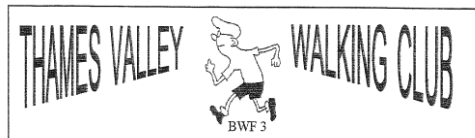


ASHRIDGE TRAIL (PT278)



- CONTACT:** Geoff Bullock - 11a Budes Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1PL
Telephone - 07974 974236 E-mail – gblock11a@gmail.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 19th May 2026)

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, cafe and toilets on left and at end of tarmac, go ahead on gravel track. After approx. 75m, bear left on 'Meadleys Meadow Track'. Follow track along edge of woods with meadow on left. At end of meadow, turn left and continue to follow wide track, passing bench on right, still keeping meadow on left.

Pass 2nd bench, follow track as it bears left past a large tree stump on left. After approx. 20m, bear right on bridleway with low 'rustic' fence on right, heading 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** past Bridleway and No Cycling waymarker, ahead, bearing right onto tree lined avenue. (Monument access road behind you) Follow path along avenue of trees for approx. 1,000m heading towards large house in distance. Before the fence across avenue, bear right on footpath (in direction of horse riders arrow). After approx. 80m bear right off track onto footpath (waymarker on left).

Follow well-defined footpath through woods crossing a track, then continuing through woods. Ahead through wooden kissing gate, across paddock towards the headland and through kissing gate to join up with tarmac track. Bear right 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 left-hand side there are 6 directional arrows. What is the 5th down waymarker arrow?

Facing the farm, turn left on track. After approx. 100m and at footpath fork, at yellow topped footpath waymarker, bear left on Icknield Way Trail. 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 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 cross track. Ahead on well-defined grass 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. Cross road **WITH CARE**. There is a National Trust sign on your left regarding Ashridge Park. (8½km)

Question 3: What is not advised?

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, to junction, bearing right towards 'Bridgewater Monument & Visitor Centre'. Follow bridleway ignoring all turnings to return to 'Bridgewater Monument & Visitor Centre'.

* * * * *

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.