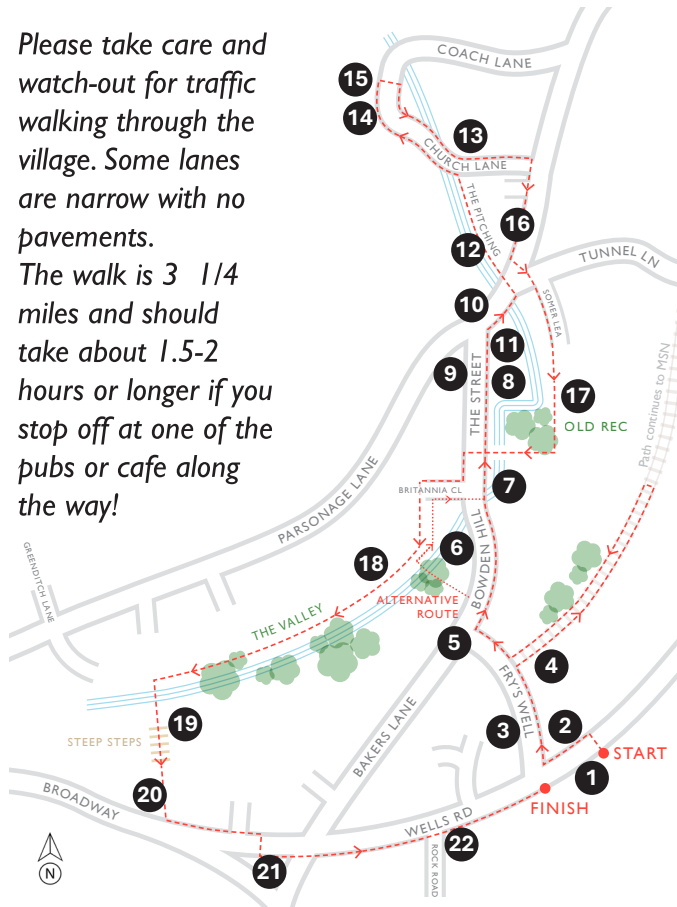


A WALK THROUGH CHILCOMPTON

The village of Chilcompton is located at the junction of several natural springs running through the land making it an ideal location for a settlement, and is thought to have started in the bronze age. This walk is intended to give you a brief insight into some of the historic buildings and places. For more detailed history see the fantastic historic books on the village written by David Strawbridge, (which have been consulted for much of the information highlighted here)

Please take care and watch-out for traffic walking through the village. Some lanes are narrow with no pavements. The walk is 3 1/4 miles and should take about 1.5-2 hours or longer if you stop off at one of the pubs or cafe along the way!



1: Village Hall

The walk starts at the Village Hall where parking is possible. The hall was built in 1981. Cross at the crossing and turn down Fry's Well.

2: The Redan Inn

On your right is the Redan Inn, one of the last two pubs in the village. It was built around 1840 and supposedly named after a battle in the Crimea. Continue down the road.



3: Fry's Well

On your left is the 'Fry's Well', which was used as a watering hole for locals, coal miners and horses for centuries, and was used by Samuel Coleridge on a visit on his way to Bath in 1794, in a poem he described the 'waters cold and clear'.

4: Railway Bridge

Continue straight on and you see a bridge on which the Somerset and Dorset Railway ran through the village from 1874-1966, taking passengers and goods to Bath and Bournemouth. Before you pass under it you can also take the steep steps up and walk along the old line route a short while to get a glimpse of the lower village. Retrace your steps and continue to the Junction with Bowden Hill.

5: War Memorial

In front of you is the war memorial erected in 1921 and now commemorates the fallen in two world wars. Sadly the railings were removed in WWII in aid of the war effort.



This junction originally had a methodist church built in 1854 which is now converted to a private residence, and the site of the former RC Church St Aldhelms, demolished in 2021 and now the site has a row of 4 new houses built in 2024.

6: Former mercantile centre of the village

At this junction to your left is Bakers Lane which had a bakery, butchers, and blacksmiths, and going down Bowden Hill and The Street there are some signs on the older

cottages now all private residences referring to former shops. Reed House at the bottom of the hill, built in 1720, was the former post office. You also pass before Reed House on your left an old stone building with a large gate that once housed the village Fire Engine. Although the shops are gone the village does still support a good range of businesses, and many road and house names refer to the trades and businesses that were there.



(Bowden Hill is narrow and has no pavement, so alternatively join the footpath halfway down Bowden Hill next to Valley View house, by turning left into the footpath via the Valley, and then doubling back a bit.)

7: Stream and weirs in The Street

The Street ponds are thought to be Chilcompton's beauty spot. They were formulated for fish by the Tooker family who lived in the now demolished Norton Hall. The fish are gone but the ponds are a haven for wildlife.

8: Eagle House

Continue walking along the street and you reach listed 18th c. Eagle House on your right. It was originally part of the larger estate for the older Gainsborough House. It is a fine looking building with a stone eagle over the porch.



9: Gainsborough

On your left is the listed 17th c. Gainsborough House now converted into two private dwellings, and just before on



the left is the garage building which was the original shop for the Mulberry handbags company. Their administrative building is still in the village on Broadway.