

Contacts:



Buckinghamshire County Council

Rights of Way Group, County Hall, Aylesbury HP20 1UY

Tel: 01296 382717

The National Trails Office

Countryside Service, Department of Leisure and Arts,

Holton, Oxford. OX33 1QQ. Tel : 01865 810224

Hertfordshire County Council

Countryside Management Service, County Hall,

Hertfordshire. SG13 8DQ. Tel : 01438 737321

For information on the Icknield Way through other counties please contact: East Anglian Trails, Pip's Peace Kenton, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 6JS.

Rights of Way Group is responsible for 3300kms of rights of way throughout Buckinghamshire and maintaining them so that they are easy to use by the public, clearing obstructions and resurfacing where necessary. We aim to improve access by replacing or supplementing stiles with pedestrian or kissing gates wherever possible.

www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way

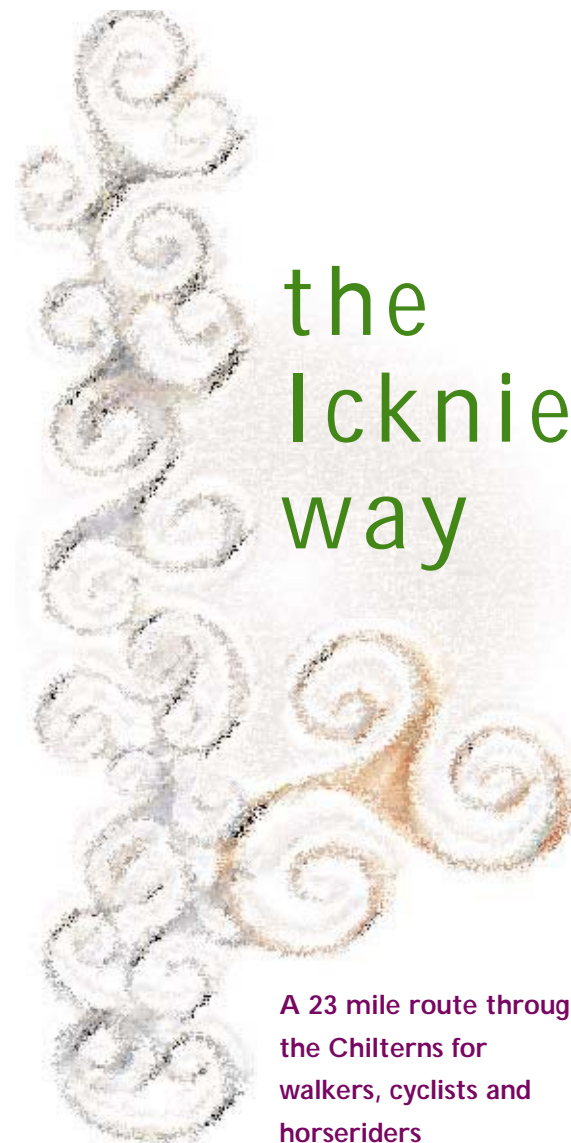
e-mail: row@buckscc.gov.uk



Based on the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproductions infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings Buckinghamshire County Council Licence number LA 076481/2003

Printed on recycled paper

Design by communications design team 01296 382717Buckinghamshire County Council. a non-profit service 8r. August 2003

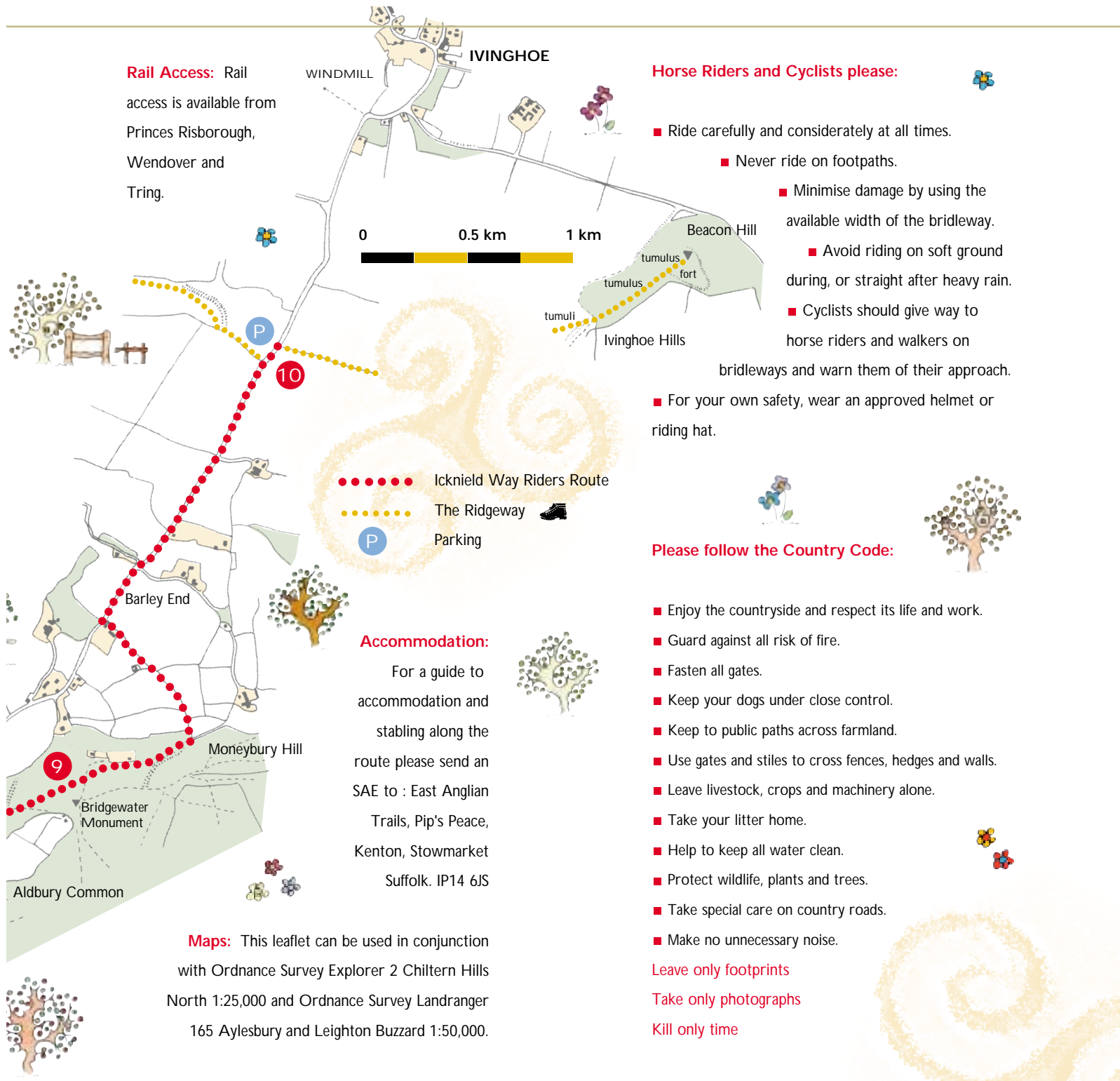


the Icknield way

A 23 mile route through
the Chilterns for
walkers, cyclists and
horseriders

Planning and Environment
Rights of Way Group





Rail Access: Rail access is available from Princes Risborough, Wendover and Tring.

Horse Riders and Cyclists please:

- Ride carefully and considerately at all times.
- Never ride on footpaths.
- Minimise damage by using the available width of the bridleway.
- Avoid riding on soft ground during, or straight after heavy rain.
- Cyclists should give way to horse riders and walkers on bridleways and warn them of their approach.
- For your own safety, wear an approved helmet or riding hat.

- Icknield Way Riders Route
- The Ridgeway
- P Parking

Accommodation:

For a guide to accommodation and stabling along the route please send an SAE to : East Anglian Trails, Pip's Peace, Kenton, Stowmarket Suffolk. IP14 6JS

Maps: This leaflet can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey Explorer 2 Chiltern Hills North 1:25,000 and Ordnance Survey Landranger 165 Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard 1:50,000.

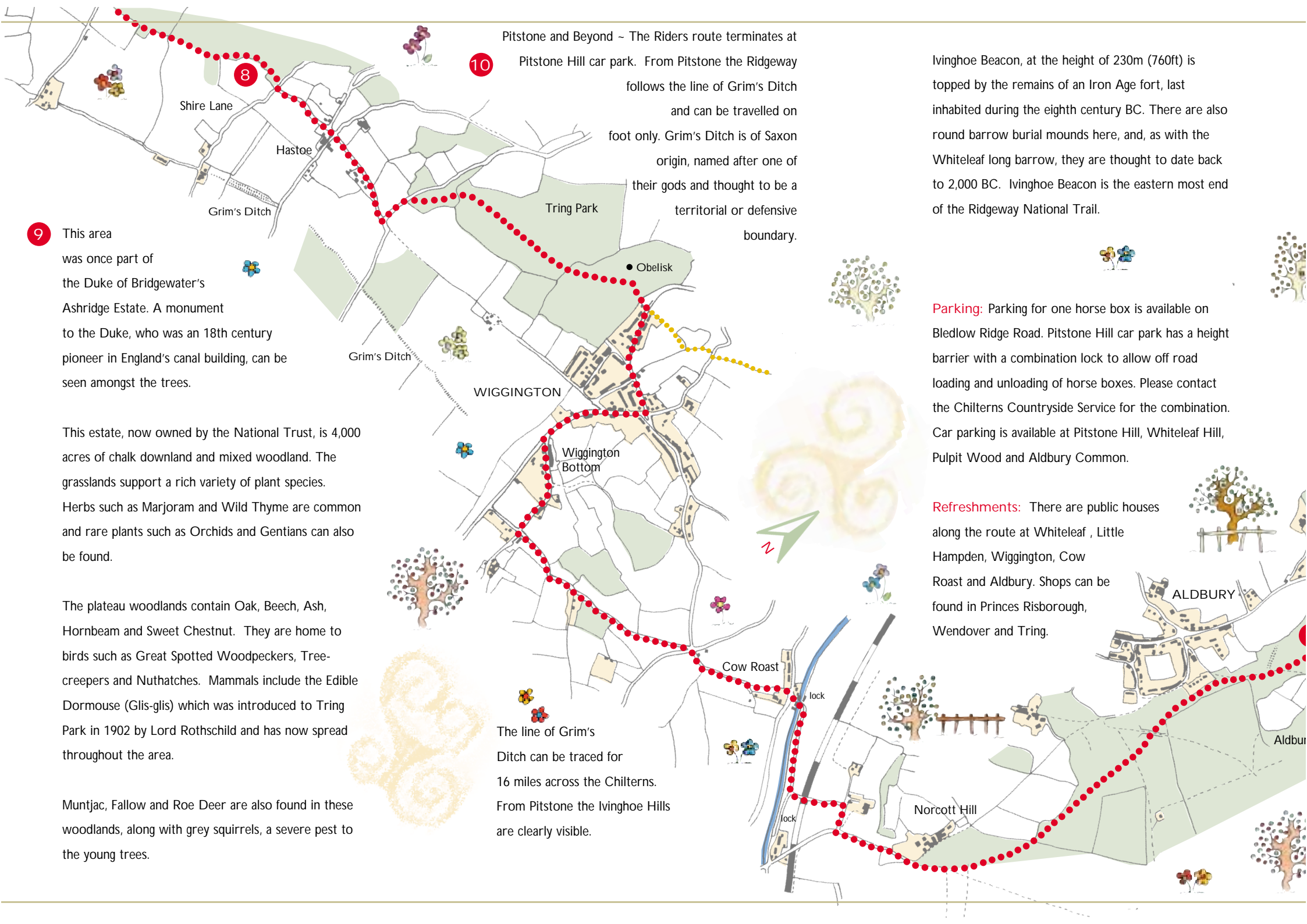
Please follow the Country Code:

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take your litter home.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.

Leave only footprints

Take only photographs

Kill only time



9 This area was once part of the Duke of Bridgewater's Ashridge Estate. A monument to the Duke, who was an 18th century pioneer in England's canal building, can be seen amongst the trees.

This estate, now owned by the National Trust, is 4,000 acres of chalk downland and mixed woodland. The grasslands support a rich variety of plant species. Herbs such as Marjoram and Wild Thyme are common and rare plants such as Orchids and Gentians can also be found.

The plateau woodlands contain Oak, Beech, Ash, Hornbeam and Sweet Chestnut. They are home to birds such as Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Tree-creepers and Nuthatches. Mammals include the Edible Dormouse (Glis-glis) which was introduced to Tring Park in 1902 by Lord Rothschild and has now spread throughout the area.

Muntjac, Fallow and Roe Deer are also found in these woodlands, along with grey squirrels, a severe pest to the young trees.

10 Pitstone and Beyond ~ The Riders route terminates at Pitstone Hill car park. From Pitstone the Ridgeway follows the line of Grim's Ditch and can be travelled on foot only. Grim's Ditch is of Saxon origin, named after one of their gods and thought to be a territorial or defensive boundary.

The line of Grim's Ditch can be traced for 16 miles across the Chilterns. From Pitstone the Ivinghoe Hills are clearly visible.

Ivinghoe Beacon, at the height of 230m (760ft) is topped by the remains of an Iron Age fort, last inhabited during the eighth century BC. There are also round barrow burial mounds here, and, as with the Whiteleaf long barrow, they are thought to date back to 2,000 BC. Ivinghoe Beacon is the eastern most end of the Ridgeway National Trail.

Parking: Parking for one horse box is available on Bledlow Ridge Road. Pitstone Hill car park has a height barrier with a combination lock to allow off road loading and unloading of horse boxes. Please contact the Chilterns Countryside Service for the combination. Car parking is available at Pitstone Hill, Whiteleaf Hill, Pulpit Wood and Aldbury Common.

Refreshments: There are public houses along the route at Whiteleaf, Little Hampden, Wiggington, Cow Roast and Aldbury. Shops can be found in Princes Risborough, Wendover and Tring.

The Icknield Way is thought to be the oldest track in Britain, dating from Neolithic times (4,000-2,000 BC). It was the trade route of the Iceni, an early British tribe, linking the Norfolk Coast to the downlands of south-central England.

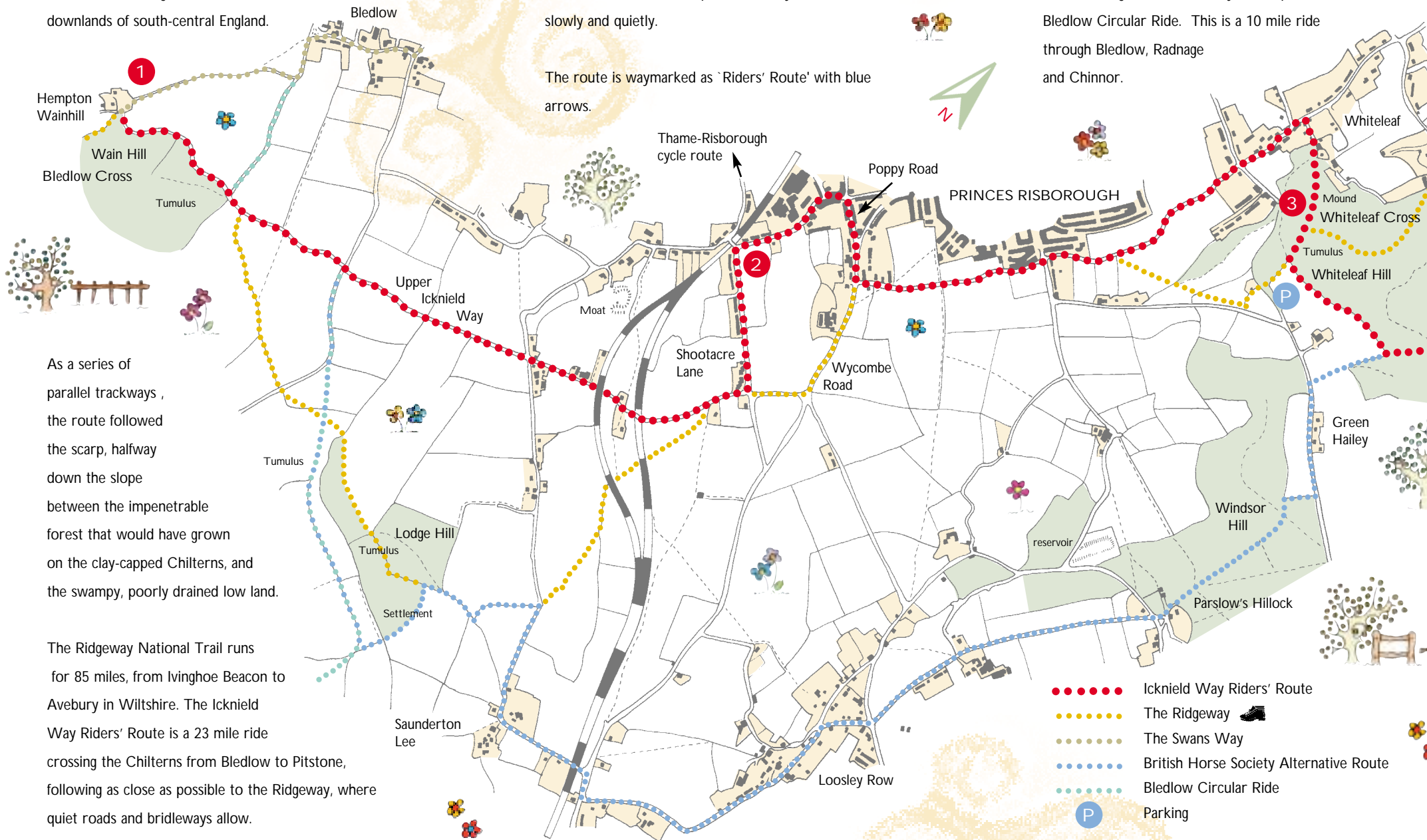
Using the Route: Please remember that this route passes over privately owned land. Please treat it with respect and use your rights with courtesy and discretion. Pass animals, pedestrians, cyclists and riders slowly and quietly.

1 The Icknield Way connects with the Swans Way, a 65 mile bridle route running from Goring on Thames in Oxfordshire to Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. Also crossing the Icknield Way at this point is the Bledlow Circular Ride. This is a 10 mile ride through Bledlow, Radnage and Chinnor.

The route is waymarked as 'Riders' Route' with blue arrows.

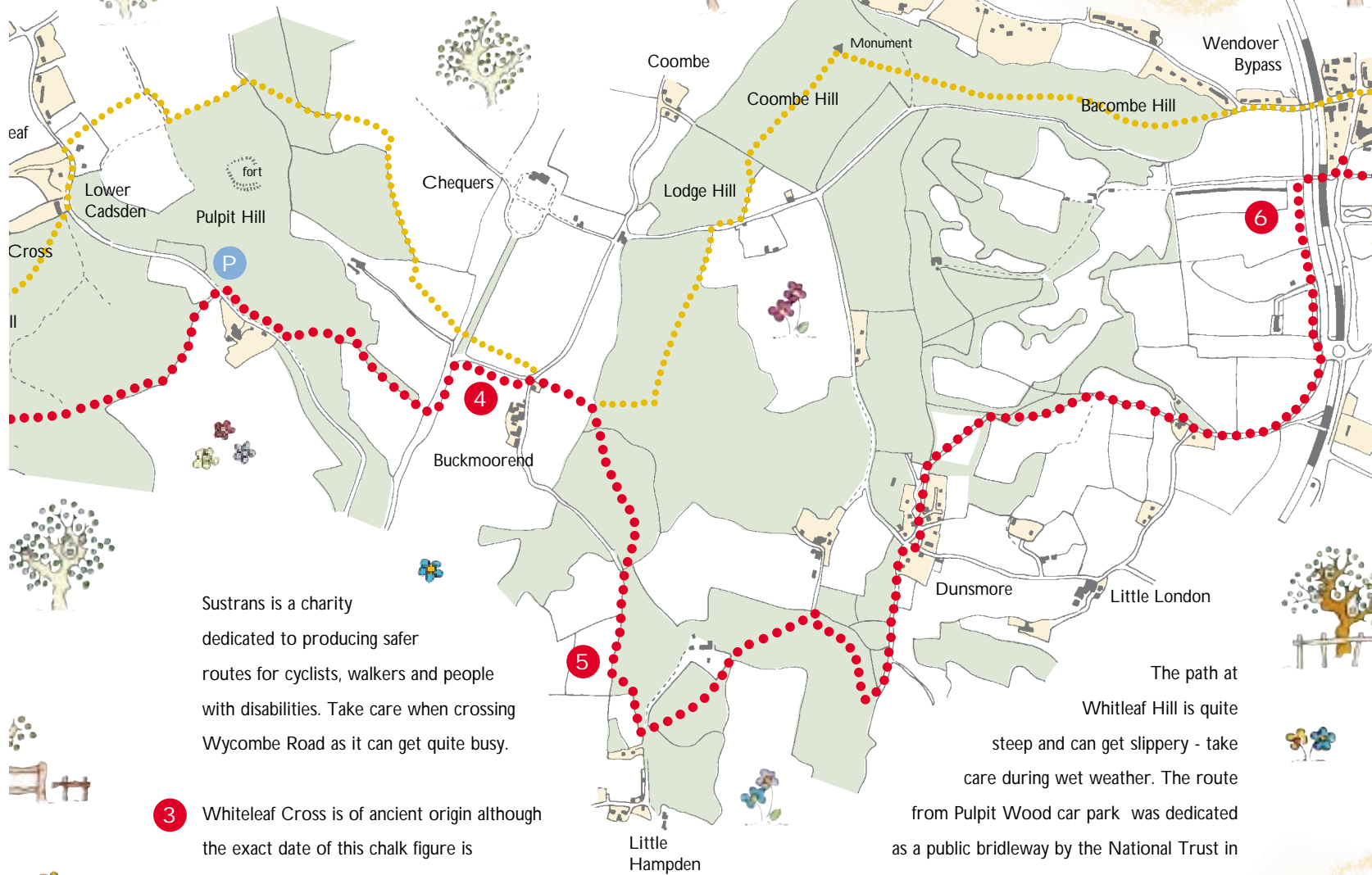
As a series of parallel trackways, the route followed the scarp, halfway down the slope between the impenetrable forest that would have grown on the clay-capped Chilterns, and the swampy, poorly drained low land.

The Ridgeway National Trail runs for 85 miles, from Ivinghoe Beacon to Avebury in Wiltshire. The Icknield Way Riders' Route is a 23 mile ride crossing the Chilterns from Bledlow to Pitstone, following as close as possible to the Ridgeway, where quiet roads and bridleways allow.



- Icknield Way Riders' Route
- The Ridgeway
- The Swans Way
- British Horse Society Alternative Route
- Bledlow Circular Ride
- P Parking

2 The route follows the Upper Icknield Way to the Wycombe Road (via Shootacre Lane, Picts Lane and Poppy Road). Here the route connects with Sustrans' Thames to Princes Risborough Cycle route.



3 Whiteleaf Cross is of ancient origin although the exact date of this chalk figure is unknown. Adjacent to the path is a Neolithic long barrow, dating back to 2000 B.C. From the top of Whiteleaf Hill there are extensive views across the Vale of Aylesbury.

4 Chequers, the country residence of the Prime Minister, can be seen at the end of the tree-lined drive.

Sustrans is a charity dedicated to producing safer routes for cyclists, walkers and people with disabilities. Take care when crossing Wycombe Road as it can get quite busy.

The path at Whiteleaf Hill is quite steep and can get slippery - take care during wet weather. The route from Pulpit Wood car park was dedicated as a public bridleway by the National Trust in February's part of the Icknield Way riders' Route.

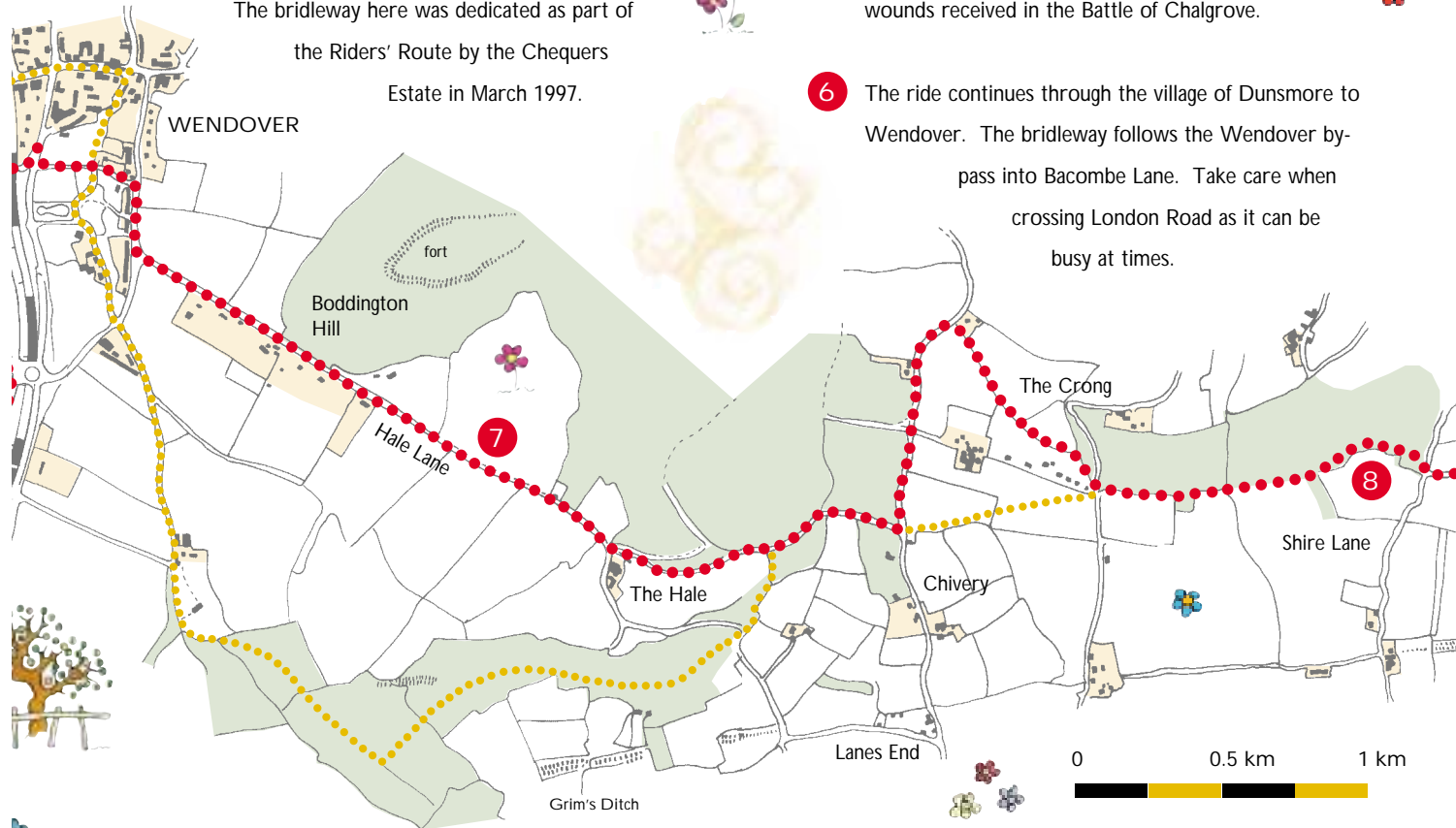
The house was built in the 16th century and used to imprison Lady Mary Keys, a great Grand-daughter of Henry VII and sister to Lady Jane Grey. Lady Mary was held by Elizabeth I to prevent her having any claim for the throne. Chequers was given to the nation in 1917.



The bridlway here was dedicated as part of the Riders' Route by the Chequers Estate in March 1997.



MP for Wendover, refused to pay an unpopular ship tax on some of the land. This led to an unsuccessful attempt at his arrest and, in turn, helped to ignite the English Civil War. During the war he was one of the leaders of the Parliamentary Army, until he died from wounds received in the Battle of Chalgrove.



5 From Chequers to Little Hampden the route follows the South Bucks Way. This is a 23 mile linear walk from Coombe Hill near Wendover to the Grand Union Canal at Denham. Great and Little Hampden parish was part of the Hampden family estate from Saxon times. In 1641 John Hampden, the



7 Hale Lane is an old drovers' road. The drovers drove their livestock using the Icknield Way tracks, being below the Chiltern escarpment and therefore drier.

8 Near the Crong the route re-joins the Ridgeway to Shire Lane. This is the Buckinghamshire/Hertfordshire boundary.