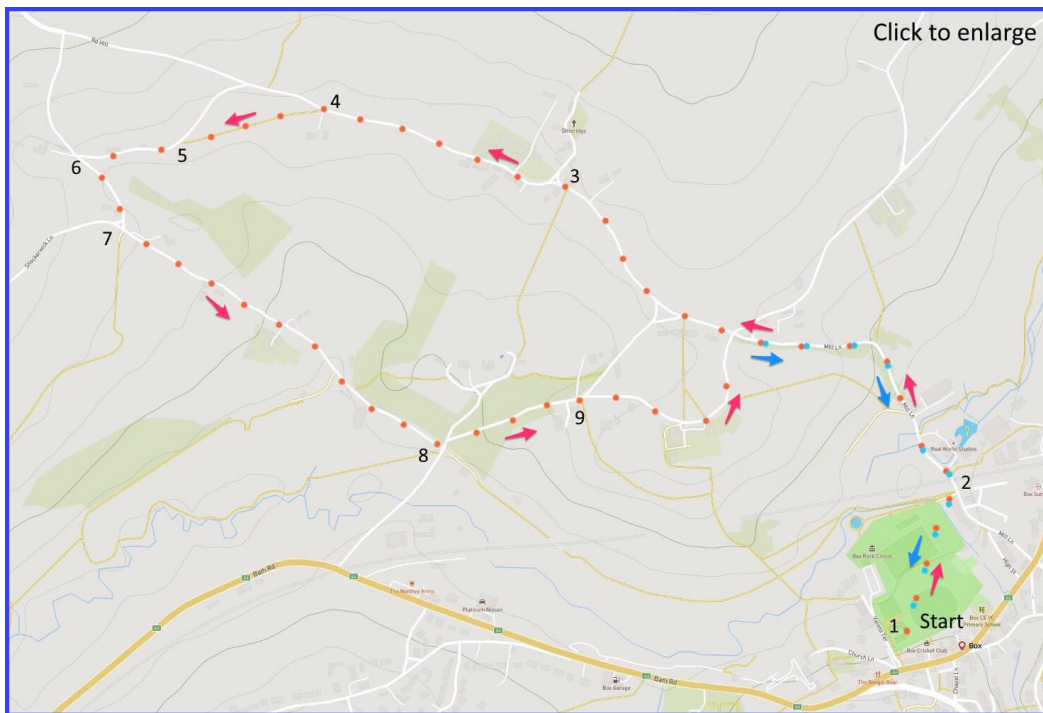




Box

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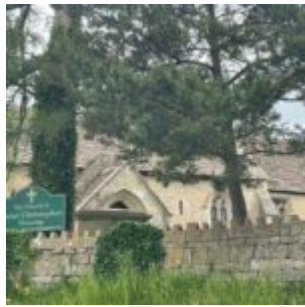
Head for [SN13 8NT](#): a recreation ground with parking. This is a 4 mile walk with some steep slopes but fine views and no muddy fields. *Click map to enlarge*. Water is blue, wooded green, contour lines show slopes. Click [here](#) for arial view. Click [here](#) to download/print PDF



(Routes from map points + metres to next point)

- 1: Diagonally cross the 'rec' to road at far left. 400m
 - 2: Turn left on road, pass a railway and brook. Continue on this (steep) road until Ditteridge: perhaps detour to see church (pic [C](#)) and library (pic [D](#)). 1km
 - 3: Then continue forward until signed footpath on left. 400m
 - 4: Follow the path until it meets lane. 200m
 - 5: Take lane to junction. 230m
 - 6: Take right turn downhill until lanes meet. 160m
 - 7: Follow downward lane until crossroads. 500m
 - 8: At the crossing take the road uphill to right of post box. 280m
 - 9: Take the right fork signed to 'Hillrise Farm' and follow until you reach junction at Mill Lane. 410m
- Then retrace your steps back to start 900m

The pictures below are in the order things were seen on this walk. Clicking on any one will enlarge it (and the slideshow)



[C]



[D]



Observations

The walk described here starts at the the village recreation ground. You might approach it down Valens Terrace. On which ground you might reflect that a large Roman Villa was once standing to your left. - 50 rooms and bath suite. Take a closer look [here](#).

After crossing the village recreation ground, you meet the important River ByBrook. Important because it drove the mills that drove the wool industry that drove the early wealth of communities like Box. As you cross the brook you pass a different kind of industry – one rather more modern and probably more buoyant than the clothiers – namely, the substantial [Real World Studios](#) founded by Peter Gabriel. Recording guests have included Tom Jones – who apparently has [roots in Box](#). Gabriel rose to some prominence in these parts – not just because of ‘Solsbury Hill’ (nearby) but also through funding local causes. Particularly those associated with music (e.g., [the Bell Inn](#), a community-owned pub in Bath).

Further up this road (picture [B](#)) you come to [Ditteridge](#) (pic [C](#)). Perhaps detouring to visit the Norman [St Christopher’s Church](#), while noticing a traditional red telephone box (pic [D](#)) functioning as a community library (impressed? Go [here](#)). Notice also in the village the substantial Tudor [Cheney Court](#) which is now a [language school](#). Is it an obvious place for a language school? Perhaps the picturesque scenery serves as inspiration to the students as they struggle with the unstable grammar and fragile spelling rules of the English language. Perhaps the sheer ‘Englishness’ of it serves as a cultural prompt. The village of Ditteridge is on the edge of the Fosse Way roman road and was thereby once a more significant staging point for travellers.

In the second half of the walk there are fine views of typical mid-Wiltshire countryside. Notice a number of substantial houses that reflect an earlier period of prosperity – perhaps associated with the quarrying history of Box as much as the wool trade. These include [Middlehall House](#), formerly [a Spa](#) that failed to compete with Bath – like many other Wiltshire spas. Also on the left a long driveway into the late 17th century [Alcombe Manor](#). Further on this road notice [Cole’s farm](#) on the left. In short, much to enjoy.