

# Directions for 5.5 miles Walk the Route from Ridgmont Station to the Forest Centre



## Start

### **RIDGMONT RAIL STATION**

### **RIDGMONT, BEDS**

### **MK43 OXP**

#### **Train times between Ridgmont and Millbrook 2011**

	Eastbound			Westbound		
<b>Ridgmont</b>	11:18	12:18	13:18	11:20	12:20	13:20
<b>Lidlington</b>	11:22	12:22	13:22	11:15	12:15	13:15
<b>Millbrook</b>	11:25	12:25	13:25	11:12	12:12	13:12

The timetable shows when you can expect trains to be operating on the line. Please stay fully alert for trains outside these times.

**Start** from [Ridgmont Station](#), cross the road and head east (right) along [Station Road](#), past the [old Fruit Farm](#). There is no footpath for the first 50 yards. Follow the footpath up the slope and towards the footbridge across the A507 [Ridgmont Bypass](#). Just before you reach the bridge **(1)** turn left and walk down the slope alongside the road. At the bottom, turn left again, go through the gate and straight across the first field. Follow the track up the side of the next field, with the hedge on your right.

At the corner of the field **(2)**, the track continues straight on up the hill, through a narrow gap in the hedge. Continue to the top, where the track curves to the left and joins a tarmac farm track, cross the entrance to the farmyard and straight across a bridge over the top of the railway. There is a good view from the top of the bridge across [Marston Vale](#) with the [Stewartby brick chimneys](#) in the distance. Once across the bridge **(3)**, stop and look immediately to your left to see the route of the waterway along the narrow strip of land between the railway line and the [Amazon building](#).

At **(3)** veer slightly to the right. The entrance to the track is through the concrete blocks. Take the left hand path through the concrete blocks and walk straight towards the ruined remains of the [Round House](#) (visible when you get through the trees). Shortly before the house, turn right at the waymark immediately before the hedge **(4)**, and down the side of the field, down the slope of [Brogborough Hill](#). The route loops round to the right through trees for a short distance at the bottom of the field, and emerges into open fields at the bottom of the slope. There are very few waymarks in this area. Follow the path to your right towards the [railway](#).

Walk across the end of the first two fields, and turn left immediately before the hedge at the side of the second field **(5)**. There is a small stream running through the hedgerow between this and the next field. Walk half way along the length of the field, and then turn right through a gap in the hedge **(6)**. Take the path that branches off to the left, heading straight for the entrance to the field, which has a [large covered hay store](#) alongside it **(7)**. **To avoid this field, continue without turning at (6) to the field entrance, turn right along the road and rejoin the route at (7)**. Turn slightly right by the field entrance to go through the hedge into the next field, then turn right alongside that hedge and walk to the railway embankment **(8)**. Climb the [metal staircase](#) (take care – it may be slippery) up the embankment (there is another good view from the gantry at the top) and cross the [railway line](#). **PLEASE TAKE GREAT CARE WHEN CROSSING – TRAINS WILL BE USING THE LINE**. On the other side, go through the stile into the field and then turn immediately left and walk alongside the railway. The track you are on will emerge onto [Bye Road](#) and run alongside [Lidlington Station](#).

At the junction with [Station Road/Church Street](#), turn right and then almost immediately left into [Lombard Street](#). (If you need refreshment, continue up Church Street first to find shops and pubs.) Follow [Lombard Street](#) around until it turns to the right, at which point carry straight on, looping back towards the railway line again. Where the path widens, level with the black metal bollards, turn left and follow the narrow track through the foliage, climb over the stile and re-cross the railway at the marked crossing point **(9)**. **PLEASE AGAIN TAKE GREAT CARE WHEN CROSSING – TRAINS WILL BE USING THE LINE**.

Once across the railway, follow the [Timberland Trail](#), diagonally across the fields in front of you towards [Marston Moretaine](#), heading towards the [parish church](#). Continue straight across the farm track at **(10)** and through the trees opposite to continue on the Trail across one final field. If the paths aren't clear, head straight for the marker post at the far side of each field. **This section of the route can be very heavy going. To avoid these fields, carry straight on along the path at (9), walk (with care) along the road to the entrance to the Millennium Park, and rejoin the route there.** At the lych gate by the church **(11)**, turn right along a tarmac path that leads you through a row of houses onto [Station Road](#). Go straight across the road and into the entrance to the Forest of Marston Vale Country Park, then follow the footpath round to the left, across and alongside the access road to finish **(12)** at the [Forest Centre](#).

With thanks for help and support for this event to the Bedfordshire Ramblers, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and Branching Out Forest Schools.