on for users all year round. There is still a new sign to install and we plan to replace the tap itself in due course, but it is now ready for use. You will find the tap at <https://w3w.co/eclipses.backs.jaundice> and on the interactive map on the National Trails website here: <https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/.../trail-information/>

#Volunteering #Countryside #NationalTrails #VisitEngland

The images show the 2018 ice fountain and the new tap housing to ensure year-round availability.



Subsequent to this post on Facebook, a new tap has been installed in the new housing and it is working.

Wendy Tobitt, of The Friends of the Ridgeway, writes 'The tap is a memorial to 14-year-old Peter Wren, who had walked the Ridgeway and loved the countryside. Peter was tragically killed in an accident on Christmas Eve in 1978 while cycling to sing in his local church in Sarisbury Green, Fareham.'

FoR objects to the diversion of the Ridgeway at Nuffield Footpath 9

The **owner** of a property through which the Ridgeway National Trail passes has applied for the Trail to be rerouted. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has decided to support the diversion and has consequently 'made an Order' to this effect. FoR objected to the proposal before the Order was made on 27 July and has sent strong objections to the Council following publication of the Order. The proposed diversion is on Nuffield Footpath 9, which is part of the Ridgeway.

Although the Ridgeway is a National Trail, this status does not provide the protection that you might imagine would be the case. In the context of requests for diversions, a National Trail is considered as simply being the sum of all the public rights of way (PRoW) that comprise a Trail. One consequence is that Councils assess an application for a diversion on a National Trail on the same basis as they would for any PRoW. In the case in question, the Council is judging the requested diversion as simply being one concerning a humble PRoW (Nuffield Footpath 9) rather than a section of a National Trail.

Below are extracts from the FoR's objection letter to OCC's Order that the Ridgeway should be diverted from Nuffield Footpath 9.

This letter registers our **strong objection** to the proposed diversion of Footpath 9 at Nuffield, which forms part of The Ridgeway National Trail. The Ridgeway is a nationally-important long-distance trail; the integrity of its route here through the Chilterns National Landscape is essential.

Our objection is based on

1. the planning history of the site, and the policies cited by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) when granting permission in 2017
2. the real or perceived 'need' for a diversion
3. the heritage of this particular location and use of the public right of way
4. the precedent that would be set if permission is granted
5. the costs of maintaining the diverted route if permission is granted

Continued ...

- **Planning history. P17/S0488/FUL** [the 2017 planning proposal to build the property for which a diversion of the Ridgeway National Trail is the subject of the 2026 Order.]

The 2017 application for the demolition of two dwellings and construction of two replacement houses at Fairway Cottage and Combe Cottage (now Fairway House [the owner of which has requested the diversion of Nuffield Footpath 9]) was not straightforward. The original proposals sought to build significantly larger houses and to reroute The Ridgeway to provide greater privacy for the occupants.

There were many objections to this proposal, including from The Friends of the Ridgeway. When SODC refused the proposal, these policies were cited:

- Policy R8 – Protection of existing rights of way. This policy has been superseded by Policy CF1 Safeguarding Community Facilities in South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2035.
- Policy G4 – Protection of the countryside
- South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment – Character Area 9

SODC granted planning permission after four key revisions were made, **including the retention of the route of Public Footpath 9, and the Ridgeway National Trail.**

Any attempt to move the route now would directly contradict the basis on which that planning permission was granted. We also note that permitted development rights were removed to prevent future extensions that might conflict with The Ridgeway.

If Oxfordshire County Council grants permission for the diversion, would this contravene Policy CF1 Safeguarding Community Facilities in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2035?

• **Real or perceived ‘need’ for the diversion**

The current proposed diversion is based on personal inconvenience as expressed by the landowner at Fairway House. Comments such as ‘dog poo bags left in the garage’ are not a reason for moving a Public Right of Way.

The owner would have been made aware of the Public Footpath and the Ridgeway National Trail when he purchased the property in 2020. It is not credible to argue that the route has become inconvenient when it was a known and established feature at the point of purchase. He has subsequently invested in the property, indicating that the presence of the footpath has not negatively affected its value or amenity.

The application refers to “100 runners” and increased usage. The only event that could generate such numbers is the Race to the Stones, which has taken place annually since 2013. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate increased use since 2020. Other claims relating to theft, injury or dog fouling are anecdotal and unsupported.

It was the owner’s decision to enlarge the garage to create accommodation, now called Fairway Lodge, separate from their house.

Fairway House has a tall hedge, gate and fence surrounding the property to give adequate privacy. In contrast, the proposed diversion passes through the garden space at the rear of Fairway Lodge garage/accommodation, which means people using that garden space will be in full view of people using the Public Footpath/Ridgeway National Trail.

• **Heritage of the site**

The history of this site shows that from at least 1840 this area of land appears to have been carved out of Nuffield Common. There were a number of small tenements in addition to the pub, letterbox and at least one smithy; the 25” 1st Edition O.S. c. 1876,

shows two smithies here. Part of the area that is the subject of this Order remains common land and may be within the Commons Act. If that is the case there is unrestricted public access across the area regardless of the route of the Public Footpath9/Ridgeway National Trail.

- **Unacceptable precedent**
- If the proposal is approved it would set an unacceptable precedent for other landowners to seek diversions for personal reasons such as privacy or security. Privacy is not a justification for moving a Public Footpath or National Trail. The landowner has not given evidence to say the security of their property is at risk.
- The current proposal is based on the landowner's personal inconvenience. If permission is granted, it would risk undermining both local and national policy protections for rights of way.
- **Maintenance costs**
- The costs of signage, surfacing and maintenance of the new footpath will be met by the local highway authority. Why should rate-payers have to pay for that because the property owner doesn't like the current footpath route?

In conclusion: The Friends of the Ridgeway **Strongly Objects** to the proposed Order to divert Nuffield Footpath No. 9 (part).

What happens next?

Extract from OCC's statement that provides background information to the Order.

'It appears to the Council that the Order complies with the legal provisions contained in the Act [Highways Act 1980 ('The Act')] and that it is expedient that the public right of way should be diverted. The making and advertising of the Order provides an opportunity for objections or representations to be made. Any responses must be received by the date set out in the Notice. The Council will then consider how to proceed. If any objections are made and not withdrawn, the Council may refer the Order and objections to the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for determination. An Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate will then either take written representations or hear the objections at a Public Inquiry or Hearing. The Inspector can confirm the Order, confirm it with modifications, or refuse to confirm the Order.'



Swire Ridgeway Arts
Prize 2026

Swire Ridgeway Arts
Prize 2025

Swire Ridgeway Arts
Prize 2024

Swire Ridgeway Arts
Prize 2023

Swire Ridgeway Arts
Prize 2022

Swire Ridgeway Arts
Prize 2021

Swire Ridgeway Arts



The 11th Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize, 24 & 25 April 2027

Wendy Tobitt

The theme of the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize 2027 is ‘Living Working Ridgeway’.

The Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize competition is open to professional and amateur artists. All work submitted must be produced in the 24 months prior to Monday 22 March 2027, the closing date for entries to be submitted.

All entries will be exhibited in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington, Oxfordshire on Saturday 24 April 2027, from 10am to 5pm, and Sunday 25 April 2027, from 10am to 4pm. Many of the artworks will be for sale. The prize-giving will be at 3pm on Sunday 25 April 2027.

The Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize features four categories:

- Wall Art: painting, drawing, etching, textile pictures, wall hangings and mosaics.
- Sculpture, including ceramics.
- Photography, including digital art.
- Written poetry and prose.

The competition rules for 2027 will be on our new FoR website when it launches in September. You can see exhibits at previous Swire Prize exhibitions on our current website (above).



No, not the south of Spain: a footpath between the Ridgeway, on the horizon, and the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire, near Ashbury, close to the border with Wiltshire. Photo Dave Cavanagh

Heading eastwards



The Friends of The Ridgeway
38m · 

From The Friends
Facebook page,
text by Wendy
Tobitt

The Friends of the Ridgeway are delighted to share this news about the extension of the Historic Ridgeway Project into the Chilterns.

The Historic Ridgeway Project has been awarded a grant of £129,100 to extend its work until 1st May 2028, with the project expanding beyond its original footprint into Buckinghamshire.

Funded by Historic England's Regional Capacity Building Grant Programme, the project supports a dedicated team including the project manager and the project volunteer co-ordinator, with a programme of discrete conservation projects, tools and transport along the route. The majority of works projects are funded by the project's partners and work carried out with the permission of landowners and the many project volunteers.

Otis Gilbert, Heritage at Risk Project Officer, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer this grant to continue the vital work on the nationally significant archaeology around the Ridgeway National Trail. It is an important way of working with local people, DEFRA and local authorities to support better management of the historic and natural environment in England's most special places. The project will provide new opportunities for people to get involved in caring for archaeology near them."

The extension takes the project beyond the central 30-mile section of the 87-mile Ridgeway Trail as it passes through Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, following the trail east into Buckinghamshire as far as Whiteleaf Hill.



The Ridgeway near Chinnor. Photo Ian Macpherson



View from Coombe Hill. Photo Dave Cavanagh

Dan Bashford, Project Manager, said: "Every section of the Ridgeway National Trail has its own archaeological story to tell. Extending the project into Buckinghamshire will help us identify and record vulnerable heritage sites, improve our understanding of how people have used this landscape over thousands of years and put practical conservation measures in place to protect them for the future."

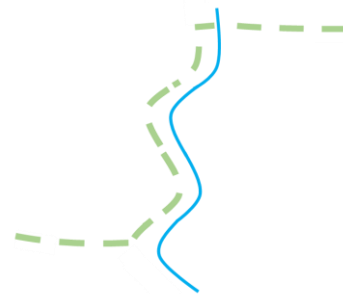
About the Project

The Historic Ridgeway Project works to protect and celebrate the extraordinary heritage of one of Britain's oldest routes. Its aims are to:

- Assess the condition and management of the 47 Scheduled Monuments along this part of the National Trail. All are nationally important and legally protected sites. Improve management in partnership with volunteers, landowners and occupiers.
- Identify other key heritage sites and work with stakeholders to improve their condition.
- Offer inclusive engagement and volunteering opportunities.
- Make the most of opportunities for education and interpretation.
- Improve wellbeing by encouraging engagement with heritage sites, dovetailing archaeological and ecological management with access and interpretation.
- The Historic Ridgeway Project is grateful to all its funders and partners, including the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and Chilterns National Landscapes, the Friends of the Ridgeway, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, the Rural Payments Agency, Mend the Gap, Wild Oxfordshire and Natural England.
- The majority of works projects are funded by our generous partners, the work only possible through the kind permission of landowners and many project volunteers.



Plain talking in Great Coxwell, Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire.
Photo Dave Cavanagh



Mind the Gap

I went to watch
Pavarotti once. He
doesn't like it
when you join in.
Mick Miller

I love falafel and know
everything about it. Ask
me any question about
falafel and I'll give you
the correct answer. You
see, I'm infalafible.

I never think, 'Where am
I going to be in a year's
time?' That seems to be a
sure way of missing the
fact that you might be
quite happy now. Jo
Brand

A smile is a curve that
sets everything straight.
Phyllis Diller

Last night I
dreamt I ate a
ten-pound
marshmallow.
When I woke
up the pillow
was gone.
Tommy
Cooper

Precision gone mad. Photo
Dave Cavanagh



Making the Ridgeway's Ancient Monuments more approachable

Whilst the Historic Ridgeway Project is achieving this in a literal sense e.g. cutting back vegetation that was impeding access, it is also doing it by opening our minds as to what was going on in these places, both in the recent and distant past.

This is being done by 10 information boards, presenting the Monuments in a human context. The boards are linked by a Storymap. You can access this on site using a QR code on the boards. Or you can do it from the comfort of your own home [via this page](#) on the website of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape.

Detail from the information board at Scutchamer Knob



Dan Bashford, Historic Ridgeway Project Manager, and Andy Foley, National Trust Ranger, installing an information board about Uffington Castle and the Uffington White Horse. Photos Hayley Gray

Put your back into it!

How to install an information board
when the so-called soil is full of chalk

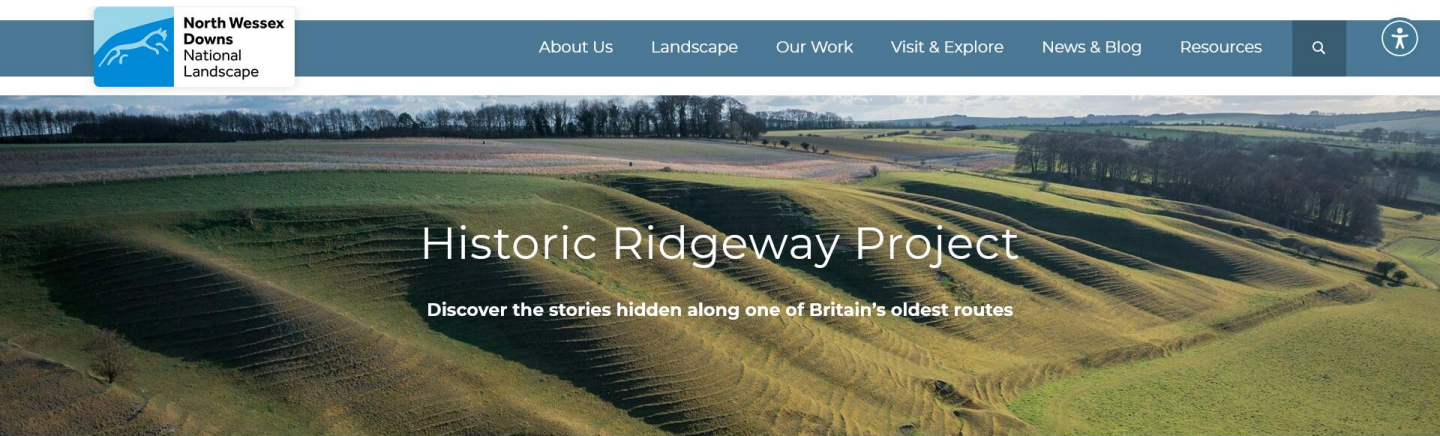
Whilst a spade was useful at times, much of the work was done by heaving a very heavy metal bar, shaped like a cold chisel at the bottom, into the ground to break it up.

The photos below are of Hayley Gray, Volunteer Coordinator, with members of the Vale Path Volunteers, the path maintenance team of Vale of White Horse Ramblers, at Scutchamer Knob.



How to access the Historic Ridgeway Story Map

Start by going to this page on the North Wessex Downs National Landscape website <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/historic-ridgeway-project/>

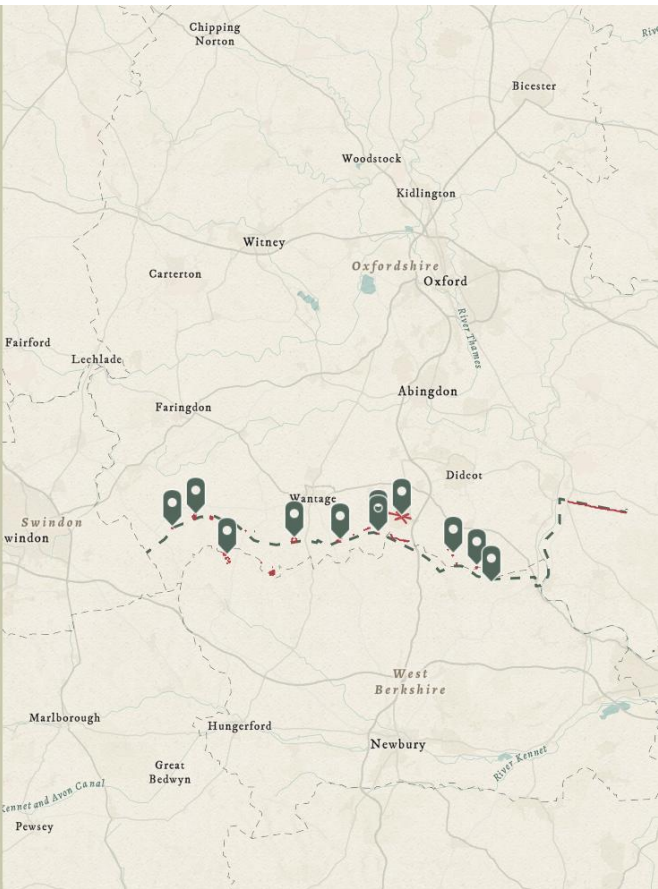
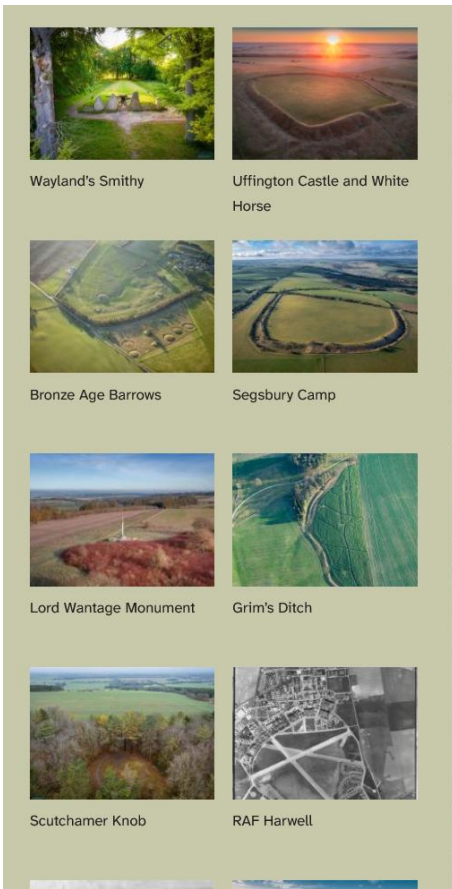


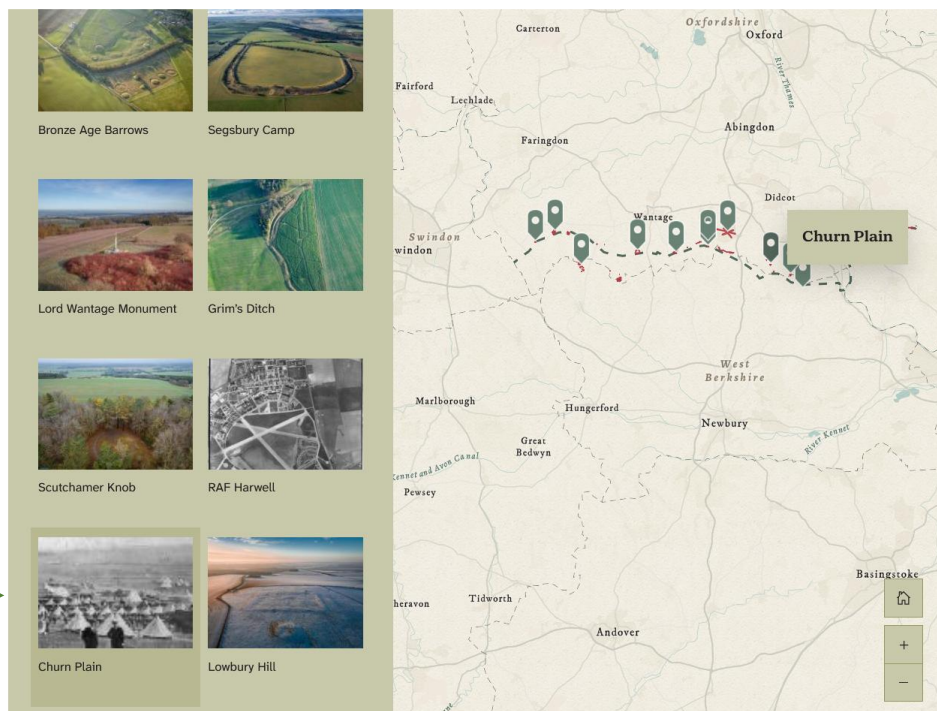
Use the interactive map below to explore the remarkable archaeology and landscapes of the Ridgeway across the Berkshire Downs. From prehistoric burial mounds and hillforts to Saxon meeting places and Second World War airfields, each place reveals a different chapter of the Ridgeway's long history. The Historic Ridgeway Project is helping people discover and share the rich history of the Ridgeway National Trail. Working with partners, landowners and local communities, the project brings together the stories of the people, places and landscapes that have shaped this ancient route over thousands of years.

Today the Ridgeway runs through the heart of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, where wildlife, farming and history are closely connected. From flower-rich chalk grassland to ancient field systems and historic landmarks, this living landscape continues to be cared for and restored so that its unique character can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Scroll down the page to see a map showing where the information boards are located.

Continued on the next page ...





Ghost over an image
e.g. Churn Plain, to see
its location on the map.

Click on an image to
find out more about it.



Churn Plain

The Churn Plain and the hills around it are dotted with prehistoric barrows – burial mounds dating back thousands of years. But from the late 19th century, this ancient landscape found a new role as a training ground for Britain's military forces.

[Discover Churn Plain](#)

The production of the information boards was a combined effort. Dan Bashford, Historic Ridgeway Project Leader, collated and checked information from archaeologists and historians. Wendy Tobitt of FoR wrote the text for each board which Dan checked and provided photos for. Most of the boards were designed by Cotswold Archaeology, and illustrations were commissioned.

The Historic Ridgeway Project is funded by Historic England, the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, Friends of the Ridgeway, Mind the Gap, and the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment.

Sadly, Dan Bashford has resigned from his post as Project Leader of the Historic Ridgeway Project to take up a full-time post with Cotswold Archaeology. As Wendy Tobitt has said 'He is a force of nature who shares his vast expertise and knowledge with quiet authority and sense of humour.' As well as all the 'back office' stuff, Dan has spoken to countless teams of volunteers over the last three years, enthusing them, and giving talks on the Ridgeway and in various local community settings. Continuity with the volunteers will be provided by Hayley Gray, who remains as Volunteer Coordinator, leading the Project on the ground, improving the appearance and accessibility of the various Historic Monuments.



Photo Wendy Tobitt



Photo Dave Cavanagh



Photo Dave Cavanagh



West Berkshire Council has recently resurfaced a little over 700 metres of the Ridgeway along the section just east of the A34, under which the Ridgeway goes. This section is a restricted byway, consequently it cannot be used by non-essential motor vehicles. The new surface is wonderful. Photos Dave Cavanagh



Our Facebook posts are attracting a lot of attention



By Wendy Tobitt, who is the trustee who manages our Facebook page, and creates a great deal of the content.

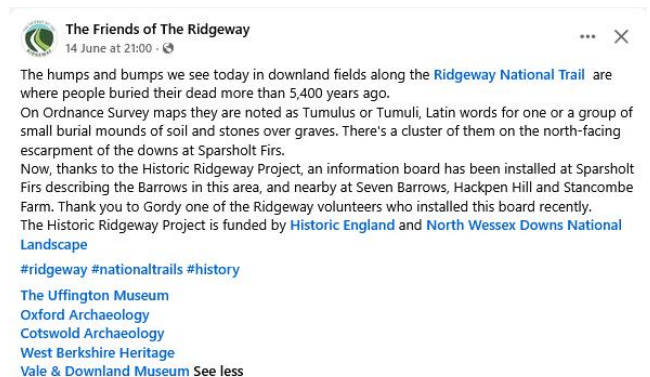
Interest in our Facebook page continues to grow; we now have some 2,800 followers.



“There were 18 posts during July,” writes Wendy. “The post about Anna Dillon’s new Living Landscape mural in the Vale & Downland Museum, Wantage, attracted huge interest with a reach of 21,000 and more than 30,000 views, 13 shares within 239 interactions (likes, shares, comments).”

“The combined stats for the two posts about installing the Historic Ridgeway Project information boards generated 43,400 views and 410 interactions.”

“Mary Tebje,” who provides communication services for the Ridgeway Partnership, “commented to me: ‘All those comments and stats prove that interpretation is valued as you help the community discover what’s about in the landscape. And when they know more, they start to take notice and will take more care of their surroundings. A healthy cycle of engagement!’”





Clouds going crazy over Whitehorse Hill, as seen from Uffington village in late July. Photo Dave Cavanagh



The Friends of The Ridgeway

45m · 🌐



The Ridgeway National Trail volunteers were due to be on Grim's Ditch between Mongewell and Nuffield this week, but the weather's too hot for mowing and strimming. They'll be back another day, hopefully before the Race to the Stones event along the Ridgeway in July. Before the heatwave set in they were working on the Ridgeway near Ogbourne St George in the breeze today. Last week they were mowing near Sparsholt Firs. Thank you everyone: Roger the volunteer coordinator in the reflective shades with Gordy, Roger, Ian and Bob.

[#ridgeway](#) [#volunteers](#)

[Ridgeway National Trail](#)

[North Wessex Downs National Landscape](#)





Ridgeway National Trail

★ Favourites · 23 March · 🌐

Volunteers hard at work at the South Stoke Slipway nr. Goring on Thames who were installing a new Ridgeway National Trail information board that will keep you on track. The high water table made for wet conditions, but that didn't deter some keen digging! Thank you for your tremendous effort and care for our National Trail.

The two images show volunteers Jo and Roger digging deep to install a new Ridgeway National Trail information board at South Stoke Slipway. [See less](#)



One white horse meets another in Uffington parish. Photo Ros Jones

The brush on Scutchamer Knob grows like the clappers. The Ramblers Vale Path Volunteers returned for the umpteenth time in August to spruce it up. Photos Trevor Hetherington and Dave Cavanagh.

Before ...



Half time



After





Vale of White Horse Ramblers

★ Favourites · 16 April · 🌐

...

It's lovely when someone expresses pleasure at the work done by our path maintenance group, the Vale Path Volunteers.



John Tippetts ▸ Ridgeway and Ancient Tracks of Britain and Ireland

9 April · 🌐

I've walked The Ridgeway end to end twice & can't believe I never noticed Scutchamer Knob before - maybe before volunteers made such a great job of clearing it out? I put this right this week by specifically looking out for it. I certainly wasn't disappointed on what was a gloriously sunny day. Loved the seat constructed from a couple of pallets giving fabulous views across the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. [#ridgewaynationaltrail](#) See less



Just some of the happy and satisfied people who have walked the length of the Ridgeway National Trail this year. To see more, type 'Ridgeway Hall of Fame' in the search box in Facebook.

Album **Ridgeway Hall of Fame**



Ridgeway National Trail added a new photo.

★ Favourites · 31 May · 🌐



Ridgeway Hall of Fame members walk our National Trail for many different reasons, and often with deeply personal motivations.

A special welcome to Karen, who has just completed the Trail, walking solo in six days. Karen told us her motivation was: "Walking for The Trussell Trust in honour of my late husband Arby and to find my motivation for life again."

Congratulations Karen on your remarkable achievement. We hope your Ridgeway journey leaves you with many lasting memories.







Album **Ridgeway Hall of Fame**



Ridgeway National Trail added a new photo.

★ Favourites · 10 June at 22:06 · 🌐

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Welcome to Belle who joins our Ridgeway Hall of Fame after walking the length of the Trail solo. Having to delay the completion, she told us: "The ULTIMATE highlight is the sense of personal achievement at the finish. I began walking in December, but had to go home due to injury, then came back to finish it in April 2026." Congratulations on your achievement and sticking with the journey.

