

Print route

Stonesfield, Oxfordshire

4 hours 13.0km / 8.1mi Leisurely

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Route Summary:

This energetic route in the heart of Oxfordshire visits St Peter's church at Wilcote Manor, the crumbling remains of the ancient Lady's Well and the ruins of North Leigh Roman Villa, providing plenty to delight those interested in local history.

Start location:

White Horse pub, Stonesfield (SP393175)

Getting there:

Stagecoach S3 bus, Oxford to Chipping Norton route (not Sundays).

Description:

[1] START in Stonesfield village. Take the road south-west from the White Horse pub and join the bridleway on R past Lower Farm. After 850m, as road bends R, follow signs to footpath on L. Once at top of field, turn L at path crossroads onto bridleway.

[2] At Fawler, turn L onto Charlbury Road, then R at Corner Cottage in the direction of Finstock. Go under the railway then over the river; the footpath leads to the Plough Inn.

[3] At the inn, take footpath to the L in the opposite direction to the village hall and Charlbury. Stay on footpath, heading south-west across the centre of the field (can be very muddy if recently ploughed). Go L at end of second field. Pass some dilapidated farm buildings and turn right through copse. Once at the lane, pay a visit to St Peter's Church on the L, if time allows. It is a small building dating from the 12th century but extensively renovated in the Victorian period. Retrace your steps back to where you turned L for the chapel and continue on footpath across the road, heading south.

[4] Keeping pond on the L, walk past the buildings at Wilcote; a wide path continues here between two fields descending through a wooded avenue to the remains of the Lady's Well. In days gone by, children would visit this well on Palm Sunday with bottles containing liquorice. They would fill the bottles with well water to make a drink called 'Spanish Juice'. Cross stile then head L towards farm. Continue on track past outbuildings and down wooded avenue to reach a lane.

[5] Turn R onto lane and head south-east to a junction. Take the path that lies off to the L. Head through the gates and follow field boundary. At woods, go R on lane briefly before heading L uphill. When footpath splits, continue straight on to lane. Turn L at the lane and follow signs to the Roman villa. The villa houses one of the best surviving examples of a hypocaust, a Roman form of underfloor heating. It remains an idyllic spot to this day. From the villa,

the footpath is well signposted back to Stonesfield village. Once at the village, follow the High Street around to the Methodist Church. From here, continue R up Boot Street and continue north back to the White Horse pub.

POI information:

No details available.

Notes:

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No details available.

