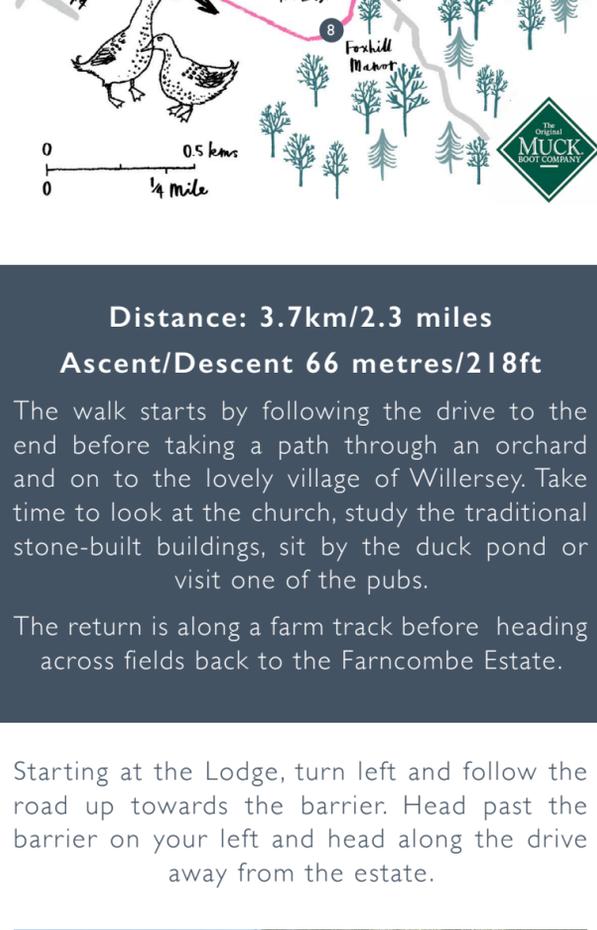




The Fish

Walk to Willersey...

A nice stroll into picturesque Willersey with its duck pond and pubs.



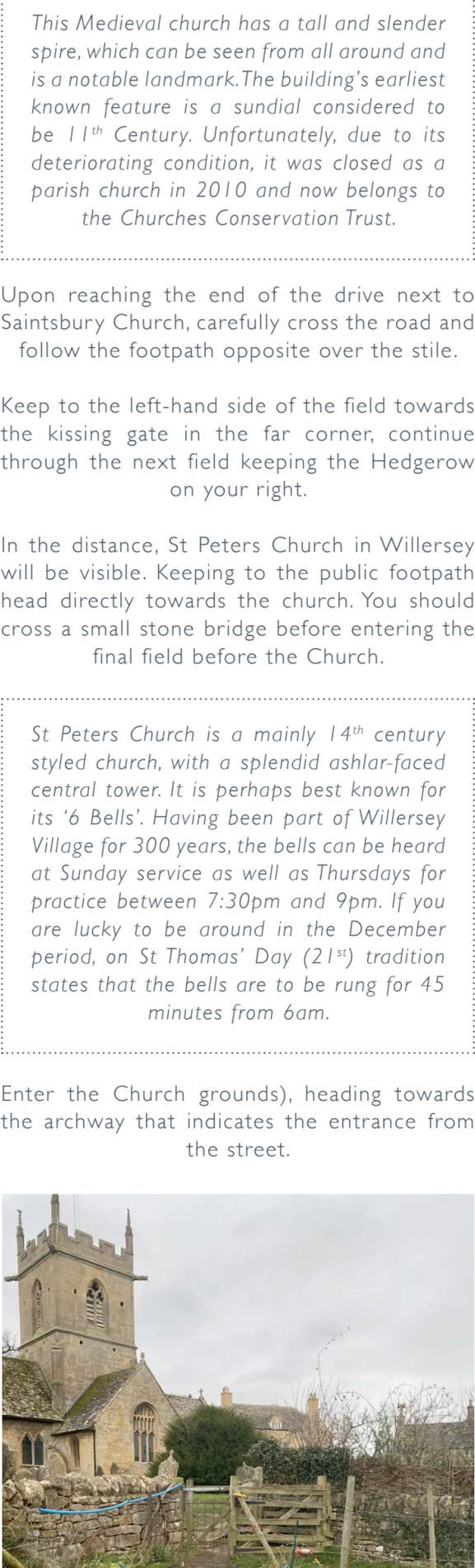
Distance: 3.7km/2.3 miles

Ascent/Descent 66 metres/218ft

The walk starts by following the drive to the end before taking a path through an orchard and on to the lovely village of Willersey. Take time to look at the church, study the traditional stone-built buildings, sit by the duck pond or visit one of the pubs.

The return is along a farm track before heading across fields back to the Farncombe Estate.

Starting at the Lodge, turn left and follow the road up towards the barrier. Head past the barrier on your left and head along the drive away from the estate.



Notice the corrugated effect in the field below you, this is 'ridge and furrow' and is visible on land that was ploughed in the Middle Ages, but which has not been ploughed since. It was also during this period that the Cotswolds became well known throughout Europe for the quality of its wool. One of the main breeds of sheep was the 'Cotswold Lion', famous for their long, golden, shaggy coats.

Continue along the public footpath, crossing the road, heading towards Saintsbury Church which should be visible with its tall spire.

This Medieval church has a tall and slender spire, which can be seen from all around and is a notable landmark. The building's earliest known feature is a sundial considered to be 11th Century. Unfortunately, due to its deteriorating condition, it was closed as a parish church in 2010 and now belongs to the Churches Conservation Trust.

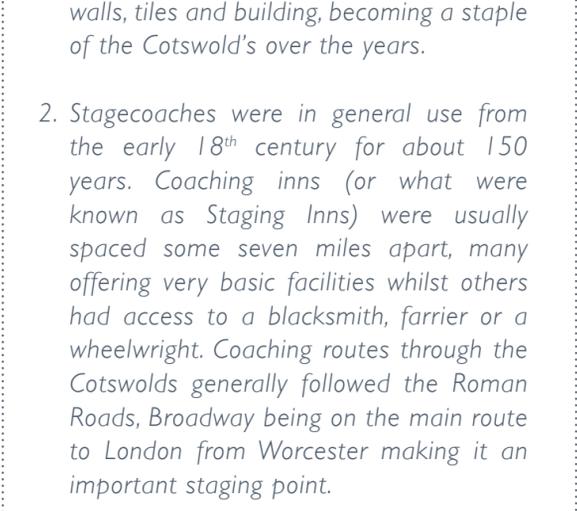
Upon reaching the end of the drive next to Saintsbury Church, carefully cross the road and follow the footpath opposite over the stile.

Keep to the left-hand side of the field towards the kissing gate in the far corner, continue through the next field keeping the Hedgerow on your right.

In the distance, St Peters Church in Willersey will be visible. Keeping to the public footpath head directly towards the church. You should cross a small stone bridge before entering the final field before the Church.

St Peters Church is a mainly 14th century styled church, with a splendid ashlar-faced central tower. It is perhaps best known for its '6 Bells'. Having been part of Willersey Village for 300 years, the bells can be heard at Sunday service as well as Thursdays for practice between 7:30pm and 9pm. If you are lucky to be around in the December period, on St Thomas' Day (21st) tradition states that the bells are to be rung for 45 minutes from 6am.

Enter the Church grounds), heading towards the archway that indicates the entrance from the street.



Follow the street past the housing, emerging opposite Willersey Duck Pond with Bell Inn to your left. Turning left, continue up the lane past Bell Inn and past New Inn on the opposite side.

Carry on up the road, following the bend round to the right heading down towards Broadway village. When the road levels out, keep on the pavement heading past the turn for Field Lane on your right.

Approximately 20 metres onwards will be a turning for Warners Farm on the left.

Head up the lane towards the farmhouse, keeping an eye out for the Kissing gate on your right-hand side.

Continue through the gate, heading towards the far side of the field before following the field around, past the Farmhouse towards the kissing gate in the top right.

Follow the public footpaths straight up the right-hand side of the fields, heading up towards The Fish Hotel.

Head through the short woodland path and bear left across the final field, past the wind speed flag, before reaching the end of The Lodge carpark.

More facts

1. The Cotswold's used to be fully below sea level and one of the key reasons the architecture and countryside is one of the most beautiful is thanks to the Oolitic limestone. This is quarried and used for walls, tiles and building, becoming a staple of the Cotswold's over the years.

2. Stagecoaches were in general use from the early 18th century for about 150 years. Coaching inns (or what were known as Staging Inns) were usually spaced some seven miles apart, many offering very basic facilities whilst others had access to a blacksmith, farrier or a wheelwright. Coaching routes through the Cotswolds generally followed the Roman Roads, Broadway being on the main route to London from Worcester making it an important staging point.

Feel free to borrow a pair of Muck Boots. Once you've enjoyed your walk please pop them back in the Boot Room for the next guest...