

Longford's Mill and Box

Strong footwear is advisable for this walk, which does include some steep hills.

From the War Memorial in the centre of Minchinhampton walk down the High Street, turn left at the crossroads into Tetbury Street, past the Post Office and turn right into Chapel Lane.

1. *The old part of Tetbury Street is mainly C18th and this road carried the main traffic to Bath. F.A. Wall & Sons electrical shop was the Salutation Inn and coaches ran regularly from here to London. The Post Office is a Queen Anne building and opposite was one of the forges that served the town, now converted into flats. One cottage has some inserted date stones and carvings that may have come from another building. Chapel Lane got its name from the original chapel on the left. It was first called Tithing Lane i.e. where the tithing man or constable lived and then became known as Workhouse Lane, as in the C18th Minchinhampton erected a workhouse for the poor half a mile towards Gatcombe.*

Walk downhill for about ½km and then turn right onto a track opposite “Sunnycroft”. Climb the stile, cross the field down the hill, over a second stile and walk down the steep slope into the valley, where the stream is crossed. In front is a stile, which is backed by a vertical stone slab, once over this the stream is recrossed on stepping-stones, taking care when the bank is muddy. Follow the valley, keeping the edge of the wood and the stream on the left, crossing a stile where the path descends. At the far end of a long field a track is joined, crossing stiles if the gates are closed, until the tarmac road is reached.

2. *A mill has been recorded at the Longford's site since about 1300, but the production of cloth finally ceased in 1990, at which time it was known for the manufacture of coverings for tennis balls. The stone buildings of the mill owned by the Playne family are being converted to dwellings; the oldest datestone is 1705. Rising above the complex is the octagonal stone chimney and to the east can be seen the large lake created to power the earlier waterwheels.*

Make a sharp right by the converted mill buildings named “The Wool Loft” and climb the road to a T-junction with a busier road. Taking care, turn right and after about 100m go left up a track with a signpost to Box. There are some good views across the valley before the path narrows between old Cotswold walls at “Starveall”. At the top there is a metal kissing gate, and through this the walk follows a farm track.

3. *On the left is the small Stuart Fawkes Nature Reserve, and an information board explains the meadow habitat of the area.*

At the T-junction opposite “Box Cottage” turn right, walking to face the on-coming traffic, and continue along the road for about ½km, past Box Farm and St. David's to the next T-junction. Turn right, crossing the road to the pavement for safety, go straight over the next junction and on into West End. Following this narrow road into the centre of Minchinhampton will bring you to the crossroads at the lower end of High Street, and back to the starting point.

4. *West End itself was one of the first areas of the town to be built up, with occupiers recorded in the early C17th. Many of the small cottages have been enlarged, or two knocked into one, and there are two former inns still clearly visible, the Trumpet and the Swan. Simmonds Court marks the site of the builders' yard of J. Simmonds, and on the gable end can be seen the remains of an advertising sign.*



Free public car parks are located on the Great Park and in Friday Street. Regular buses from Stroud set down by the Market House. There is a selection of restaurants, cafes and a public house in the town, as well as a variety of shops.

Countryside Code:

Fasten all gates

Take your litter home

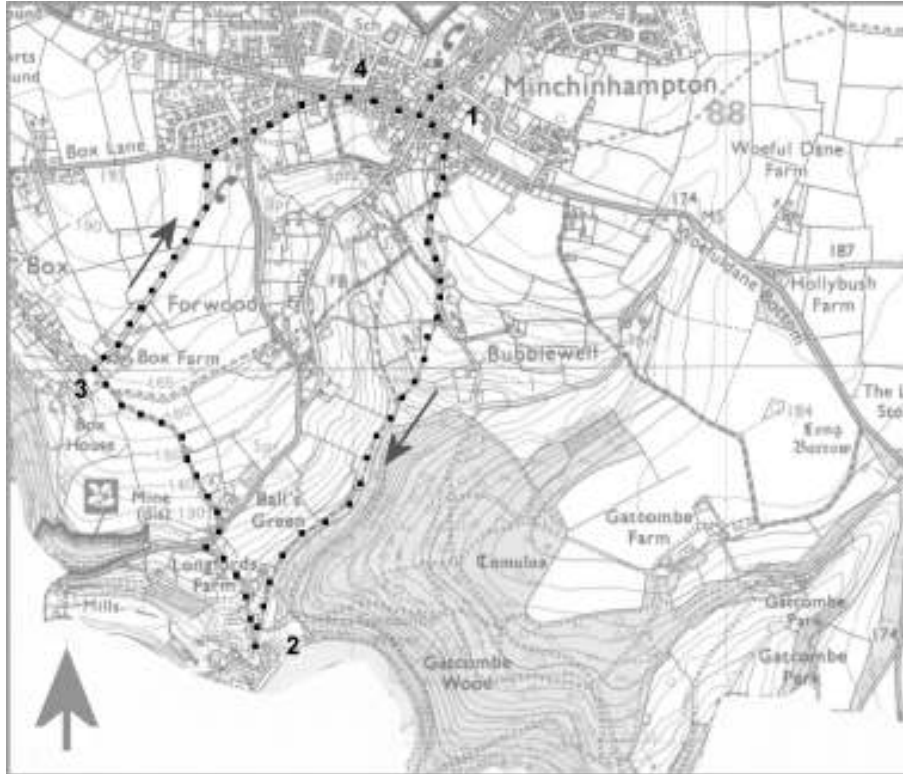
Keep to public footpaths

Keep dogs under proper control

Guard against starting fires

Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees

Avoid damaging fences, hedges or walls



Based on O.S. Explorer Map 168

Numbers refer to places of interest outlined in the text

Each grid square represents 1 square kilometre

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Minchinhampton **Parish Walks**

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Length: 4.0 km (2½miles)

Published by
Minchinhampton Local History Group
in conjunction with
Minchinhampton Parish Council
The Trap House, West End

2006