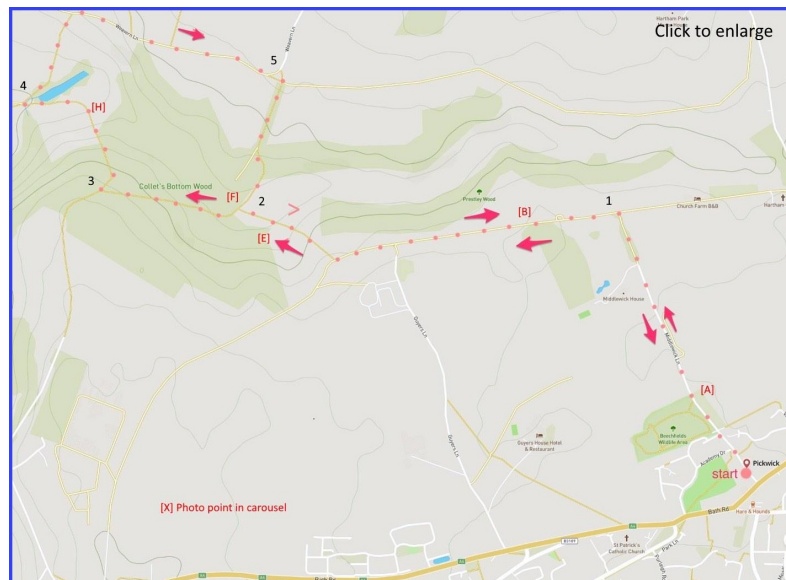




## Pickwick

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**SN13 0HX** A 4-mile walk with some parts occasionally muddy and at least one fairly steep hillside [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)

**0:** From start walk up Middlewick Lane (pic [A](#)) to junction. 900m

**1:** Turn left. Walk (pic [D](#)) past a turning to Pickwick Lodge farm [500m] Then walk a further 275m and drop down a steep slope (pic [E](#)) to a bridleway post [250m]

**2:** At this post turn left and walk through Collets bottom wood (pic [G](#)). 500m

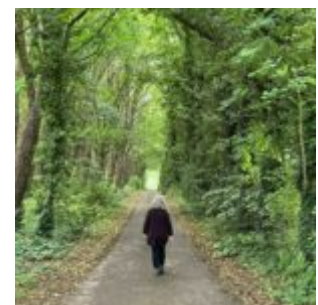
**3:** At path T-junction take right path and follow. 270m

**4** Follow slightly concealed footpath to your right that runs alongside a field with high hedges to a lane junction. 290m

**5** Walk on this Weavern lane until the sharp left turn upwards but take the footpath down to reach point the bridlepath sign again. 1km

Then retrace your steps to start. 2km

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



[B]

[C]

## Observations

The walk starts in a village with a [quirky name](#) – although one that probably suggests the Dickens novel. Dickens actually wrote the ‘Pickwick Papers’ in nearby Bath (largely in the Saracens Head on Broad Street apparently) so its not unreasonable that there might be an association of some sort.

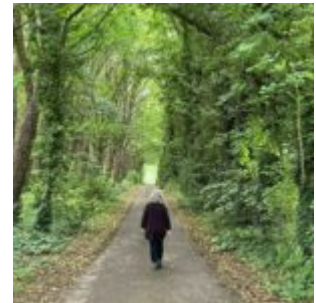
It is commonly claimed (in these parts anyway) that he was inspired for the name of this book by the story of a baby who was abandoned in a basket in the village of Pickwick. The hapless boy was named ‘Moses’ (yes – after the biblical prophet found in bullrushes) and then ‘Pickwick’ after the village. The Moses of pickwick prospered. He became a coachman on the Bath London route and, ultimately, ran a coaching business from the [Hare and Hounds pub](#). The claim about a link to ‘Pickwick Papers’ goes on to suggest Dickens stayed at this pub on visits to Bath. This seems possible: after all, it was certainly a staging point on the journey to London – horses would be changed there after the steep climb from Box.

The first (and also last) part of the walk is open and straightforward. It passes a number of attractive old houses on the lane up to the field, some of which have adopted an elegantly grand look. The second half of the walk is a little more demanding – paths can be somewhat muddy and there are moderately steep inclines to be tackled. But the route is on designated footpaths and the route offers good views of pastured farm land. But don’t miss the turning right and upwards at point 4 on the map.

As you go up (and later down) Middlewick Lane you may notice the 18th century [Middlewick House](#). This was formerly occupied by Camilla and Andrew Parker Bowles. But now is the home of Nick Mason (CBE), former drummer with Pink Floyd (on every album – and still (at time of writing) banging on live at 77). Such Wiltshire houses are often occupied by aging rock stars. And sometimes their helicopters get parked there (picture [J](#)). Nick occasionally [opens his manor](#) for the locals. Perhaps this is all to the good: there could be far less colourful rich owners.



[B]



[C]

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