

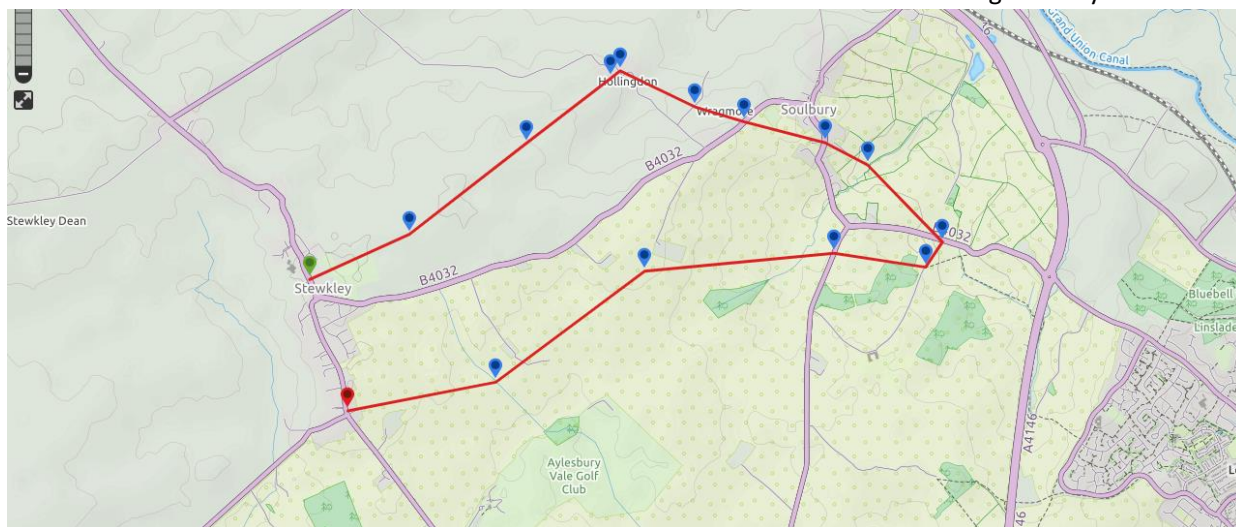
19. Stewkley Soulbury Liscombe Park

4.8 miles

<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjNfNDE2OQ==>

This is a beautiful part of Buckinghamshire, with views over the Greensand Ridge to the north-east and to the Chilterns south. Stewkley has a fine example of a Norman church. The countryside is varied, mainly agricultural but with some sheep and cattle. The villages still have character and original country cottages. The walking is mainly in open country with occasional woodland. There are lots of stiles and some are double with a plank bridge over a stream between.

Written for Walkingworld by Dennis Jeanes



Left of the church and churchyard is a metal gate with footpath sign. Go through and keep straight on past the churchyard, through a grassed playground and a sports field, over stile and along path between hedges. Next a field and keep to the hedge on right as it curves towards the left. Cross the next stile.

The single post marks the grass track across the open field. At the end is the Cross Bucks Way (which we follow until just beyond Waymark 8). Turn right (hedge on left). The hedge gradually bends left. Cross two stiles and you are in an open field. Follow the direction of the arrow to the next stile in the opposite hedge.

Keep in the same direction across the next field which has a spring and small pool with a marker-post twenty metres before the stile. Cross this and keep the fence on your right. You reach a stile in this fence before it becomes a hedge. Cross this right and then head to gate at bottom of field, half-left. Cross the stile and then three further stiles into a work area. Go straight through to a narrow path.

This tiny path winds through a small wood and after two stiles you reach the road through Hollingdon. Turn right and follow the road. Ignore footpath to left by Little Mead and go down the hill to a fenced grass area signposted 'Cross Bucks Way' left.

Cross the stile then a double stile and bridge, then keep to fence uphill. When fence ends, follow round a hollow to gate and stile. Use the latter and cross paddock to another stile. Cross this and pebble drive to tiny gap in hedge with footpath sign. Follow narrow path to road.

Cross road and go through dilapidated wooden kissing-gate to field. Follow the electric cable posts, but if muddy divert to higher ground. At end of posts you will see the gate out. Go through kissing-gate to road and turn left.

Almost immediately you see the next metal kissing-gate on the other side of the road. Go through this (not the wooden gate to the right).

Cross this field diagonally towards the church tower. Go through kissing-gate and across meadow towards the fence on the left and you will see a gate into the churchyard. Go through this to the gate to the road.

Cross the road to the lane opposite, follow to a left bend and on the right is a fence with a gate. Go through this and follow the fenced track (there may be llamas in the left field). At the end is a gate and stile. Here the Mid Bucks Way forks left. We leave it and continue straight down with fence on the right. At the bottom turn left for a few paces to a double stile and plank bridge.

After crossing the bridge, keep to the fence on the right and when fence bends right keep straight on, heading for tall tree. At the tree, cross stile and turn right on track to edge of field, then left for 25m to gate. Cross the stile next to the gate to the road. Cross the road and continue for 30m left to the big entrance to Liscombe Park.

There is an old footpath sign left of entrance but overgrown. Take the road into the park and after 150m there are gates each side. Go through the right-hand gate and head half-left to a stile leading into a wood. Follow the trail to a further stile out of the wood. Keep straight on between trees on left and fence right. Keep the same line past the end of the fence and an old wooden structure left, to the road.

Cross road to a fixed metal gate and climb over it. Head towards the left corner of the field but take a wide track to next field. Turn left and head to stile in hedge. Cross this and head diagonally to far corner. Then follow right hedge round to another stile. Cross and head diagonally across field. You will see four large trees in a line; aim to be 50m further on than these but in line with them. You will pass about 50m from the fence of Winscott Farm on right. You will then see a hedge, in line with the trees and a stile.

Cross this stile and follow hedge on left, which very soon curves left. Keep along the hedge to the far end, cross stile and bridge and continue across field towards the right of a distant wood. You reach the corner of a field on your right and see a gate ahead. Go through gate and in 10m cross earth bridge over stream to stile in hedge ahead. Cross stile and turn diagonally right across field; about 20m before the far corner is a stile on the left into the next field. Cross this stile and plank bridge.

Head across this field to the double stile and bridge between the two tall trees pictured. Cross this and continue with hedge on right and then round three stiles and over a gate. Now go half-right past the corner of a hedge and head to a gate to track that leads to the road. You are then back in Stewkley.