

# Princes Risborough Ridgeway Circular Walk

A 7 mile circular walk following sections of The Ridgeway National Trail and the Chiltern Way, through beautiful Chilterns scenery including wooded hills and nature reserves. You will pass some great rural pubs, a windmill and some far-reaching views.

**Length:** 7 miles / 11km

**Terrain:** A moderate walk on easy but sometimes muddy tracks and along quiet lanes. One easy climb. Total ascent 220m / 720ft

**Start & finish:** Princes Risborough Library, Bell St, Princes Risborough HP27 0AA

**Food & drink:** The Whip Inn, Lacey Green and Pink and Lily, Pink Road. Cafés and pubs in Princes Risborough

**Maps:** OS Explorer 181, Chiltern Society 3 and 7

**Parking:** Horns Lane Pay & Display Car Park, Horns lane, Princes Risborough HP27 0AW

**Local transport:** There are various bus services to Princes Risborough including Bus 300 which runs between High Wycombe and Aylesbury all week. Princes Risborough is also served by mainline trains to London Marylebone, the Midlands and Aylesbury.

[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)



Whiteleaf Woods (Peter Goodearl)



Lacey Green windmill

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## Route Description

From Princes Risborough library entrance, turn right along Bell Street to Park Street.

**1** Go over the main road via the pedestrian crossing and walk up the surfaced footpath opposite. Turn right immediately after the metal barriers to emerge into a road. Turn left uphill, go over Merton Road and continue to a field at the end. Go straight across, drop down to a lane to join The Ridgeway and turn right along it to Wycombe Road.

**2** Turn left, walk along the pavement for 600m and turn right along the road signposted to Bledlow and Horsenden. Cross over the junction with Shootacre Lane and continue uphill to Ridgeway Lodge on the left.

**3** Just after the entrance, turn left on The Ridgeway across the middle of a field to a gate in the hedgerow ahead. Do not go through the gate but turn left to leave The Ridgeway and walk along the field edge following the Chiltern Way.

**4** After 350m bear left across the corner of a field and over a ditch. Continue straight across the next field and through a kissing gate onto a road. Cross straight over, go through a gap in a hedge opposite and stay in the same direction along the field edge. Cross directly over an access track; go up a set of steps and bear immediately left on a path to meet the access track again. Turn right along it as it climbs through a riding complex. Just after the concrete track bends left, turn right uphill on a wide path, through a gate and onto a road; Lower Road. Turn right along it then first left up Looseley Hill. At the top are the Whip Inn and the entrance to the Chiltern Society's Lacey Green windmill.

**5** Cross the road, turn right along the pavement and take the gate on the left just in front of the bus shelter. Walk along the field edge, go through a kissing gate and stay in the same direction through two more gates into a large paddock. Bear right to cross a stile in the fence line. Turn left and follow the path between the paddocks for 300m to go over a stile to the right of a field gate. Continue directly ahead to the left of the electricity pylon to a kissing gate in the middle of the hedgerow ahead. Go through and bear half right to pass through a further gate on the edge of a wood. Turn left down to a lane and then left along it for 550m to a road junction by The Pink and Lily pub. Turn right along the verge for a few metres and then cross to a surfaced track past Woodlands.



View from Whiteleaf Hill

**6** Follow the track round to the right and go through a gate on to a wide bridleway. Stay on it for 1km ignoring all tracks left and right to meet a lane. Turn left along the lane for 450m to a bridleway on the right just past Hailey Cottage.

**7** Go through the gate, bear half left across the field and follow its edge to a gate in the right-hand corner. Go through, cross directly over a wide bridleway and go past a gate into a wood. Stay on the bridleway, keeping to the edge of the wood, for 200m ignoring all paths to the right to reach a path junction. Keep left and follow the bridleway for 750m to meet a broad track and The Ridgeway. (A short diversion to the right will lead to the top of the ancient Whiteleaf Cross).



Whiteleaf Cross

**8** Turn left past both the WWI trenches and the path up to Whiteleaf Hill car park. After 250m, drop down to a lane. Turn right downhill for a few metres and then take the slope on the left up to a gate. Go through, turn left and stay on the path past the next gate. Bear right to admire the magnificent panorama from the stone topograph at the top of Brush Hill. Returns towards the gate, turn right alongside the fence and follow The Ridgeway signs to the second gate on the left. Do not go through but turn right downhill to a set of steps and a kissing gate. Go through the gate and continue down the next set of steps, past an information board and out of the wood. Continue to descend for a further 300m to meet a t-junction and the Icknield Way.

**9** Turn left along the rough lane to a road. Turn right and follow it downhill to a roundabout at the bottom. Turn left along Horns Lane to return to the library.



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## Visitor Information - Where to Eat and Stay

### Refreshments

There are several cafes, pubs and restaurants in Princes Risborough [www.visitchilterns.co.uk](http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk)

The Whip Inn, Lacey Green HP27 0PG - 01844 344060 - <http://thewhipinn.co.uk>

The Pink & Lily, Pink Road, Lacey Green HP27 0RJ - 01494 489857 - <http://pink-lily.com>

### Accommodation

Ridgeway Lodge B&B, Saunderton HP27 9NL - 01844 345438 - [www.bedbreakfast-ridgewaylodge.co.uk](http://www.bedbreakfast-ridgewaylodge.co.uk)

Greenhills Garden Apartment B&B, Princes Risborough HP27 0NX - 01844 342409  
[www.princesrisborough-bedbreakfast.co.uk](http://www.princesrisborough-bedbreakfast.co.uk)

The Red Lion in Upper Icknield Way, Whiteleaf, HP27 0LL - 01844 344476 [www.theredlionwhiteleaf.co.uk](http://www.theredlionwhiteleaf.co.uk)

Windmill Farm (self-catering), Pink Road, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough HP27 0PG  
Contact: Mrs Rosemarie Smith 01844 343901

### Caring for the Chilterns,

#### The Chiltern Way and The Ridgeway

This walk is one of a series jointly produced by the Chiltern Society, Chilterns Conservation Board and National Trails Team. Local people and visitors are invited to enjoy and help care for the Chilterns.

For further information about walks, events, volunteering, membership, donations and more, please visit:

[www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)

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

[www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org)



**The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL** 

## Points of Interest

**The Ridgeway National Trail** is described as Britain's oldest road, following a route used for at least 5,000 years by travellers, herdsmen and soldiers. It starts in the World Heritage Site of Avebury and crosses the chalk ridges of the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns AONBs, a total of 87 miles. The Chilterns section travels through woodlands, nature reserves and quiet valleys and also passes several magnificent viewpoints. [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway)

**The Chiltern Way** was set up as a millennium project by volunteers from Chiltern Society. It's a circular walking route of 134 miles with two optional extensions and an additional loop taking the total route to a maximum of 220 miles. [www.chilternsociety.org.uk/about-ChltnWay.php](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/about-ChltnWay.php)

**A Lacey Green Windmill:** England's oldest remaining 'smock' mill, so called due to its resemblance to an old fashioned farmer's smock. The internal wooden machinery appears to date from c1650. During the 19th century it was rebuilt and modernised with fantail, patent sails, governor and machinery for grain cleaning and flour sifting, and continued working until 1915. By the late 1960s, the mill was in a desperate state, the whole body being twisted and tilted. In 1971 the Chiltern Society stepped in and volunteers, led by Christopher Wallis, began work to restore it. The project was completed in 1986 and in July 2013 it was given a prestigious Engineering Heritage Award by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. [www.chilternsociety.org.uk/laceygreen](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/laceygreen)

### B Pink & Lily Pub

Legend has it that the Pink and Lily pub came into being in 1800 when Mr Pink, a butler from nearby Hampden House, and Miss Lillie, a chambermaid from the same house, fell in love and turned a private house into the Pink and Lily hostelry. Rupert Brooke, one of the famous First World War poets, used to walk in the Chilterns and regularly visited the pub. He wrote a short cheerful ditty about a particularly merry lunch at the Pink and Lily with his friend Jacques Raverat. <http://pink-lily.com>

**C Whiteleaf Hill:** The chalk hill-figure of Whiteleaf Cross has dominated the local landscape for several centuries. Its full history is unknown but is thought to have been constructed by the Saxon king Edward the Elder to commemorate a battle. The Bronze Age burial mounds date back to c3500-2500 BC. There are several WWI practice trenches at the southern end of the site adjacent to The Ridgeway. It is a Chiltern Society site with regular events and guided walks. [www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)

**D Brush Hill:** A Local Wildlife Site with a wide variety of plants and animals inhabiting the chalk grassland, scrub and woodland. Depending on when you visit you may be lucky enough to see roe deer, nuthatches and goldcrests, chalkhill blue butterflies, orchids, violet helleborines, bluebells, and even glow worms. [www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)