Beacon Hill from the vale Ellesborough church and

for - Bucks Point. the area was famous make the lace that poppins were used to

from boxwood and fruitwoods available locally. Boxwood years, bobbins used to make lace were 'whittled' by local men There was a lace-making school in Great Kimble. In the early industry in the 19th century.

Box leaves and flowers Lace making was a major



viewed inside Little Kimble to the 13th century can be Wall paintings dating back

trees grew in Europe in the Ice to 1.8 million years ago). Box erosion during the Ice Age (up

The series of valleys along the escarpment were shaped by Warren is dark green with box and contrasts with Beacon Hill. the vale, the valley of Ellesborough Looking at the escarpment from

© Trustees of the British Museum



engraving possible. close grain which makes fine detailed engravers above all other woods for its on boxwood. Boxwood is favoured by prayer, displays small scale engraving made to be held in the hand during churchyard. The rosary bead (pictured) 💵 There is a box tree in Ellesborough

Ellesborough and Kimble Warrens. woods is another link to warrening -

consumption of rabbits indicated wealth. The name of the box Normans and farmed for their meat and fur. The ownership and warren for farming rabbits. Rabbits were introduced by the There is a pillow mound on Beacon Hill - a man-made

from clearing the wood for agriculture. has persisted because the steep slopes have discouraged people and the chalk soils are thin, loose and dry. This ancient woodland Other trees struggle to grow because the slopes are very steep The path takes you through a dense woodland of box trees.

woodlands are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). woodlands should be made a nature reserve in 1915. Today these conservation movement, Charles Rothschild proposed that these woodland in the country! In the early days of the nature thickly. These woodlands comprise the largest area of native box between Great Kimble and Ellesborough where box grows Great Kimble Warren is one of several narrow valleys

advantage of far-reaching views. when the hill was kept clear of trees, Pulpit Hill hill fort took hill fort dating from the Iron Age (700BC to 42AD). At a time Large mounds and ditches form the ramparts of a D shaped

centuries of use.

'sunken' track off the bridleway which has been worn down by Many routeways in the Chilterns are historic. Look for a

are of European importance for biodiversity. including several known as the 'Chilterns Woodlands SAC' which woodland, it can be found in other Chiltern beechwoods Look for towering beech trees. Whilst box is not in this

an evergreen, as is box. summer and dark green juniper bushes all year round. Juniper is loving flowering plants, butterflies and snails in the spring and dissilands of Grangelands and the Rifle Range. Look for chalk-Take the opportunity to venture off the path into the

recorders and flageolets. woodwind instruments of the 16th and 17th century, such as pieces and rulers. Baroque music is associated with boxwood was used in the past to make combs, printing blocks, chess very slowly. The wood is so dense that it sinks in water! Boxwood gardens. Its timber is hard and close grained because it grows sempervirens). It may be familiar as a plant often grown in Look at the bark, leaves, flowers and seeds of box (Buxus

See map for locations. The following points of interest can be found on the walks.

Points of interest

www.arrivabus.co.uk See 1 9 (3) (6) and (7) on map. and Princes Risborough. Tel 0844 800 44 11 or visit Arriva bus 300, linking High Wycombe to Aylesbury, via Naphill By bus: Bus stops along the walk route are serviced regularly by www.chilternrailways.co.uk See 🚺 on map. 08456 005 165 or visit the Chilterns Railways website at Kimble is approximately one hour. Call National Rail Enquiries It is run by Chilterns Railways. Travel time from London to Little between Aylesbury and London Marylebone, via High Wycombe. By train: Little Kimble train station (un-manned) is on the line (un-manned). See 🚺 on map. By bicycle: There is a cycle shelter at Little Kimble train station

By car: There are several small parking areas offering free

www.traveline.info for information.

parking. See 🚺 🚯 and 🕦 on map.

starting point for these walks, call 0871 200 22 33 or visit journey by public transport from anywhere in the country to the Aylesbury is the nearest major public transport hub. To plan a shelter, Little Kimble train station or small parking areas. Buckinghamshire. Walks may start from bus stops, a cycle Walks are located near Princes Risborough and Wendover in

How to get to the start

www.visitbuckinghamshire.org

696759) or Princes Risborough (tel 01844 274 795) or visit contact the Tourist Information offices in Wendover (tel 01296 For details of places to stay, visitor attractions and other walks,

moo.nebsbsedshold.www

Buckinghamshire HP27 ONB. Tel 01844 343302. The Plough at Casden, Cadsden Road, Princes Risborough, Pub on the southern circular walk: OUF. Tel 01296 615245

Indian restaurant, Risborough Rd, Little Kimble, Aylesbury HP17 Tel. 01844 275288 www.kimbleswan.co.uk

The Swan, Grove Lane, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire HP17 9TR. Pubs/restaurants on the northern circular walk:

numerous other amenities. There are pubs in nearby villages. offering shops, public toilets, tourist information offices and The nearest large towns are Princes Risborough and Wendover

suitable footwear and allow time to rest and enjoy the views! unmade paths that are sometimes muddy. Take care, wear There are some steep ascents and descents, several stiles and

Visitor information

About the walks

Discover twisting old box trees in the largest native box woodland in the country and enjoy far-reaching, attractive views of the Chiltern hills and adjacent vales.

Explore woodlands and grasslands rich with chalk-associated flora and fauna including box, juniper, orchids and snails. Step back in time by visiting a hill fort and three village churches. Find out how people have used boxwood through the centuries.

Year-round interest is provided by the stunning views, churches and evergreen box. Box is easier to distinguish in the winter when other trees have lost their leaves. Spring and summer promises colourful wildflowers and butterflies in the grasslands.



Great Kimble church and the vale

Take a break or end your walk with a picnic on Open Access Land and/or refreshments at a pub along the route.

Walking gets you fit



and keeps you healthy!

Spend at least two sessions of 15 minutes each walking briskly enough to raise your heartbeat, get warm and breathe harder. A 15 minute session of brisk walking will burn about 100 calories. Consult your GP if you have not exercised recently or have a known medical condition.

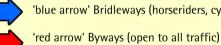
Downloads for your walk

Supplement your walk with further information, images, music clips and more at www.chilternsaonb.org/box

This is one of a series of walks through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It mainly follows rights of way most of which are waymarked as follows:



yellow arrow' Footpaths (walkers only)



'blue arrow' Bridleways (horseriders, cyclists and walkers)



'purple arrow' Restricted Byway (horseriders, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles).

If you have a problem using a public right of way, please contact Buckinghamshire County Council, tel 0845 370 8090.

Please be considerate in the countryside

- · Keep to public rights of way, and leave farm gates as you find them
- Keep dogs on leads near livestock and do not allow dogs into the river



Tawny owl - boxwood print by Thomas Bewick © The Bewick Society

There are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns:

- Visit www.chilternsaonb.org or call 01844 355500 for other Chilterns Country walks.
- Visit www.chilternsociety.org.uk or call 01494 771250 for information on the Chiltern Society's walk programme, to obtain Chiltern Society footpath maps or to join the Society.

Learn more about Chilterns box heritage, events and volunteering at www.chilternsaonb.org./box

This leaflet has been produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board as part of the Chilterns Box Woodland Project. The Project benefits from funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund and help from volunteers.







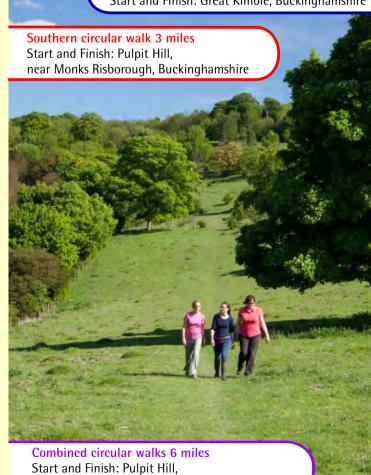


Photographs kindly provided by © Chris Smith and the Chilterns Conservation Board

Chilterns Country

Box wood walks Discover the largest native box woodland in the country

> Northern circular walk 3.5 miles Start and Finish: Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire



near Monks Risborough, Buckinghamshire

Chilterns

an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Northern circular walk 🏻 🔵 🔵 🔵

Discover chalk grassland, box woodland, extensive views, village churches, streams and boxwood objects.

Distance: 3.5 miles; up to 2 hours.

Access information: Mainly un-made paths which can be muddy One steep ascent and descent, several stiles and steps.

Start/finish: Great Kimble A4010 parking layby or bus stop.

Route description:

1 Take the bridleway signposted off the A4010 Aylesbury Road layby. Walk up the steep hill to reach an kissing gate on your left.

(For the combined circular walk, refer to the alternative rections under 2 below). Follow the worn path into Chequers Knap grassland with the perimeter fence on your left and after about 100m two old box trees on your right. Keep to the fence as it curves right and continue straight ahead.

Upon reaching a junction of paths and a Ridgeway signpost, turn left to follow the Ridgeway.

Pass through the kissing gate on your left to wall along the other side of the valley. Follow the worn path along the edge of the valley and then right, over the top of the hill and down. Look for the gate into the adjacent field.

5 With the fence on your left, walk straight on into the trees to a gate.

6 At the crossroads of tracks, go over the private track and straight ahead along the public footpath into the woods. Head across the open grassland to reach steps down into a valley thick with box.

Take care on 58 steps.

8 Pass through the kissing gate and follow the worn path around Beacon Hill and down through fields towards the church. To view the pillow mound, climb Beacon Hill.

Go through the gate and take care crossing the road! Enter the churchyard and pass to the left of the church. Go down the steps - take care! Pass through a gate and

head straight across the field to a stile (ignore the stile nearby to the right). Now walk ahead to the two kissing gates and take the left gate.

10 Continue straight ahead. Pass through a gate, over a single plank bridge and then through another

11 Walk along the edge of the field with the watercourse on your right. Pass through another gate. Continue along the field edge and, ignoring the field gate, follow the edge of the field round to the left. Go through two gates, taking care on several steps. Cross a stile and keep to the fence on your right.

12 Pass over two stiles to cross a private track near with houses. Head diagonally across the field to find a roadside stile. Turn left along the A4010.

13 Look for a footpath on your left near to the bus stop. Go down this tarmac track between houses and Brookhouse Farm and through a private garden to reach a kissing gate.

Head across a series of fields, passing through

15 Reaching the Ellesborough Road, turn right to walk along the pavement and pass Little Kimble church.

D At the large T junction, turn right along the A4010. Look back to enjoy views of the escarpment and head for Little Kimble train station on the left.

17 Take the footpath signposted to the left of the train station. Pass alongside the railway line and through a gate into a field. Continue along the edge of the field with the railway line on your right to reach a kissing gate on your right in the hedge. Head through this gate to reach a nearby pub or continue the walk by turning left across the field with the railway line behind you.

18 Pass over the stream and through a gate to follow a fenced path. Pass beside the school on your right, through a gate and out onto the road of Great Kimble village.

19 Turn left along the road, taking care as there are no pavements! At the T junction, turn right onto the A4010 to pass Great Kimble church and reach the parking area or bus stop.

Southern circular walk 🔎 🍑 🗨

Discover a hill fort, chalk grassland, box trees, beech woodland, boxwood objects and historic routeways. Distance: 3 miles; up to 2 hours.

Access information: Mainly un-made paths that can be muddy. Several steep ascents and descents and several stiles. Start/finish: Pulpit Hill roadside parking area, near Monks Risborough

Route description:

From the roadside parking area, walk with the road on your right along the adjacent track and at a signpost, turn left up the slope. At a crossroad of paths, turn left up the hill along the public footpath. Keep on up the hill until you reach a crossroad with a wide track.

4 Follow the sign for the hill fort, turning right along a permissive path with the boundary mound and ditch on your left. Look for a wide, flat entrance on your left into the hill fort.

Cross the ditch into the hill fort.

6 Continue into the central flat area of the hill fort and take the right hand fork.

Upon exiting the hill fort and finding a steep drop ahead, turn right at the T junction to put the steep slope on your left. Continue along this path to reach a crossroads with a public bridleway.

Walk straight ahead over the bridleway to follow a public footpath and pass through a gate. Continue down the hill to

(For the combined circular walk, refer to the alternative directions under 9 below). Ignore the stile and gate, turning left to keep the fence on your right.

> 🚺 At a Ridgeway signpost, turn right to follow the fenceline along a worn path straight ahead and then left at the corner. Pass two old box trees and reach a gate.

Turn left up the bridleway and continue ahead to reach a right turn signposted for the Ridgeway. Climb the steps to a gate.

12 Follow the Ridgeway straight ahead across the Rifle Range grassland and through gates to cross a bridleway into Grangelands grassland. Continue along Ridgeway with the fence on your right.

13 Upon reaching a gate on your right, follow this path down to the Cadsden Road.

14 Turn left, taking care on the road. Pass the pub and find a stile to the left of the pub parking area.

15 Follow the wide track to a junction of numerous paths and take the steepest (middle) path ahead. There are numerous permissive paths in this woodland so take care!

16 Take care on the steep path and head on through woods, ignoring several turnings along forestry tracks and footpaths.

🚺 Upon reaching a waymarked bridleway, turn left along the bridleway and then almost immediately sharp left again to keep to the bridleway.

18 Continue along the bridleway to reach a junction with a footpath and sunken routeway.

9 Follow the bridleway straight ahead to the Cadsden/Longdown Road.

20 Take care crossing the road and turn left along the track parallel with the road to reach the parking area.

Distance: 6 miles; up to 4 hours. Access information: The walk is mainly on un-made paths that can be muddy. There are several steep ascents and descents, several stiles and steps.

walk from 1 until you reach 9, at which point follow the alternative instructions below for <a>9 . This will take you on to the northern circular walk. Upon reaching 2 on the northern circular walk, follow the alternative instructions below for 2. This will take you you to the starting point.

Start/finish: Pulpit Hill roadside parking area, near Monks Risborough

2 Continue up the bridleway until there is a path on your right, signposted for the

Points of interest (see over)

Take care (busy road)

Food / Refreshments

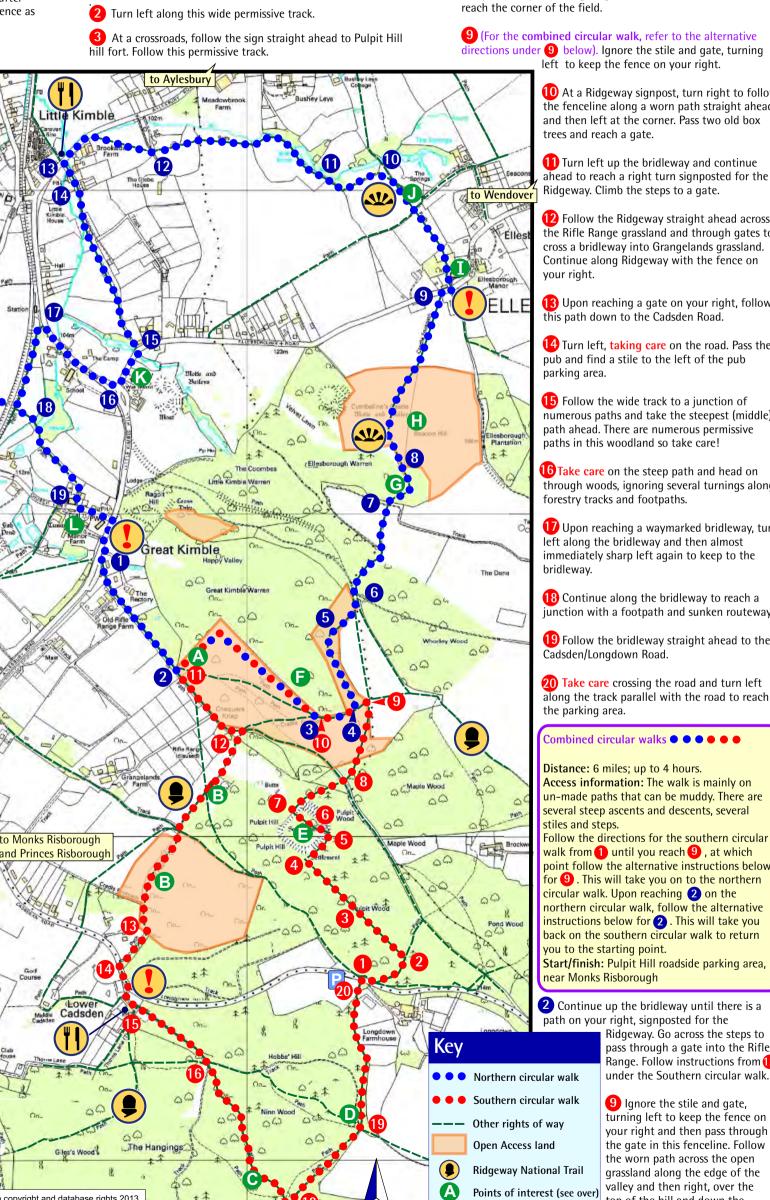
Viewpoint

W

north

Ridgeway. Go across the steps to pass through a gate into the Rifle Range. Follow instructions from 12 under the Southern circular walk.

Ignore the stile and gate, turning left to keep the fence on your right and then pass through the gate in this fenceline. Follow the worn path across the open grassland along the edge of the valley and then right, over the top of the hill and down the slope into the head of the adjacent valley. Look for the wooden kissing gate which takes you into the adjacent field. Follow instructions from 5 under the Northern circular walk.



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half mile

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quarter mile

0.5 kilometre