

THE GREAT STONES WAY

A HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE NEW WALKING ROUTE BETWEEN AVEBURY AND STONEHENGE

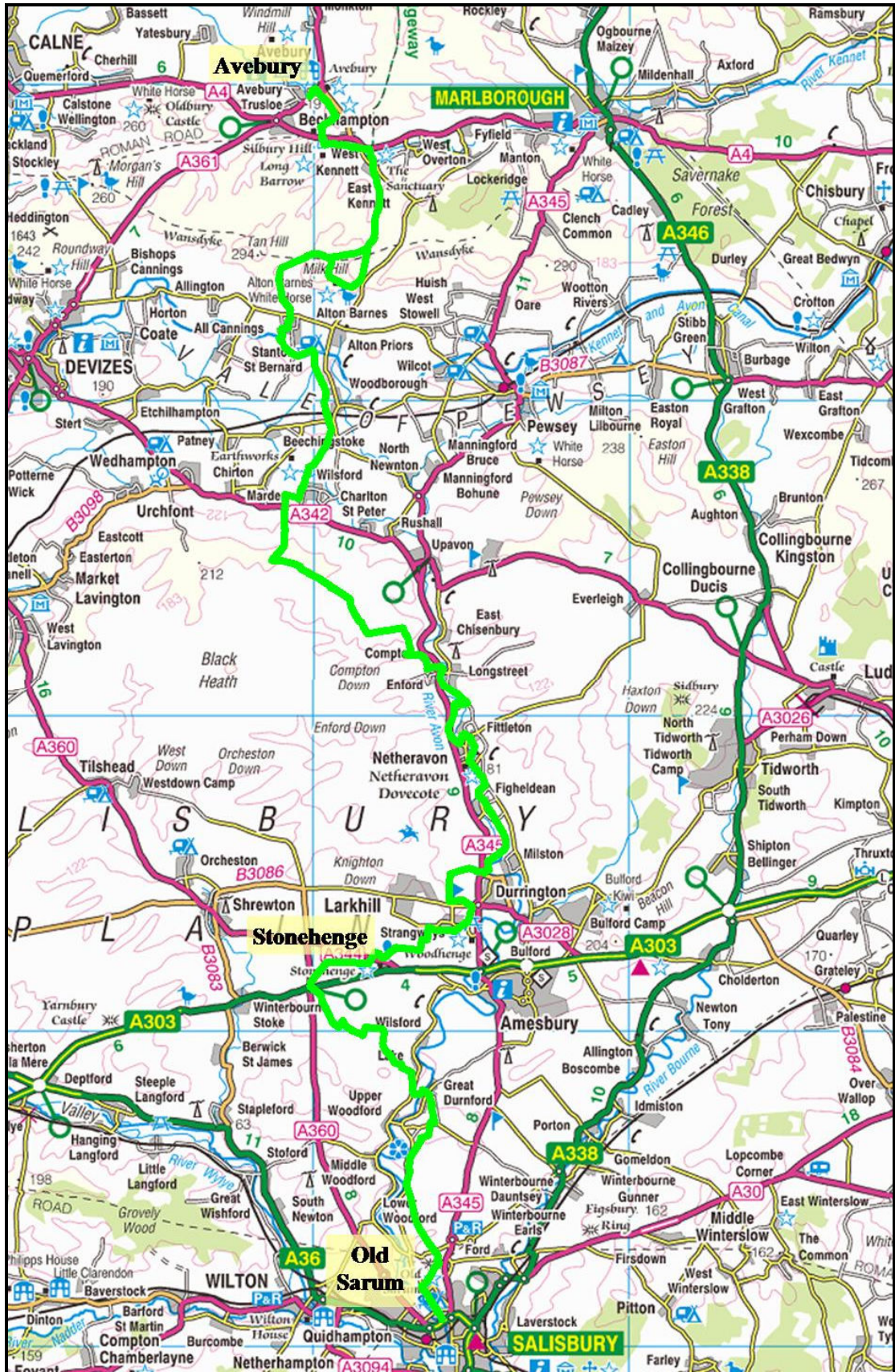
The ancient Ridgeway follows the sweep of the chalk escarpment across the country for some 360 miles, between Lyme Regis in Dorset on the south coast and Hunstanton on The Wash on the east coast. An 85-mile central section of the route, between Ivinghoe Beacon near Dunstable and Avebury in Wiltshire, was adopted as The Ridgeway National Trail in 1972. The Friends of The Ridgeway have long sought the up-grading of the rest of the Ridgeway to match National Trails standards. The Great Stones Way is a first, key initiative towards the achievement of this aim.

The Great Stones Way will

- Be a great 38-mile walk between the iconic stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge, and historic Old Sarum;
- Take in the historic sites of Silbury Hill, The Sanctuary, Adam's Grave, Broadbury Banks, Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, as well as the Stone Age landscape of Stonehenge itself;
- Offer a mixture of high level walking on the Downs and Salisbury Plain, open countryside through the Vale of Pewsey and footpaths through the picturesque villages of the Avon Valley;
- Provide an attractive route for walkers linking Stonehenge and the railway at Salisbury, with good public transport connections along the route;
- Appeal to visitors from the UK and from overseas seeking to visit the best of the heritage attractions of Wessex and Wiltshire;
- Bring huge economic benefits to all the communities along the route.

The Friends of The Ridgeway is grateful for the help of Plain Action, North Wessex Downs AONB and Wiltshire Council in enabling us to commission a full feasibility study to quantify the likely usage and the economic benefits that will accrue to the route corridor, and to determine the costs of the works needed to bring the route up to standards similar to those of a National Trail.





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