

A SUMMARY OF THE ROUTE

The walk starts at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Limpley Stoke, Wiltshire BA2 7GH and ends at Wilton.

St Edith of Wilton Way is 36 miles in total (although can easily become 40 with a few visits to other places of interest!) The route is described below in 5 stages. Some pilgrims may prefer to undertake it in 4 stages or less. The first 3 stages can be achieved with returns to the start point for each day by public transport, as can stage 5. More details below. (You are advised to check transport timetables for specific buses and train times.)

Walking through the Cotswolds National Landscape and Cranborne Chase. Much of the route winds through these areas of the Outstanding Natural Beauty alongside the rivers Frome and Wylde. Historic churches, villages and towns are encountered all along the way. The route is nearly all via public footpaths.

See: <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk> <https://www.cranbornechase.org.uk> for more details of these protected landscapes.

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY AND SOME SUGGESTED STAGES

DEFRA Magic map application <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> provides access to view coloured OS maps and footpath locations (type in the location and tick the relevant boxes to the left of the screen and adjust zoom in or out to find coloured OS map.) This can be very useful when planning or familiarising yourself with the route for a given day.

Also plotaroute.com can be used on a mobile phone.

COLOUR CODE KEY TO NOTES THAT FOLLOW

BLUE = The daily walking distances shown per stage are as suggested by British Pilgrimage Trust guidance, however these can be varied to suit the individual.

ORANGE = Public transport available.

Note: The overall route and day by day stages generally align very well with the D1 Discover Bus Route from Bath to Salisbury. This includes both start at Limpley Stoke and end at Wilton. See the D1 bus stops and route

map https://www.firstgroup.com/uploads/maps/d1%20discover%20tt%20leaflet%20oct19%20WEB_0.pdf

Great Western Railway Stations also serve parts of the route ie Freshford, Dilton Marsh, Warminster and Salisbury near Wilton.

Checking timetables to ensure alignment of the bus / train service with your anticipated time to catch the bus home is essential if you do not wish to stay overnight in local accommodation.

GREEN = Places to eat or purchase food *Note: The route on the British Pilgrimage Trust website shows additional locations for accommodation and food stops.*

PURPLE = Churches noted by the Wiltshire Churches Trust <https://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/about/>

At the date of compiling these notes (2021), unless otherwise stated, all churches are open daily between 10am and 4pm and are free to visit, with donations welcome.

STAGE 1 St Mary's Church Limpley Stoke to Dilton Marsh (9.0 miles)

D1 Bus service from Bath bus station to Limpley Stoke river bridge.

Or by rail to Freshford Station. Both the D1 bus stop at Limpley Stoke River Bridge and the train station at Freshford are approximately a 20 minute walk from the pilgrimage route start point.

The pilgrimage commences at St Mary's Church Limpley Stoke which was dedicated to St Edith for the first 500 years of its existence. See www.flshc.co.uk. Both the church and graveyard have many historic features. It is well worth a quiet moment to sit and pray for the journey ahead.

The route first proceeds from St Mary's Church via public footpaths past the **Galleries Village Community shop and Cafe** <http://galleriesshop.co.uk> and then up via the war memorial at the junction of The Tynning and Sharpstone Lane continuing past a former Methodist Church and delightful run of old cottages (some built for stone miners) then turn left down Rosemary Lane and turn right on the bend at the bottom of the hill and look for the footpath to Friary (found beyond a brick built machine gun post from WW2 on your left). Here then starts a delightful walk tracing the river Frome via the site of a medieval Friary, and on through Friary Wood towards Iford House and Gardens.

At this point the route follows the Macmillan Way whilst continuing to track the River Frome via further historic villages including Farleigh Hungerford and Rode where there is a **general store and cafe and public houses**. <https://rodegeneralstore.co.uk>. Then departing the Macmillan Way the walk proceeds via Church lane Rode and on past Seymour's Court via public footpaths to Duck Pool Farm. Thence through the village of Rudge and Lower Rudge to Stourton Bushes, and then near Fairwood Farm and continuing on public footpaths into Dilton Marsh.

A return journey to Limpley Stoke is via the Dilton Marsh railway station to Freshford station and usually takes between 30 - 40 mins. See <https://www.thetrainline.com>

STAGE 2 Dilton Marsh to Heytesbury via Warminster (8.0 miles)

Start point via Train to Dilton Marsh station. The D1 bus service stops in Westbury.

The route follows footpaths toward Warminster via **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Old Dilton** (opening arrangements: Key held nearby.) (See photos and a useful guide to the location and access arrangements here <https://www.inglenookery.com/?tag=the-church-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-old-dilton>)

Then on to Upton Scudamore via the charming narrow valley of Biss Bottom and a potential diversion to Saint Mary the Virgin Upton Scudamore, and onwards along a quiet narrow country lane toward Warminster. The route includes a Long Barrow and skirts around a tumulus at Long Hill down with far views of surrounding countryside before entering Warminster. The town first thrived on the wool trade, then grain, and in more recent times it has become a garrison town. (On Friday mornings there is a small country market in the town and also a farmers market on the first and third Friday of each month.- see D1 bus booklet noted above for timings). The town museum BA12 9BT is on route as is **St Denys' Church BA12 8PQ** (Both the museum and church offer potential places to reflect on the loss of so many young lives through war on our behalf. Remembering also that St Edith died in her early 20s.) **There are plenty of shops and pubs in the town serving food.** Then on via pavements and public footpaths as indicated on the British Pilgrimage Trust website via Bishopstrow and St Aldhelm's Church to Heytesbury, a village first noted in the Domesday Book. Here there are places to eat and stay in the **Angel Inn and a further pub and a post office /small shop**. The large and beautiful **Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church** is worth

exploring.

D1 Bus service runs via Heytesbury back to Warminster and then by rail on to the station at Dilton Marsh if required, or stay on the D1 to get to Westbury and then via taxi or a walk back to Dilton Marsh Station if you have parked there.

STAGE 3 From Heytesbury stepping into the Cranborne Chase AONB and tracking the River Wylde via the villages of Upton Lovell, Boyton, Sherrington, Stockton, Bapton and finally on to Wylde (8.0 miles) <https://cranbornechase.org.uk/about-us/map/>

D1 Bus service runs to start at Heytesbury at the The Angel Inn, High St.

The route starts out along Wessex Ridgeway following the river Wylde, with potential to look at Knook and St Margaret's Church, and then a pleasant stroll largely on public footpaths through the riverside villages of Upton Lovell, then under the railway and over the River Wylde via Water Street to **St. Mary's Church Boyton**. (An alternative route with more public footpath is available to the north of the railway and thence into Boyton.) **The Courtyard Cafe or Jinny's cafe Boyton** [https:// dentons.net/results/cafes-coffee-shops-and-tea-rooms/wylde-wiltshire](https://dentons.net/results/cafes-coffee-shops-and-tea-rooms/wylde-wiltshire) From **Boyton** village onwards there are riverside public footpaths for much of the way via the **Church of St Cosmas & St Damian Sherrington** and **Church of St John the Baptist Stockton**. The route on to Wylde is mainly along the road however there is a footpath to a **D1 bus stop at Fisherton De la Mere**. (Check Bus timetable for exact location of stop). It is suggested that walkers may wish to make this the end point of 3rd Stage of the Walk. The route onwards to Wylde can then be continued via the riverside footpath as part of Stage 4. **Otherwise there is another D1 bus stop nearer to Wylde at Deptford aside A36.**

STAGE 4 Via Wylde up on to the hills and down to St Edith's Church at Baverstock (6 miles if starting from bus stop at Fisherton De la Mere)

D1 Bus service runs to start point Fisherton de la Mere or Deptford (as noted end of Stage 3 above)

St Mary's Church Wylde is on the route. This more exposed part of the pilgrimage winds up on to the hills via the valley of Wylde Cow Down Bottom and through the Wylde Down SSSI site (National) Nature Reserve before crossing Grim's Ditch to pick up the Monarch's Way walking eastward and finally down a small country lane to the church dedicated to St Editha at Baverstock. The church is left open to visitors. **Overnight accommodation near St Editha's is very limited, however the Penruddock Arms is a two minute walk from the church but check opening times 01722 716253. It also has some accommodation but it is wise to check and book ahead. This pub has good feedback.** (An alternative is to head to Dinton where there is **St Mary's Church** and much more **accommodation, shops etc**. Then pick up Baverstock on a longer walk stage 5.)

A No.25 Salisbury Red Bus service runs through Dinton to Baverstock and on Wilton and Salisbury

STAGE 5 Through the Nadder Valley to rest and reflection at Wilton (5.0 miles) This final section of the pilgrimage follows the Monarchs Way to join a Roman road (or via a winding route through the woodland) into Wilton and the site of the former abbey and nunnery where St Edith spent most of her short life. These locations are to be found at Wilton House, 3 Salisbury Road, Wilton, Salisbury. Also well worth a visit is St Mary & St Nicholas Church 27A West St, Wilton.

There is also the former Roman Catholic Church dedicated to St Edith located at 5, Kingsbury Square Wilton (now used for offices). A statue of St Edith that originally stood

inside is now located in St Osmund's Catholic Church, 95 Exeter St, Salisbury SP1 2SF near the Cathedral.

An overnight stop at or near the end of day 4 would allow time for a well-deserved rest and contemplative day in Wilton on your final day.

(Some walkers may feel up for a walk onward in to Wilton by achieving stages 4 and 5 together in one day. Whichever way this walk is split it is highly recommended that at least a half a day, if not more, is reserved for Wilton to allow time for a well-earned restful reflection which can encompass the historic features of the town and a visit to Wilton House and grounds.)

The D1 bus back to Limpley Stoke. It stops at the Wilton Garden Centre. Alternatively it travels in the other direction to Salisbury where there is a rail station. The No.25 Salisbury Red Bus service also provides a journey into Salisbury.