

**The
Ridgeway
National
Trail
(May 2017)**



Travelled by National Express from London Victoria to Marlborough on Friday 26th of May 2017. Camped @ Postern Hill Campsite and started in Marlborough Town Centre on Saturday the 27th. Photo 1 shows Marlborough Town Centre.



I left Marlborough on the Wessex Ridgeway Trail and followed it all the way to Avebury. The Wessex Ridgeway Trail (part of the Greater Ridgeway Trail) starts in Lyme Regis (Dorset) and finishes in Marlborough. Photo 2 shows Wessex Ridgeway Trail.



Photo 3 shows some large rocks @ Avebury Stone Circle.



The rocks at Avebury are made from Sarsen Stone which was procured from the surrounding area.
Photo 4 shows a close-up of one of the rocks @ Avebury Stone Circle.



Photo 5: shows the main bank and ditch around Avebury Stone Circle.



Circular Neolithic Earthworks are called a Henge, with Avebury Stone Henge being one of the World's largest examples. There was a large number of stones missing from each circle, but the ones that remained were sufficient to get an idea of how the place would have looked. Photo 6 shows stones aligned on one of the inner circles.



Photo 7: Avebury's Outer and inner stones circles with surrounding bank and ditch.



Photo 8: West Kennet Avenue which leads from Avebury Stone Circle towards West Kennet Long barrow.



Photo 9: Silbury Hill. A 39m high Man-made structure which was constructed around 2600BC.



Photo 10: Entrance to West Kennet Long Barrow. A burial chamber dating from about 3600BC.



Photo 11: Entrance to West Kennet Long Barrow and its, now vacant, burial chambers.



Photo 12: Internal Chamber at West Kennet Long Barrow.



Photo 13: Map at official start of The Ridgeway National Trail. Map shows whole of the Ridgeway NT Route. I reach this point at approximately 17:00 on Saturday 27th.



Photo 14: Signpost at start of Ridgeway Trail. 87 miles to the finish point at Ivinghoe Beacon.



Photo 15: Ridgeway Trail heading towards Barbury Castle. Barbury Castle is a Neolithic Hillfort.



Photo 16: Main Entrance to Barbury Castle. An 11-acre fort with double ramparts.



Photo 17: Map-panel (information panel with map) east of Ogbourne St George.



Photo 18: Trig Point (277m) and Toposcope @ Liddington Castle Hill Fort.



Photo 19: Toposcope showing directions to nearby towns and cities.



Photo 20: Basha Setup for a wild-camp near Foxhill.



Photo 21: Another map-panel next to B4000 and just west of Wayland's Smithy.



Photo 22: Wayland's Smithy. Another Neolithic long barrow which dates back to 2800BC. With Four Large Sarsen Stones across the entrance.



Photo 23: Entrance to Wayland Smithy Burial Chamber.



Photo 24: Uffington Castle (another Neolithic hillfort) Information Panel.



Photo 25: Uffington White Horse. Believed to date from 800BC.



Photo 26: Monument dedicated to Lord Wantage.



Photo 27: Hiking along trail at Bury Down.



Photo 28: A map-panel located near to where the A34 crosses the trail.



Photo 29: Hiking along road near to Streatley Warren.



Photo 30: Signpost close to half way point, only 44 miles to Ivinghoe Beacon.



Photo 31: A dead Robin found lying by the side of the road.



Photo 32: A four double-arched railway viaduct crossing the river Thames. Double = two four arched viaducts built next to each other with a small gap inbetween.



Photo 33: Boats on the river Thames near Goring.



Photo 34: Following footpath on Ridgeway near Wallingford.



Photo 35: The Ridgeway following the course of a Grim's (devil's) Ditch Earthwork.



Photo 36: National Trail Acorn and Ridgeway NT Badges on a Gatepost.



Photo 37: More Grim's Ditch.



Photo 38: Footpath across farm field near Nuffield.



Photo 39: Ridgeway Trail following a restricted byway.



Photo 40: Camping at White Mark Farm Campsite.



Photo 41: Ridgeway NT Map-panel showing route from Watlington to Ivinghoe Beacon.



Photo 42: The beauty and tranquillity of the Ridgeway NT just before it goes underneath the noisy, pollution heavy, M40.



Photo 43: Signpost indicating directions on Ridgeway NT & Icknield way.



Photo 44: Dead Deer found lying by side of road.



Photo 47: Information Panel in centre of Princes Risborough.



Photo 46: Burial Mound and info-panel at Whiteleaf Nature Reserve.



Photo 47: Admiring view while standing above Whiteleaf Cross.



Photo 48: Having a 'Pint of Soda Water' at The Plough Pub Cadsden.



Photo 49: Chequers Estate.



Photo 50: Monument commemorating people killed in Boer War.



Photo 51: Wendover Tourist Office & Clock Tower.



Photo 52: Hiking Ridgeway Trail through Hale Wood.



Photo 53: Carved Owl Face on bench at Tring Park.



Photo 54: Straight level path through Tring Park. South of the town of Tring. The 'Natural history museum of Tring' has Walter Rothschild's personal collection of 4000 stuffed animals.



Photo 55: Final stretch of woodland path before Ivinghoe beacon.



Photo 56: View from Ivinghoe beacon looking back along Ridgeway NT.



Photo 57: On top of Ivinghoe Beacon with info-panel and trig point. Looking North.



Photo 58: On top of Ivinghoe Beacon with info-panel and trig point. Looking West.



Photo 59: View from Ivinghoe Beacon towards Town Farm Camping and Ivinghoe Town.



Photo 60: My left foot just after completing 'The Ridgeway National Trail'



Photo 61: Canvas Sheet (Basha) and Bivi-bag set-up @ Town Farm Camping Campsite.

The Ridgeway National Trail is an 87-mile (139km) Trail which starts at Overton Hill (Wiltshire) and finishes at Ivinghoe Beacon (Buckinghamshire). Overton Hill is just a couple of miles from Avebury Stone Circle. The Ridgeway follows an ancient roadway that has been used since Neolithic times, archaeological evidence found has dated parts of the trail to over 5000 years in age. The main features of the trail are: walking the route of the ancient ridgeway, numerous Iron-age hillfort, burial mounds, a number of white-horse carved into hill sides, Grim's Ditch. The first half (western part) involves hill walking over fairly remote and exposed English countryside, while the second half (eastern part) is mainly through picturesque beech/oak woodland.
