

Chew Valley Circular

Distance: 2 miles
Walking Time: 1 hour
GRADE : Easy/Moderate 3

30

This is a circular walk exploring the delightful village of Chew Magna and the valley of the River Chew. This is bound by the Mendips to the south and Dundry Hill to the north. Chew Magna has many fine and grand houses, reflecting its past as a prosperous cloth-making village.

Maps:

Explorer 155 Bristol and Bath
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172 Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref: ST 576 632



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Take the 672 Chew Valley Explorer service from Bristol Bus Station to Cheddar via The Chew Valley. Please refer to the Chew Valley Explorer leaflet for the timetable or phone Traveline on 0870 6082608. At Chew Magna, get off the bus at the Bear and Swan Pub in the High Street. Ask the driver if you are unsure of its location.

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

There are a variety of pubs and cafes in Chew Magna.

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Dundry Hill Group has provided information for this walk. This is a community group dedicated to caring for Dundry Hill and its slopes. For information on its activities and details of further walks Tel. 0117 935 9710.



traveline
public transport info
0871 200 22 33

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST



Church House in grounds of Chew Magna Church

Monument to John deHautville

Look out for the strange monument to John de Hautville in Chew Magna Church. He was a bold and valiant warrior, standing seven feet tall, who served Edward III during the Hundred Years War. He was rewarded for his service by being given the Royal Manor of Norton. Finding it such a poor place he renamed it Norton-Mal-Reard. His 16th century tomb is wrongly ascribed to the right of Henry III.



15th Century bridge over River Chew

Chew Magna

Chew Magna was once a prosperous town with manufacturing and even its own gas works. Its importance began in medieval times when the Bishop of Bath and Wells established a retreat here. A small part of this summer palace still survives at Chew Court. The church, with its fine 15th century tower has much of interest and Church House, a 16th century building inside the churchyard, has served many purposes; these include church ales, a school room, poor house and a pest house. It is now imaginatively refurbished as a community centre.



View of river near Battle Lane

Tun Bridge

This is an excellent example of a 15th century bridge, note the three pointed arches. Look out for the stone trough on the left-hand side. When the village was infected with smallpox villages left money in this trough to pay farmers who brought food to the bridge. The trough was filled with vinegar in an attempt to prevent the spread of the disease.

At Battle Lane turn right and follow the road. Take the lower road crossing ford by footbridge, Go up the hill and under a footbridge to the main road.

Turn left past the water pump on the church wall, go along Silver Street to Harford Square. Turn right along the road over Spratts bridge and take path on left following Winford Brook to road.

After the bridge take the stile on the left, bearing right to the next stile and cross Chew/Pensford Road. Walk up the drive to the main house gates, bear right and follow the path to the churchyard. Take the path on the right to smaller gate and walk down the road.

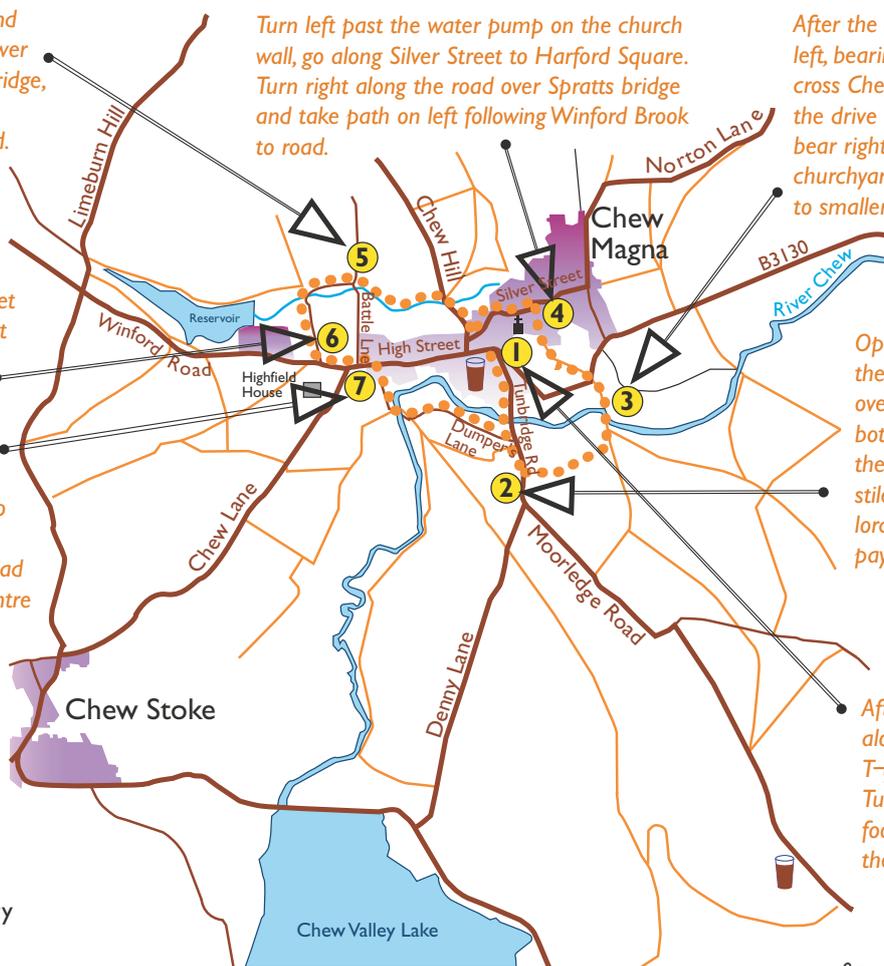
Turn left into the High Street and continue until you meet several stone toadstools.

Turn right just before the toadstools and left over the two bridges continuing on to Dumper's Lane. At junction turn left along Tunbridge Road and return to the village centre for buses back to Bristol.

Opposite Fisher Lodge, go over the stile and follow footpath over 4 wooden stiles. At the bottom of the field turn left to the bridge, and go over the stone stile. The bridge was built by the lord of Chew Court to avoid paying a toll at Chew Magna.

After getting off the bus walk along the High Street to the T-junction by the chapel. Cross Tunbridge Road to the raised footpath and continue past the fire station.

- Key**
-  public house
 -  circular walk
 -  other paths
 -  field boundary
 -  road
 -  waterway
 -  urban area



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