

North Leigh Roman Villa
Announcement

Mosaics to Open in August - FREE

On two weekends in August - 8th and 9th; 22nd and 23rd - the mosaic house of North Leigh Roman Villa will re-open 11am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday. These are Oxfordshire's only Roman mosaics still in their original location.

Lock-down restrictions in 2020 have delayed the re-opening until now of mosaics last regularly open to visitors almost 30 years ago.

A new team of local volunteers, working with English Heritage who manage the site, will make it possible to see the 3rd century AD mosaics once more. As the mosaics are housed in an enclosed space, access will only be by timed ticket, available on the day, at the site.

Safety is a paramount concern, and at busy times it may not be possible for everyone who wishes to see the mosaics to do so. Please be understanding. Afternoons tend to be more popular times with visitors.

The site is entirely free and large enough for safe social distancing during your visit. There is room to picnic (please take your litter home) but currently there is no WC on site. The villa is within cycling distance, so please consider leaving your car at home.

Donations to the work of restoring and enhancing the North Leigh site are most welcome. To become a Friend of North Leigh Roman Villa, which is free and allows you to keep up with developments and events on the site, please contact NLRVvols@gmail.com.

Mosaic House Open Days, 2020 11am – 5pm

August: 8 & 9; 22 & 23

September: 12 & 13.

For more details about the openings please visit:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/>

or

Facebook: @northleighromanvilla

Notes to Editors

Set within a peaceful landscape on the banks of the River Evenlode, North Leigh Roman Villa is considered to be one of the largest villas in Roman Britain with a 500 year history of occupation. At its most extensive in the early 4th century AD it included 3 bath suites, 16 mosaic floors and 11 rooms with under-floor heating.

Today visitors can imagine the villa's former richness as they walk through the rectangular footprint of its walls – but the mosaic house hides the real gem of a near complete mosaic floor. The mosaics form the floor of villa's winter dining room and, as the only example in Oxfordshire still found in their original location, they give a powerful sense of the Villa's original opulence.

The mosaics have not been on regular display to the public since the early 1990s. A one-off weekend opening last September proved popular with hundreds of visitors on site in some glorious weather.

As well as North Leigh Roman Villa, **English Heritage** cares for over 400 historic buildings, monuments and sites - from world-famous prehistoric sites to grand medieval castles, from Roman forts on the edge of the empire to a Cold War bunker. Through these, it brings the story of England to life for over 10 million people each year.

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