

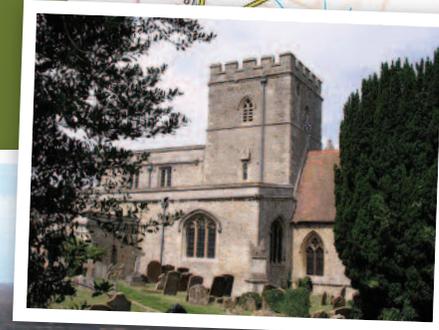
number

10

TOP 10 AFTERNOON TEAWALKS

Rectory Farm, Stanton St John

IN the first of a new series, Christopher Fisher begins to run down the area's top walks and afternoon tea locations. At Number Ten is Rectory Farm: It's Simply Fun for all The Family!



WALKING INFORMATION:

an easy ninety minute stroll through picturesque landscapes. Be careful when walking along B4027..

1. The walk starts in the carpark of The Abingdon Arms, High Street, Beckley. You must have a drink here during your time in Beckley, as it is the epitome of a great village pub. There is also a secret garden, with gorgeous views over the Oxfordshire countryside.
2. Turn left onto The High Street and follow the road straight ahead, crossing over Roman Way but remaining on The High Street. The road will then turn left, and change its name to Otmoor Lane.
3. Follow this road straight ahead, keeping Beckley Park to your right. The house dates back to 1540, and was originally a hunting lodge for Lord Williams of Thame. Today it is the headquarters of the Beckley Foundation and is closed to the public.
4. Continue on until Oxmoor Lane becomes an unnamed minor road and turns left. Take this left turn. Look out for a footpath leaving the road on the corner of a right-hand bend. Take this.
5. The footpath will run straight ahead, and then turn left alongside a stream. The footpath will turn right, and shortly afterwards will bend left, and will skirt the outside of Noke Wood.
6. Half-way through the wood, look out for a footpath leaving to your left. Take this.
7. The footpath will connect you to Church Street, Beckley. The village is well-known to archaeologists, as remains of an impressive Roman villa were found nearby. They are now on display in The Ashmolean Museum, in Oxford.



...some of the impressive views you will see during the walk.
CREDITS: Blessed Virgin Mary Church: © John Ward, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire. Other pics by Jill Majocesa

8. Follow the road straight ahead, passing by Beckley Church of England School and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary church on your right. If you have a few minutes spare, you should go in and take a look at the paintings, which date back to the 14th and 15th Centuries.
9. At the High Street fork, take the right fork onto New Inn Road. Walk straight ahead, ignoring one footpath leaving to your right, and a minor road to your left, located just before the mast, which is also on your left. This soaring TV relay mast, that looks over the village is one of the more bizarre reasons that the village is remembered!
10. At the junction with the B4027, take extra care. Walk straight ahead, passing by New Inn Farm to your right. Walk straight ahead, heading into Stanton St John. Ignore an un-named minor road leaving to your right, but take the first left, Pound Lane.
11. Take this, follow the road around, until you reach Rectory Farm on your left. It is located just after a turning to the left, Snows Lane.
12. After enjoying delightfully delicious cakes, and browsing the fresh produce too, return to the junction with the B4027. Turn right here. Continue following the road, until you meet a road leaving to your right. Take this.
13. Follow the road ahead, ignoring three minor roads leaving to your left and right.
14. When you meet a junction with Woodperry Road, turn left and follow the road along to a junction with Sand Lane and Roman Way.
15. Turn right onto Roman Way and walk straight ahead. The Roman street name no doubt relates to the villa remains found nearby.
16. Once on the High Street junction, turn left to reach your starting point.