

10: Shell House

Continue walking along The Street till you reach the junction with Parsonage Lane. You can take a short walk a little way up Parsonage Lane where there is the old Wesleyan Chapel (now Chapel Cottage) and the Old Parsonage 15th c. buildings on your right, now both private residences, and altered.

Walk back down into The Street and you will see the imposing listed Shell House with the Scallop over front door 1752 a sign of royalist or not? The buildings at the rear were built first and the front house is newer.



11: Church House

Opposite Shell House is Church House, which was built in 1916 for church activities and used by the old school, as the lunch room. It is now a private residence.

12: The Pitching

Just past Shell House is a small path next to the river, called The Pitching. Walk along this path and you can see the remains of several laundry stones in the river. You might also see crayfish in the water.



13: Old School

At the end of The Pitching you meet the junction with Church Lane and you will see the former village school 1876-1992 and an old building, Brook House opposite, which was a former farm house.

14: The Church

Continue along the lane and you will reach St John the Baptist Church. The Tower is the oldest part built in 1460,

the remainder was rebuilt in 1839, in 1991 the church hall was added. The churchyard has a very old Yew tree. The carpark is on what was formerly a mill pond, and walking along the lane you will pass 16th c. Mill Cottage.



15: Manor Farm and Holy Cow

Follow the lane just past Mill cottage you turn left into the Manor Farm buildings which now also house a range of businesses including the Holy Cow café. Just past the cafe on the left is the 15th c. listed farm house, the oldest dwelling in the village. The farm is noted in Domesday.

16: The Hollies

Turn back along the lane and when back at the old school continue up Church Lane till you reach The Street, turn right and passing several older and new houses you reach on your right, The Hollies which was built around 1800 and was once used as a vicarage. At Tunnel Lane turn left then right into Somer Lea. Follow Somer Lea through a gate between the last two houses and follow the footpath through the field. Looking up to your left is where the old railway ran.



17: Old Rec

Along the field 300m or so on your right is the gate into the Old Rec, land given to the village for recreation by Captain Streeten in 1911. The Old Rec now houses a range of play equipment provided by the Parish Council, a small football pitch and a boules court. Walk through the Old Rec and arrive back at The Street ponds. Turn left and then cross over the road and turn right to walk up Britannia Close site of the former Britannia Inn.

18: The Valley

At the end of the close is a gate which leads to an unmade path through the valley. You pass an old quarry on your right and all along on your left is the site of former extensive watercress beds.

These watercress beds provided a thriving industry as they rarely froze over in cold weather due to being fed by two tepid water streams, which are the source of the river Somer. You pass through two more gates and follow the path straight along the valley, through another two gates passing some old cottages and a mill.



19: Railway

Turn left at the first path over a small boarded bridge and up a steep and uneven stepped path which goes through the remains of a former railway bridge. This bridge partially supported the former Chilcompton Station. Follow the path up to Broadway, the main road through the village.



20: The Somerset Wagon

At the top of the path you arrive at the second remaining pub in the village The Somerset Wagon. It was formerly the Railway Inn, then Sword and Castle Inn and now Somerset Wagon.

21: Co-op

At Broadway turn left cross over and walk along the pavement. On your right you pass the last 'shop' in the village, the busy Co-op and post office. It was built in 1926 to replace the co-op in Bowden Hill, sadly the original glass shop windows have been filled in.

22: Rock Road Colliery

Continue along Wells Road, and at the junction with Rock Road is a statue referencing the former New Rock Colliery. Coal mining was a big industry locally. At one time the Colliery employed 200 men. Continue to the village hall passing the village school built to replace the old school.

This walking guide has been produced by Sue Manley, with illustrations by Matt Marshall and assistance from The Chilcompton Society, and Chris Howell. Its production has been kindly supported by a Sperring Charity grant. Sale proceeds to support village events.