



Wychwood Walk No. 7: North Leigh - Wilcote

Approximately 4.75 miles / 7.5 km

Parking: Park Road and Perrott Close

(Please park with consideration to residents)

Part of a series of circular walks that link in with The Wychwood Way



TL - Turn left BL - Bear left
TR - Turn right BR - Bear right

6 Take the footpath on the left across the next two fields to Bridewell Farm. TL then straight ahead to the next field.

7 TR along the edge of the field, then after 20m, diagonally left across the field. Continue diagonally right across the next field. After crossing the bridge continue straight ahead, past Lady Well, through an avenue of trees. At the third gate follow the hedge before BL between fences to emerge onto the lane at Wilcote.

8 (To visit Wilcote Church, TR here and walk approx 50m down the lane.)

TL and follow the lane for 360m to the far corner of Holly Grove. TL and follow the path alongside and through the wood.

9 On emerging from the wood TR and follow the hedge, (on right), to the far corner of the field. Continue along the edge of the next two fields. TL onto North Leigh Lane and follow this track for 550m.

10 BL between hedges until just past the entrance to End Farm. TL through a field gate and BR across the field. Keep to the right hand edge of the next field before BR up the hill to the road. TR to return to the Masons Arms.

5 Here TL across then alongside a field up to a lane, TL onto the lane then almost immediately right onto a road leading to Wilcote and Finstock.

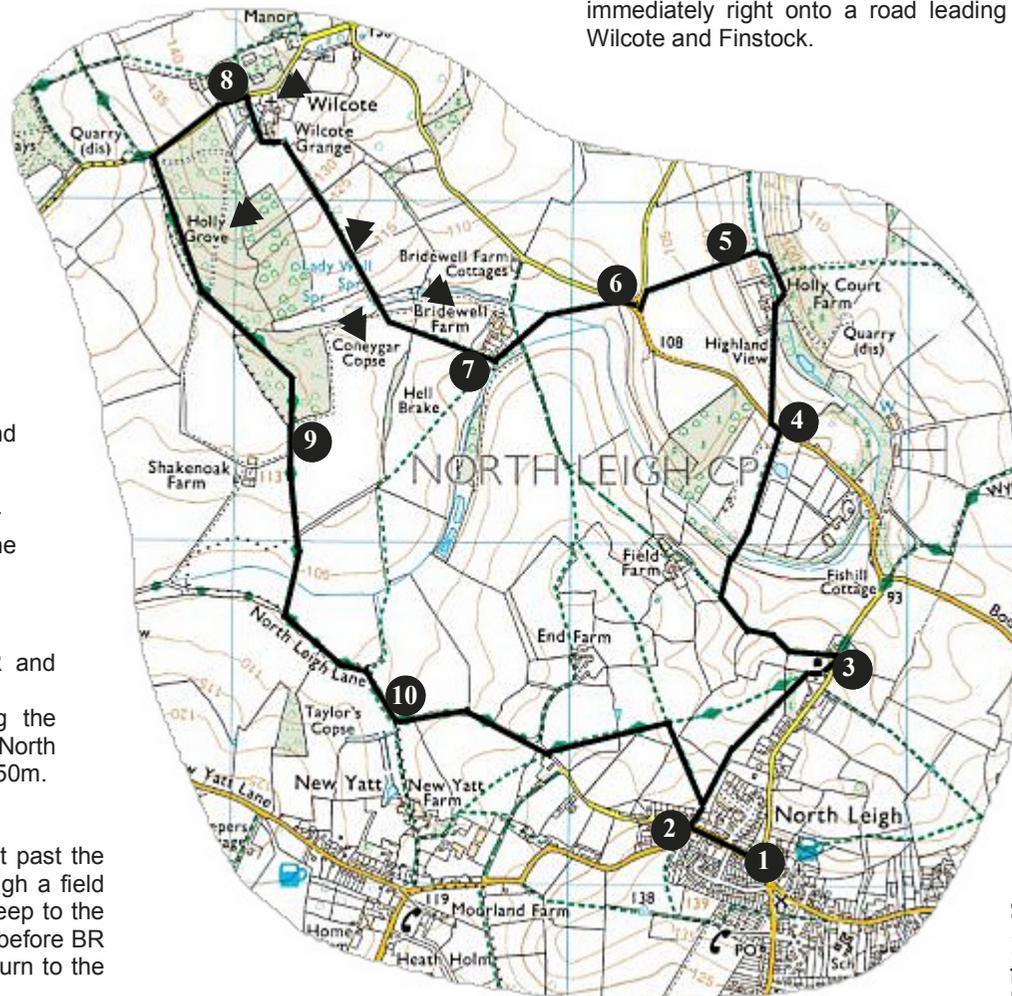
4 TL then almost immediately right down the track leading to Holly Court. After passing between two barns, TR across a stream, then left onto a track. Continue straight ahead and, just past the point where the track turns right into some woods, TL across a footbridge. TR and follow the edge of the field for approx 70m.

3 TL onto Church Road then almost immediately left again by Church Cottage. Follow the brideway leading to Field Farm. At a redundant cattle grid cross the stile on the right and follow the edge of the field down to a kissing gate. Continue straight ahead across a bridge then follow the fence on the right up to a lane.

2 At the road junction just past 'The Woodman', take the footpath on the right. Continue straight ahead across the first field to a metal kissing gate and BR across the next field to a stile. Cross the corner of a large garden and TR through the church yard to emerge onto Church Road.

Start Point

1 Starting at The Masons Arms. Then, from the junction, take the road leading to New Yatt. Continue past the end of Church Road and Bridewell Close.





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► Points of Interest

Between points 7-8

Bridewell Farm

Across a stream and to the right are the remains of a series of medieval fish ponds.

Coneygar Copse

Coneygar Copse is named after the ancient practice of constructing burrows for rabbits, to provide a reliable source of food, when they were first introduced by the Normans into Britain.

Lady Well

Continue uphill to pass an old well, known as Lady Well, reputed to be an ancient fertility spring, visited by locals on Lady Day (25th March).

The track continues uphill through an avenue of photogenic, hollow, ancient ash pollards.

Pass to the left of a large pond - which may have its origins in the distant past since the Roman Akeman Street ran a few hundred metres to the north and there is evidence of a Roman settlement at Wilcote.

Wilcote Church

The small Church of St. Peter is likely to be of Norman origin.

Holly (holy) Grove is likely to be at least 1000 years old. Its rich display of spring flowers is strong evidence of its antiquity. Look out for wood anemone, yellow archangel, wood sorrell and wood spurge.

Listen for migrant birds, including the Chiffchaff and Will Warbler.

► Locally

North Leigh Roman Villa

2 miles north of North Leigh; 10 miles west of Oxford, off the A4095.



The Wychwood Way