



Shenington and Alkerton Circular

A circular stroll through the historic villages of Shenington and Alkerton in north Oxfordshire. There is one stile on this route.

Distance 2.1 kilometers / 1.3 miles

Duration 1 hour and 40 minutes



Water feature



Great views



Refreshments



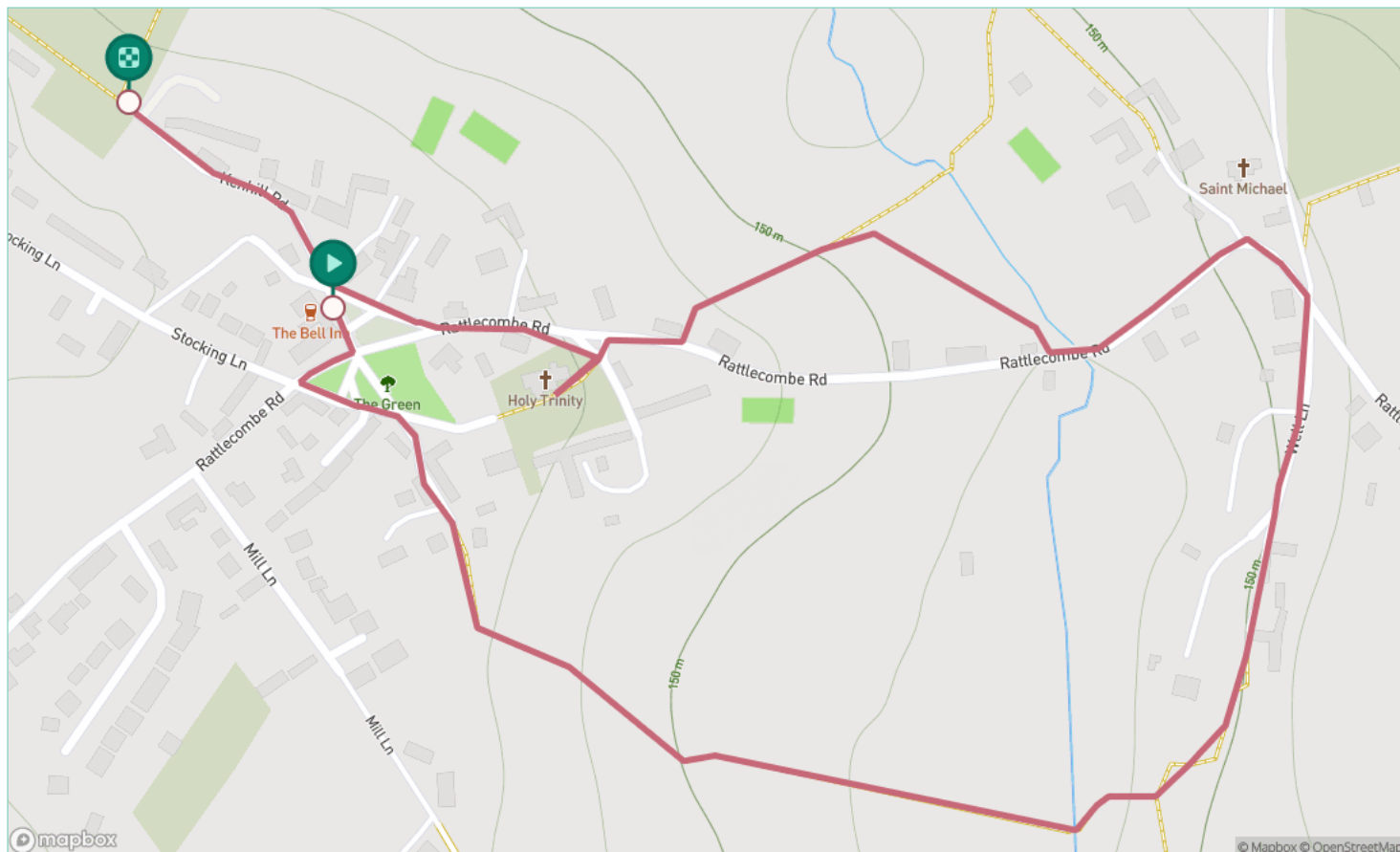
History



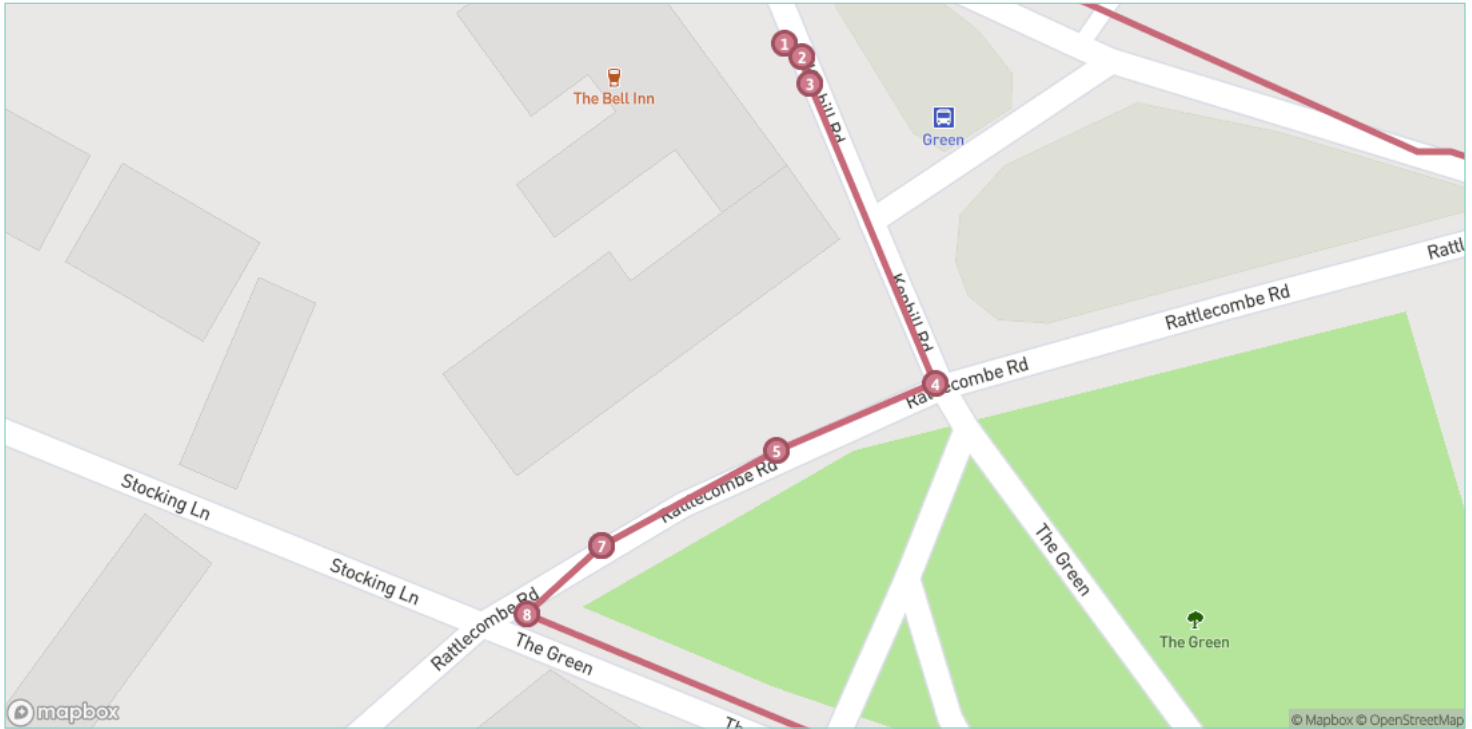
Dog friendly



Botanics



Disclaimer: Directions are provided as guidance only. Weather, construction, closures or other factors may affect routes. Please take care when crossing roads and avoid private land. Always follow local signage and use common sense. Created by Go Jauntly Ltd © 2024. Last Updated: 21 February 2024.



Step 1: This walk was created in partnership with Cherwell District Council. Enjoy over 30 walks across North Oxfordshire and experience the sights and sounds of nature as you go.

Step 2: If you come by car, there's no designated parking in either village so please park considerately.

Step 3: This historic village trail begins at the Bell Inn in Shenington which has been an inn since at least 1765. The building existed as early as 1690.

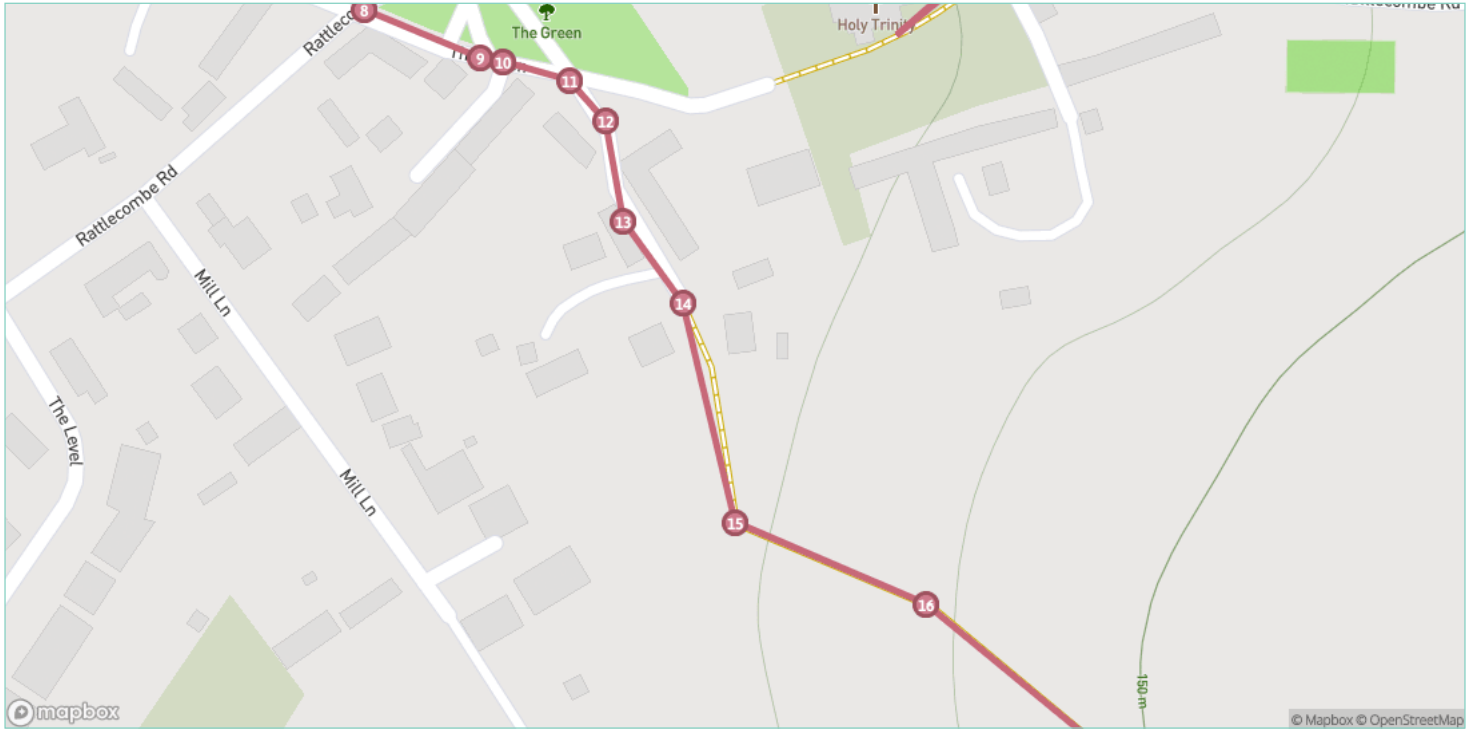
Step 4: Walk to the main road and turn right opposite the Village Green. Old maps show a village pond in the area during the 1700s but it had been filled in by 1813.

Step 5: Walk along the front of a short terrace of cottages.

Step 6: Knapp House was the village shop from the 1860's until 1973.

Step 7: On the opposite corner of Stocking Lane is Top Farm House. It's one of the former village farmhouses from the 1920s.

Step 8: With Knapp House at your back, cross the road onto the Green. Immediately on your right is Longworth.



Step 9: Longworth was also previously a farmhouse incorporating a butcher's shop, which closed in 1971.

Step 10: Thimblestone cottage appears on Robert Whittlesey's Map of 1732 as a pub called the Nag's Head.

Step 11: Continue along the far right of the village green. Where the road forks, take the right fork past Mulberry cottage down a narrow Lane (Pig Market Lane).

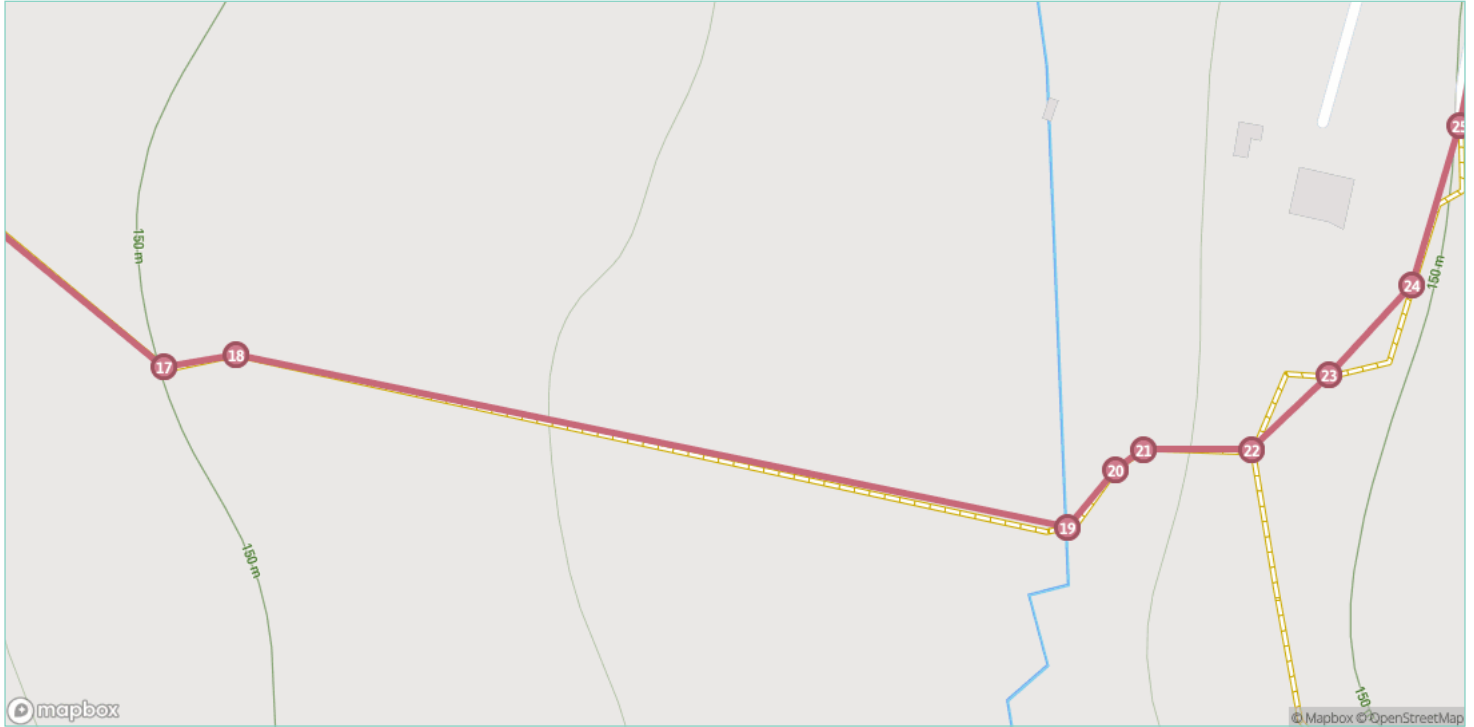
Step 12: Senedone House on the corner of Pig Market Lane is another old farmhouse.

Step 13: Mizpah Cottage has a plaque on its front wall commemorating the Great Fire of Shenington on 13th May 1721, which swept through the village.

Step 14: At the bottom of the lane go through this pedestrian gate and continue for about 50m.

Step 15: Turn left over the stone stile.

Step 16: There may be horses in this field. No path is obvious so walk diagonally and very steeply downhill, crossing an overgrown farm track and heading for a gate over to the right.



Step 17: Go through the small pedestrian gate and turn left along the hedge side. Pass a hedgeline on your right and enter the next field.

Step 18: Walk diagonally across this field and then through a broad field edge.

Step 19: Carefully cross the Sor Brook using this narrow stone bridge. This Brook was the boundary between the old Parishes of Shenington and Alkerton.

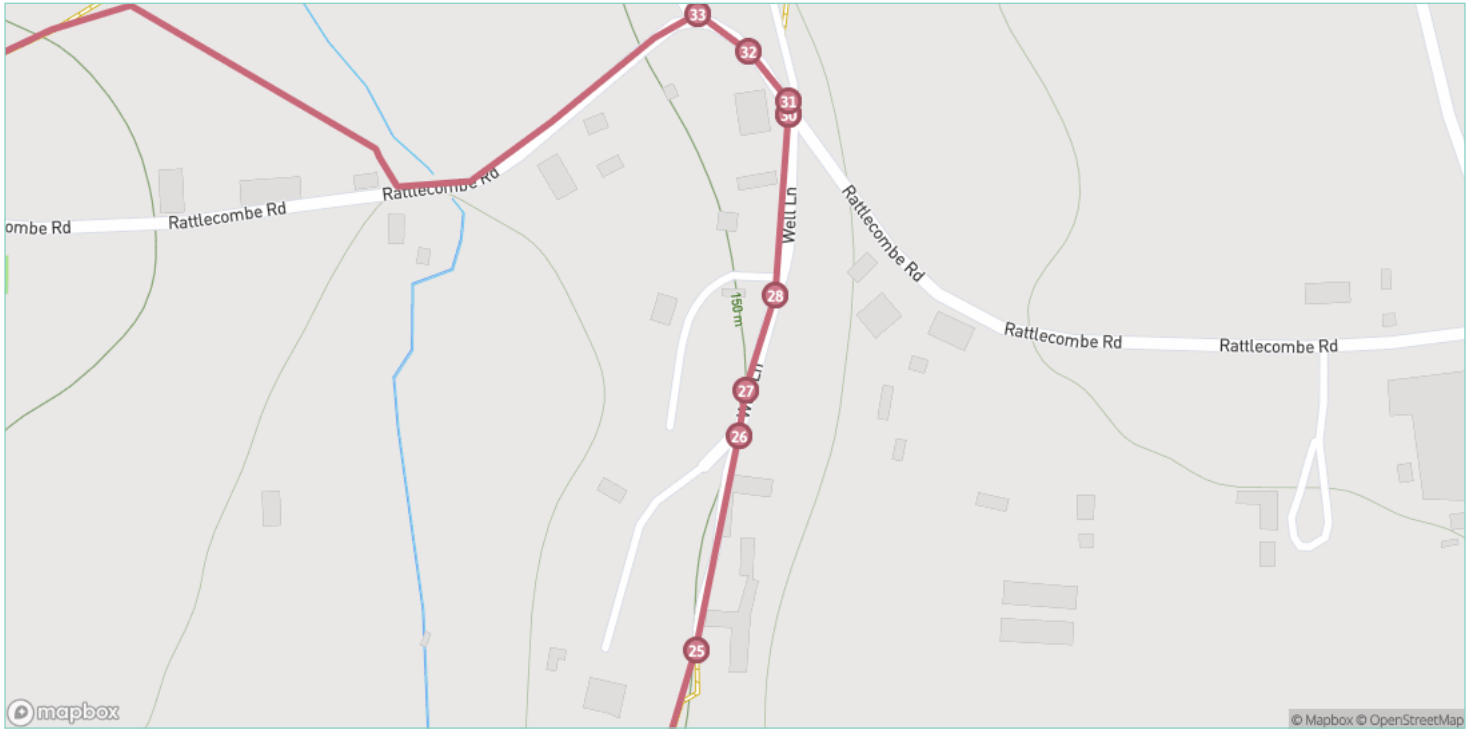
Step 20: Enter the garden of Brook Cottage, bear left and follow the signs up the stone steps. Steps may be slippery when wet so do be careful.

Step 21: Brook Cottage has four acres of landscaped gardens which were established in 1964 by Kathleen and the late David Hodges.

Step 22: Straight ahead is a short slope leading up to a stile.

Step 23: Turn left after going around the stile and follow the grass path beside the garden wall.

Step 24: Admire the wonderful views from Brook Cottage garden.



Step 25: Continue straight on through a stoned courtyard to Well Lane.

Step 26: Follow the lane passing Barn House on your right.

Step 27: Alkerton House, on your left, is the oldest in the Parish. Its earliest datestone is 1415. The Gothic porch dates from an 1834 restoration.

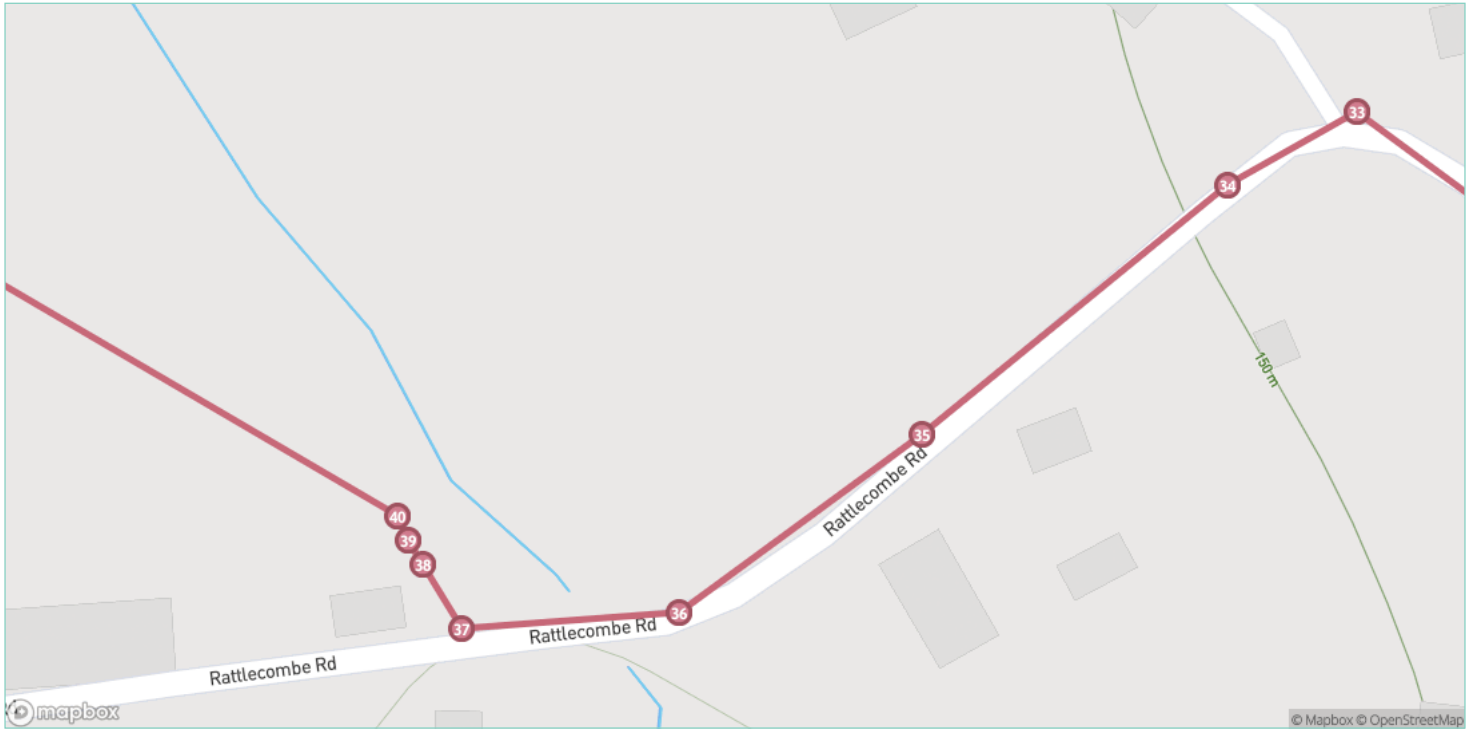
Step 28: The Well House has a wellhead pump outside which gives this road its name - Well Lane.

Step 29: At the junction with Rattlecombe Road, Alkerton School House is on your left. It was built in 1871 and closed in 1905. Children then went to Shenington School.

Step 30: Cross Rattlecombe Road to the War Memorial and then head straight uphill on the path, not the road.

Step 31: Almost immediately, bear left off the main track towards St. Michael's Church and the Old Rectory.

Step 32: If you wish to visit the Church, follow the track through the Church gates. The Church was built in 1200AD. Guidebooks available inside.



Step 33: To continue, turn left just before the gates and go carefully down the rough stone steps, through the gate and into the lane below.

Step 34: To avoid the steps completely, return the way you came back to the main road and turn right. Beware of traffic on this narrow winding stretch of road.

Step 35: Adze Cottage is on your left. You can see its bread oven bulge

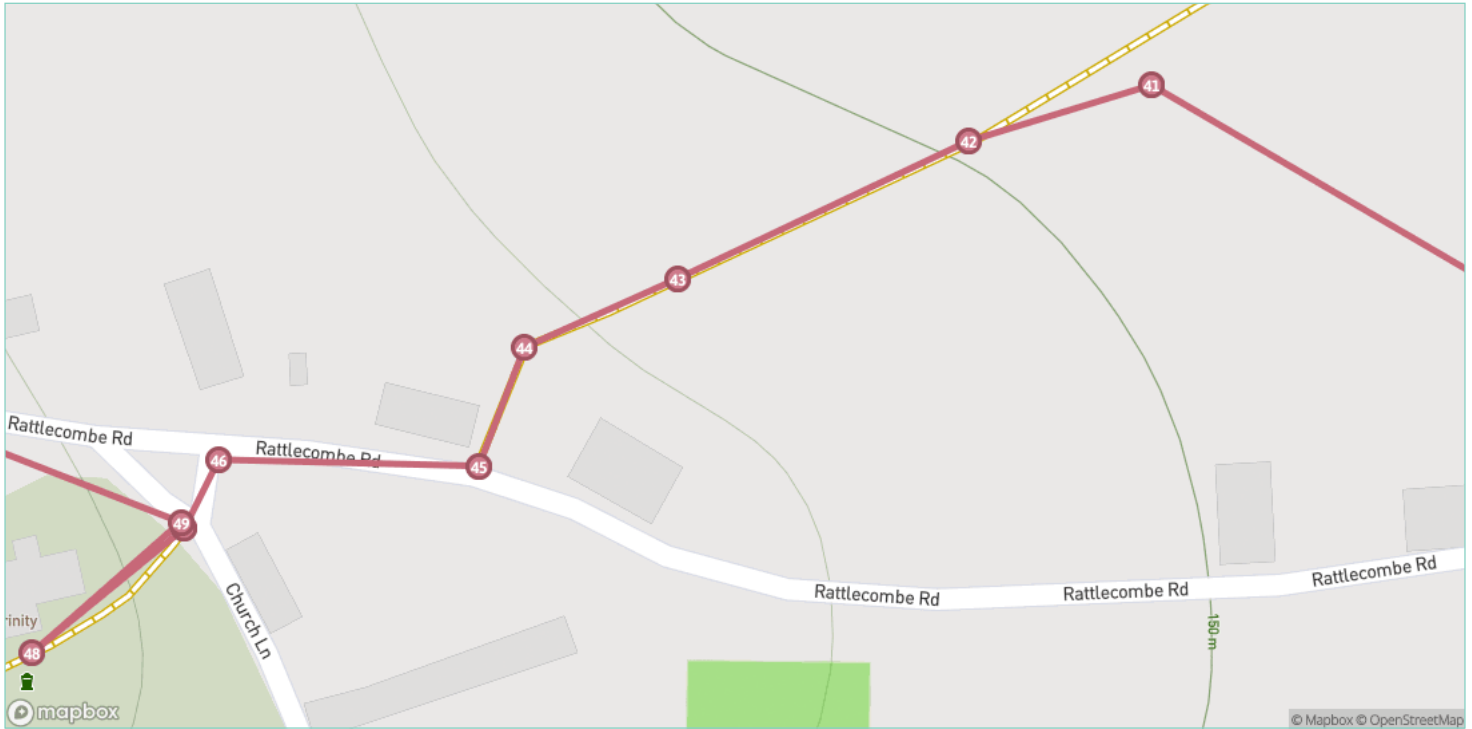
Step 36: Continue downhill across the road bridge over the Sor Brook.

Step 37: Just before Tanner's Cottage turn right. The cottage was originally a Methodist Chapel established in 1819.

Step 38: Walk along the path to a kissing gate. Once through the gate, go left around some scrubby trees.

Step 39: Then right, following the trodden path parallel to the Brook.

Step 40: Turn left at the waymark on the telegraph pole.



Step 41: Walk uphill towards a stand of trees.

Step 42: Continue uphill, keeping the small belt of trees on the right.

Step 43: Keep following the path.

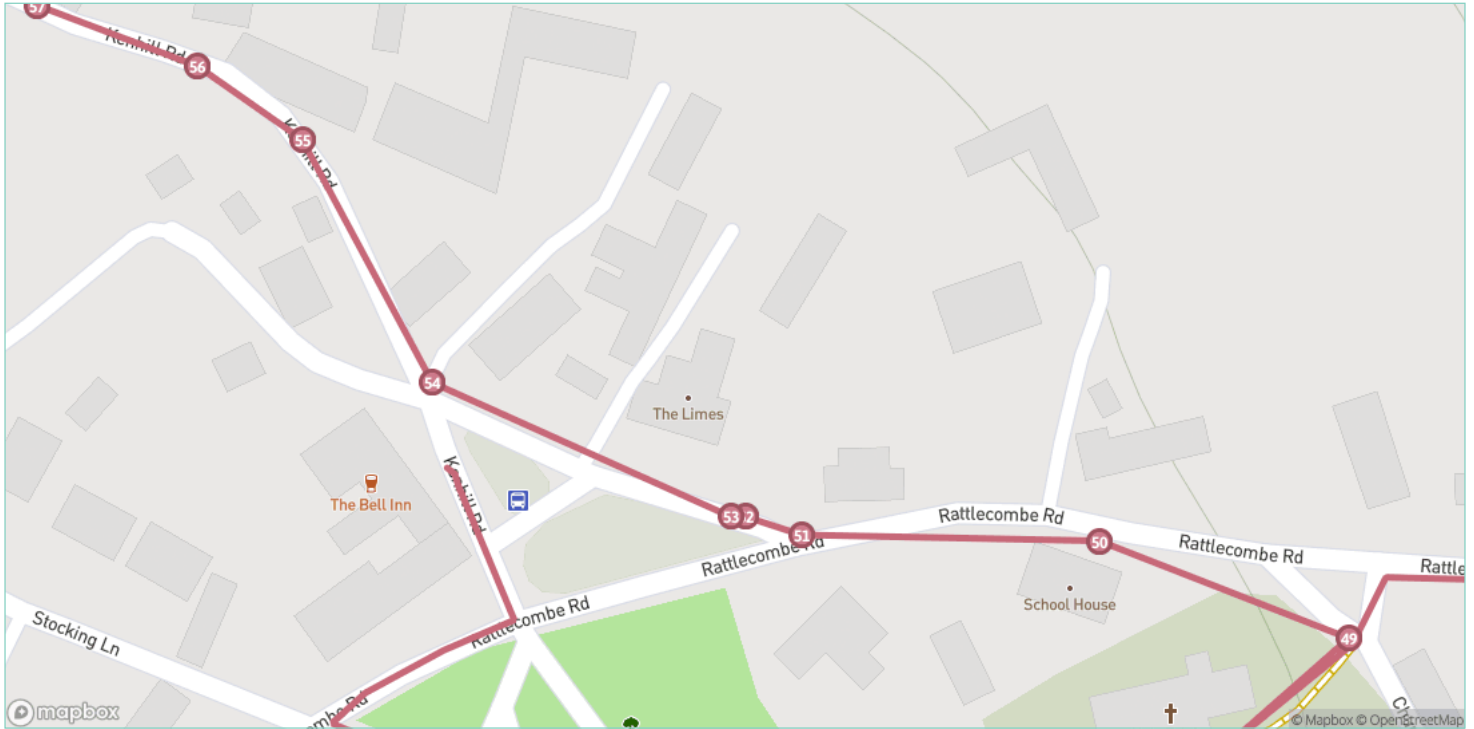
Step 44: Pass through the kissing gate into Shenington.

Step 45: When you reach Rattlecombe Road, turn right and continue uphill.

Step 46: If you want to visit Holy Trinity Church, cross the road upon reaching the triangular green.

Step 47: Go up the steps and through a gate into the churchyard.

Step 48: Holy Trinity Church was constructed mainly during the 12th to 15th centuries but the west tower was added later.



Step 49: Leave the churchyard the way you entered and continue uphill on Rattlecombe Road.

Step 55: Pass The Bay, a thatched 17th century cottage with a slated bread oven projection to the right of the front door.

Step 50: Pass the Old Bakery and the entrance to Cotman House. The former Shenington School is opposite. It was built in 1871, the same year as Alkerton School.

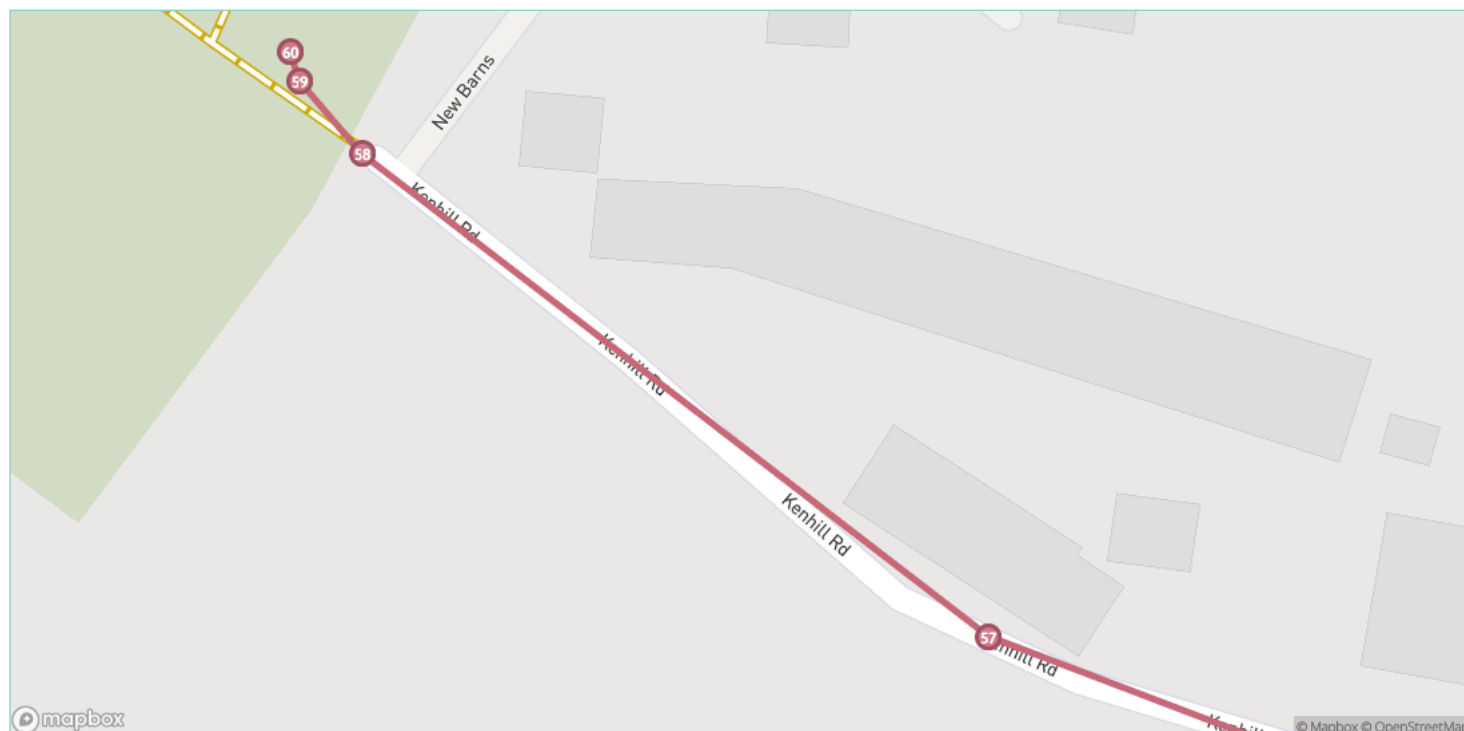
Step 56: You'll then reach Rectory .Farm. A working farm until the 1980s, its barns were converted to domestic dwellings between 1991-1997.

Step 51: On reaching the Village Hall bear right (back past The Bell Inn which is across the Green on your left).

Step 52: Originally a cottage, Shenington Village Hall was given to the village as a reading room and library in 1911 by the Earl of Jersey.

Step 53: Pass The Limes and the lime trees on Kenhill Road.

Step 54: Pass the semi detached cottages and continue along Kenhill Road.



Step 57: Stoneholt is a late 17th Century residence. It was a Hook Norton Brewery ale house known as Top Pub from 1898 until 1946.

Step 58: The bridleway ahead is known as Stratfield Way and you can follow it for a couple of hundred metres to Shenington Airfield to watch gliders.

Step 59: At the end of Kenhill Road is the large field known as The Lynchetts. A fine example of medieval field terracing.

Step 60: Double back along Kenhill Road to The Bell Inn, to finish your walk.
