

THE UFFINGTON PARISH TRAIL

Uffington – Hardwell Lane – The Ridgeway – White Horse Hill – Uffington

Distance: 7.1 miles

Typical Time: 4 hours plus sightseeing time

Height gain: 210 metres

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer Series, 170. The map to accompany these notes is reproduced from the 1949 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of Ordnance Survey.




Access: The walk starts from Uffington where you can park in The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.







Additional Information:







Uffington is a charming village, in the centre of which is St. Mary's Church, known as The Cathedral of the Vale. A detour can be made to visit Tom Brown's School Museum. The Trail follows the route of old Parish Boundaries and is principally through farmland. There is a short road section where it is possible to walk along the verge. The Trail rises to meet The Ridgeway and takes in the dramatic landscape of the White Horse Hill and Uffington Castle. After climbing to the highest point in Oxfordshire, the Trail descends back to Uffington.







Refreshments: A detour can be made to The White Horse at Woolstone; teas are served at Britchcombe Farm during the summer months; the Trail passes The Fox & Hounds in Uffington; and teas are also served in St Mary's Church on Sunday afternoons from June to September.







Facilities: There are no toilets on the route.

<p>1. SU306894</p>		<p>Park in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. Walk left from the car park beside the Hall buildings and the hedge, right into High Street and left down Broad Street towards the Church. Either follow the trail past the Church or take a small diversion to Tom Brown's School Museum farther down Broad Street.</p>
<p>2. SU302892</p>		<p>The Museum is housed in the old schoolroom built in 1617 and is open at weekends from Easter to the end of October from 2.00 – 5.00 p.m. Entry is free. The trail may be re-joined by going through the iron gate and walking towards the Church.</p>
<p>3. SU 302892</p>		<p>St. Mary's Church. Walk through the church gates and along the tarmac path to the left of the church. Take time to visit the Church. The small door in the east end of the Church is open during daylight hours.</p>

<p>4. SU301893</p>		<p>Enter and exit the Burial Ground via kissing gates and head to the stile over a wooden fence.</p>
<p>5. SU300893</p>		<p>Walk left to cross Rosey Brook by a wooden bridge.</p>
<p>6. SU300894</p>		<p>Cross Fernham Road and walk through the driveway of The Craven, passing the front door, and crossing the ditch into the field. Continue in same direction, taking the left hand of the two footpaths, towards a clump of trees to the right of farm buildings. Continue right along field boundary with the hedge on your left.</p>
<p>7. SU297891</p>		<p>Look out for footpath on the left going through a gap in the hedge, across a wooden bridge to meet the road.</p>
<p>8. SU296891</p>		<p>Cross the road and take the footpath across the field towards willows and the hedge with the White Horse Hill seen in the distance.</p> <p>On reaching field boundary, cross the wooden bridge and follow the path through the field newly planted with trees.</p>
<p>9. SU295886</p>		<p>An alternative route may be taken here by following the road into Woolstone, passing the White Horse Inn, and taking the stile into a field at the top of the village. Keeping the hedge on your left, walk into the next field and cross the stile in the corner into Hardwell Lane and meeting up with the route at point 16.</p>

<p>10. SU295886</p>		<p>Take the footpath right and follow course of stream and over footbridge and stile into field. Take care as the footpath is narrow and slopes towards the stream. Follow field boundary to stile into next field and then stile and footbridge in the corner. Exit into large field and continue ahead with boundary on left towards field gate onto road.</p>
<p>11. SU290885</p>		<p>Go through squeeze gate and cross road (Marsh Way). Keeping in the same direction, take the left hand footpath marked D'Arcy Dalton Way, keeping boundary on the left. Cross stile and footbridge in far corner of the field into another field.</p>
<p>12. SU288883</p>		<p>The path angles slightly to the left across the field to the hedge line, cross to the corner of the field.</p>
<p>13. SU285880</p>		<p>Take gap in hedge and turn left between the hedge and post and wire field boundary. After 150 metres, the footpath doglegs left and right into the bottom of Hardwell Lane. Follow this ancient track uphill keeping the gates as you find them.</p>
<p>14. SU288875</p>		<p>This point, with Woolstone village to the left is where an alternative route meets the Trail.</p>
<p>15. SU289871</p>		<p>Turn right at the B4507 and walk along the roadside for 300 metres to the bend in the distance. This short section of road maybe busy in the summer and you are advised to walk along the right hand verge. This road is part of the Ickield Way, an old drovers' road which follows the spring line at the foot of the Downs.</p>

<p>16. SU286870</p>		<p>Take the footpath hidden in the trees on the left. This ancient track takes you past the site of an Iron Age Fort, Hardwell Camp, situated on your left and newly planted with mixed woodland. As you ascend, in the spring time look out for primroses and violets and the tiny moschatel, indicators of ancient woodland.</p>
<p>17. SU286858</p>		<p>When you reach the end of the wooded section, and keeping the same direction, strike out across the field with Uffington Castle seen on your left. After the rise in the field, head towards the footpath sign seen in the distance.</p>
<p>18. SU287856</p>		<p>Turn left and walk along The Ridgeway. The Ridgeway is said to be the oldest road in Europe and there is evidence to suggest it has been used for 5000 years.</p> <p>At the junction, go straight across (the track to the left leads to the White Horse Car Park).</p>
<p>19. SU298861</p>		<p>This footpath would take you to Uffington Castle but the next footpath on the left, at the top of the hill, is a more direct route.</p>
<p>20. SU301862</p>		<p>From this footpath, a detour can be made to visit Uffington Castle and beyond that the chalk figure of the White Horse. The top of the Castle is the highest point in Oxfordshire. From this point the Trail is downhill all the way to Uffington.</p>
<p>21. SU302863</p>		<p>From Uffington Castle, head towards the bottom left hand corner of the field to a stile and return to The Ridgeway.</p>

<p>22. SU308864</p>		<p>Turn left at the bottom of the hill onto the Ridgeway Circular Route.</p> <p>Go through the kissing gate and continue downhill to the right hand side of the woodland.</p>
<p>23. SU307868</p>		<p>Follow the Ridgeway Circular Route down through the fields.</p>
<p>24. SU308872</p>		<p>At the bottom of the field, go through the kissing gates and down the steps to meet the road to Britchcombe Farm. Afternoon cream teas are available at Britchcombe Farm at weekends during the summer months.</p>
<p>25. SU308872</p>		<p>Turn left along the B4507 and walk 50 metres to the footpath on the right hand side. Walk with the copse on the right and the camping field on the left, downhill to the stream in the bottom of the second field.</p>
<p>26. SU307875</p>		<p>Cross over stream and continue along the Ridgeway Circular Route keeping the stream on your left.</p>
<p>27. SU307878</p>		<p>Take the footbridge over the stream and turn right through the newly planted woodland.</p>

<p>28. SU307879</p>		<p>Leave the Ridgeway Circular Route as it turns to the left with another footpath to Fawler on the right, and continue straight ahead between newly planted trees on the left and a hedge to the right.</p>
<p>29. SU307881</p>		<p>Go through the gap in the hedge and over the stile.</p> <p>Walk across the field, showing ridge and furrow, with the Church in view.</p>
<p>30. SU307882</p>		<p>Follow the field boundary with the hedge on the right to Uffington.</p>
<p>31. SU305890</p>		<p>At the final field, walk diagonally across the field to the stile beside the main gate. This will take you onto High Street, turn right and go past the Fox & Hounds and walk up the road to return to the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.</p>

When walking in the countryside please follow the country code: **Respect – Protect – Enjoy.**

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

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