



THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

Development Report, AGM 2025

NATIONAL TRAIL STATUS - an update

Since our last AGM where I met Chris Hinchliff, MP for North East Hertfordshire, and discussed with him our National Trail aim, he has been giving us his time and support, so to him we extend our very grateful thanks.

During the past year, we have issued a briefing paper explaining why we think National Trail status for the Icknield Way is vital. The paper has been sent to all the MPs along the Icknield Way as well as to the House of Commons All - Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature, to seek their support.

We are also finalising a covering letter to be sent with the briefing paper to the relevant government ministers to seek a meeting with them to seek their support for upgraded status. We have kept other relevant organisations and notable individuals in the loop and have also sought their advice and assistance in seeking a broad range of opinions.

We have had warm support from some MPs, particularly in the south-west section of the Icknield Way. Laura Kyrke-Smith from the Aylesbury constituency which includes Ivinghoe Beacon has agreed to meet with key organisations involved at the Beacon for a photo opportunity beside the new Great Chalk Way Information Board.

Laura has also agreed to discuss with us our bid for National Trail status and the ultimate aim of having the entire Great Chalk Way as a National Trail.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation and thanks to all my colleagues on our Executive Committee for their help, in particular Tim Johnson and Laurence Rix. I also wish to thank the National Trust (in particular Josh Kyle), Central Bedfordshire Council (especially Howard Hughes) and Suffolk Wildlife Trust (see previous page) for all their help and support.

Doug Landman

Post report comment:

Doug and I met with Laura at the end of Sept at Ivinghoe Beacon, we had a very successful discussion. Laura has agreed to work with Chris to champion our cause in Parliament.

Tom Chevalier