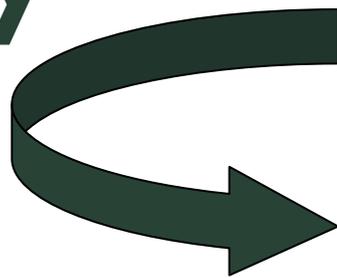


Oxfordshire Way

Points of interest from Stonesfield to Kirtlington

To be used in cross-reference with the letters marked on the map



Points of interest

- A** **Stonesfield** has an Early English church, which suffered what was referred to as 'lunatic restoration' when in 1876 a new north aisle was built, completely destroying the small scale of the church. The stone roof tiles of the villages and towns of Oxfordshire, are known as **Stonesfield slates** because they come from the parish of Stonesfield. The mining of these stones stopped early in the twentieth century and they can now only be obtained at great expense and good luck when an old house or barn is demolished. You can still see a few signs of the old quarrying operations. Most were small and only worked by two or three men, either in the sides of steep valleys or holes in the ground around 60 feet deep, with galleries leading off them. Large stone slabs were brought to the surface and left for the frost to split them into thin layers, after which they were fixed to battens in the roof. The village is well-known to geologists for the remarkable **fossils** found in the neighbourhood. There is a fine **Georgian manor house**, with a large garden occasionally open to the public.
- B** One of the few **commons** in north and west Oxfordshire, a steep hillside meadow stretching down to the river with its **bathing place**, is a great place for a rest or picnic. The **hedge** along the top of the common is at least 500 years old.
- C** From here the Oxfordshire Way follows the Roman road **Akeman Street** for 6 miles. For much of its length Akeman Street acts as a parish boundary between Combe and Stonesfield.
- D** At the **Stonesfield Steps** you can clearly see the blocked-up gate in **Blenheim Park Wall** where the ancient route Akeman Street, one of the principal highways across England, passed through.
- E** **North Drive**, a great mile-long tree-lined drive, forms a grand vista to **Blenheim Palace**.
- F** **Grim's Dyke earthworks** are clearly visible. Grim was a by-name of the heathen god Woden. The Anglo-Saxons often attributed to him the building of the prehistoric earthworks they encountered.
- G** **Dornford Lane** is an ancient green lane, coming into existence around 1100 for the purpose of carrying supplies from the royal demesne farm at Steeple Barton to the royal manor of Woodstock. It is very different from Akeman Street, following the valley as much as it can, curving when it suits it and having high ancient hedges alongside it.



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Points of interest

- H** Unmistakable signs of old **Whitehill village** can be seen in the pasture fields. The village was deserted long ago, but it is not known why or when.

- I** Here you leave behind the furthestmost part of the dip slope of the Cotswolds and West Oxfordshire district. From here you are in **Cherwell district** and clay country, intermingled with the Corallian limestone of the Oxford Heights.

- J** **Flight's Mill** is now a private residence, which acquired its name in 1692. There is evidence of two thirteenth-century mills on opposite sides of the river.



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