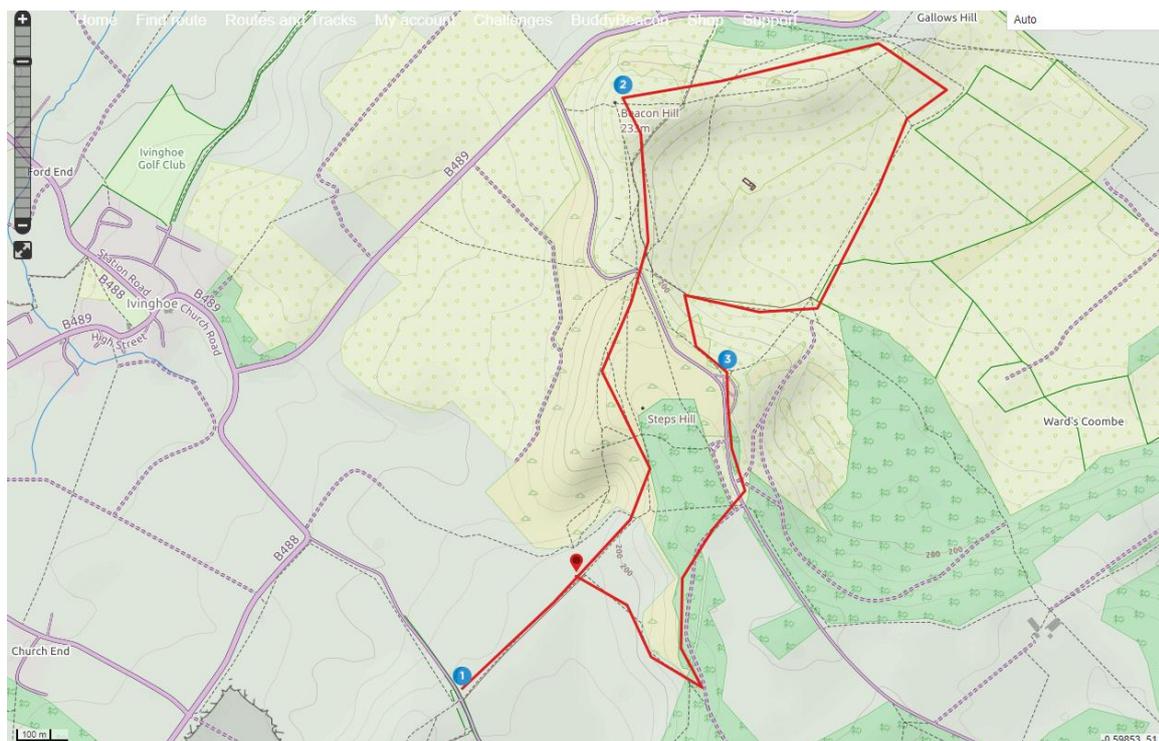


13. Ivinghoe Beacon Round

4.1 miles

<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/NjYwNg==>

Ivinghoe Beacon is one of the highest points in the Chiltern Hills A.O.N.B. Standing on the remains of an Iron Age hillfort, it enjoys spectacular views over the Vale of Aylesbury into Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. There is plenty of evidence of farming over the years with dykes and drover's paths.



The Ridgeway, a National trail and an ancient path dating back many centuries, starts/finishes here and runs 85 miles west along hill ridges to Overton Hill in Wiltshire. Look out for acorn waymarker posts on this trail.

- 13.1 From the car park, exit onto the road and take the Ridgeway footpath opposite which runs along a fence on the right before ascending Steps Hill. Incombe Hole on your left is a dry valley formed by nitration – erosion caused by snow freezing and melting. Continue to a road and follow the left-hand path uphill to reach Ivinghoe Beacon. Key points of interest from the summit are Pitstone windmill and the carved chalk lion on the hillside near Whipsnade Zoo.
- 13.2 Walk along the ridge and descend into the valley, soon turning right up towards the road. While walking through the open grasslands and scrub look out for migrating birds such as the wheatear and ring ouzel, wild flowers such as orchids and pasque, and butterflies.
- 13.3 Take a footpath left running alongside the road, pass through a car park and soon take a track right on the opposite side of the road at the far end of the next car park. Here you descend into the Ashridge woodland famous for its ancient beech and oak trees. On a quiet day, you may catch a glimpse of both fallow and muntjac deer. When the track ascends, bear right on a path which returns you to the Ridgeway, but if you want a longer walk you can follow the track to the Bridgewater monument and National Trust visitor centre.