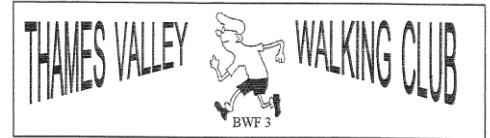


ASHRIDGE TRAIL (PT278)



- CONTACT:** Peter Tilbury - 116 Wykeham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PL
Telephone - 0118 966 6523 E-mail - BTreading@aol.com
- DISTANCE:** 10km
- ENTRY FEE:** £1.00 per walker (Cheques made payable to Thames Valley Walking Club)
- AWARD:** There is currently no award for this walk.
- START VENUE:** Bridgewater Monument, Off B4506 between Berkhamstead & Dagnall, HP4 1LT
(OS Explorer Map 181 GR: SP 971131)
- CAR PARKING:** At start venue or alongside track leading to Bridgewater Monument.
- FACILITIES:** Cafe & toilets in National Trust Visitors Centre at the start venue.
- TRANSPORT:** None to the start venue.
- TERRAIN:** A mixture of woodland footpaths and tracks. Not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

(Updated October 2017)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE GREAT CARE ON ALL ROAD SECTIONS OF THIS TRAIL

Follow tarmac roadway towards visitor centre keeping monument on right. Pass visitor centre on left and at end of tarmac, go ahead on gravel track. After approx. 75m, bear left on 'Meadow Track'. Follow track along edge of woods with meadow on left. At end of meadow, turn left and continue to follow wide track still keeping meadow on left. Follow track as it bears left, then after approx. 20m at wooden post with bridleway signs on, turn right on bridleway to head away from meadow. Follow bridleway through woods and at footpath crossing, go straight ahead. Continue to follow bridleway through woods ignoring all side turnings to reach road. Cross road **WITH GREAT CARE** and go straight ahead, bearing right onto tree lined avenue. Follow path along avenue of trees for approx. 1,000m (with golf course on left) heading towards house in distance.

Just before fence across avenue, footpath turns right (in direction of horse riders arrow). After approx. 80m turn right off track onto footpath (sign on right). Follow well-defined footpath through woods crossing a track, then continuing through woods passing paddock on right to join up with tarmac track. Go ahead on track, passing house called 'Woodyard' on right and continue to follow track ignoring all side turnings for approx. 450m to reach entrance to farm. (3½ km)

Question 1: On the wooden post with footpath signs on it, on the right-hand side there are 6 directional arrows. On the bottom one (for the Hertfordshire Way) - which direction is the arrow pointing?

Facing the farm, turn left on track. After approx. 100m and at footpath fork, bear left on Icknield Way Trail. At yellow topped footpath signpost turn left. After approx. 140m, enter field and bear left following left-hand edge of field with woods on left. At corner of field go straight ahead following footpath into woods for approx. 50m to reach road. Cross road and go ahead on permissive bridleway and footpath signposted 'Little Gaddesden 1'. Follow private road uphill. On reaching house, go ahead on tarmac driveway (ignoring track to right) to pass entrance to house. (5km)

Question 2: What is the name of the house?

Continue ahead on footpath between hedges. Continue to follow footpath between wire fences and through kissing gate. Continue straight ahead following footpath sign. Pass seat on left made out of an old log and continue to follow footpath across field, with glimpses to your left of Ashridge College through the trees. (*During World War 1, the house was used to train and billet troops. The Ashridge Estate was also used for First World War practice trenches*). Pass through gate and continue ahead on footpath. Go over slight crest then follow footpath bearing round to the left for approx. 200m to reach junction with track. Turn left on track and after approx. 20m (immediately after metal inspection cover), bear right on well-defined path along valley (with track heading away from you on your left). Follow path along valley ignoring all side turnings for approx. 700m, before bearing right just before golf course to walk alongside roadway. As footpath joins roadway by 'Ashridge Estate Boundary Trail' footpath sign, bear right across roadway onto footpath following 'Ashridge Estate Boundary Trail' arrow. Follow footpath through woodland for approx. 550m. Pass a couple of houses on right and at cross paths go straight ahead. Path follows edge of wood with golf course on left. Go straight ahead at cross paths and continue to follow footpath with golf course on left. Immediately before footpath meets road there is a National Trust sign on your left regarding Ashridge Park. (8½km)

Question 3: What is not permitted to take place in the park?

Cross road **WITH CARE** and go ahead through parking area onto footpath towards 'Bridgewater Monument & Visitor Centre'. After approx. 130m and at footpath junction, turn left and follow footpath through woods. Follow footpath for approx. 875m, before bearing right towards 'Bridgewater Monument & Visitor Centre'. Follow bridleway ignoring all turnings to return to 'Bridgewater Monument & Visitor Centre'.

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To claim your IVV stamp, please use the 'Permanent Trail Completion & IVV Stamp Claim Form' which is downloadable from the BWF website and send with your record books to the walk contact.