

*A countryside walk around
Pensford, Clutton and Chew Magna*

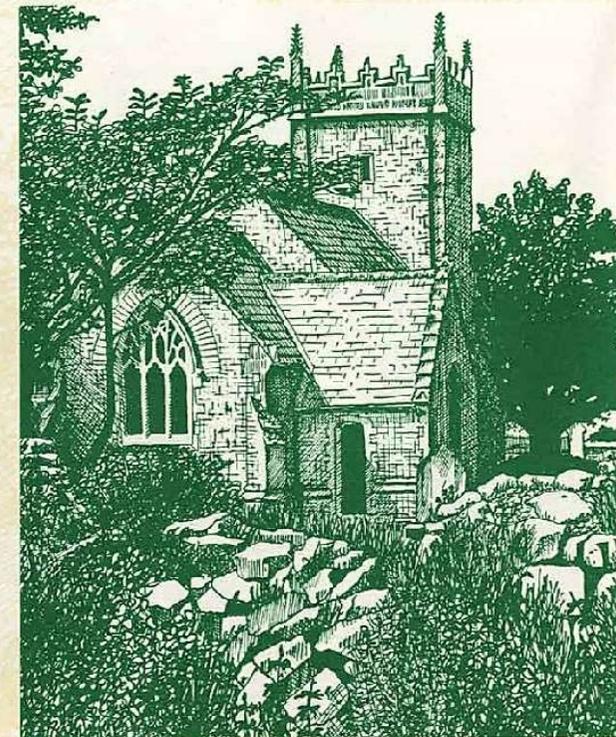
The Three Peaks Walk circles for 16.5 miles through diverse and attractive hill and valley landscape. The "Three Peaks" are Maes Knoll, Knowle Hill and Blackberry Hill, not nearly as hard going as the 3 Peaks in the Yorkshire Dales. The main villages connected by this walk are Pensford, Clutton and Chew Magna.

The walk is waymarked using the logo on this leaflet. It can be walked in a day, or alternatively shorter circular walks can be made by linking to other long distance routes such as the Community Forest Path and the Two Rivers Way, both indicated on the plan. Another option could be to use the bus service along the A37. The Bristol & Bath O.S. map No. 172 shows other public rights of way in this area.

PENSFORD TO HUNSTRETE

2.5 miles

From the main A37 south after Pensford Bridge, take High Street to the left, past the George and Dragon Pub and walk up the hill for about 400 yards. Go left at the footpath signpost at "Penwood". Follow the hedge line for 300 yards and go over the footbridge and stile. Follow across the field up a slope to a stile and footbridge. Follow path into a small copse of Larch trees. From here follow the field boundary with the hedge on your right for about 400 yards. Cross Birchwood Lane and enter Lords Wood. Look for yellow markers on trees to stay on the path. About 500 yards into the wood the path reaches a pond. Follow the path left of the pond then go straight ahead for 180 yards. From Lords Wood turn right and follow the hedge, down some steps and over the footbridge. Keep the fence on your left for about 300 yards. Go over the stile after the copse and follow the field boundary with the hedge on your right up to a gateway, then left (following the way markers) with the hedge still on your right. Pass through the gateway, across two fields to another gateway and over the brow of the incline. Take a right on the lane into Hunstrete village.



The Holy Trinity Church, Norton Malreward

HUNSTRETE TO CLUTTON

3 miles

Go over the stile on your left at the toad hazard sign, then go left after 20 yards along a track next to the lake. Look for a stile and then follow a hardcore track for about 200 yards. Take the stile to your right past some large Beech trees to your left. Pass through another field and stile then take the path to the right, past a deer enclosure until you reach the A368. Cross the road and head up the slope towards a wood known as Whidecombe Brake. Follow this path for 300 yards. Out of the wood, bear slightly right and look for a stone stile in the hedge, after around 100 yards. Follow the path to "Mountains Lane" then turn right. Stick to the main track for about half a mile until it becomes a surfaced lane up an incline past Upper Barrow Hill Farm and Blackberry Hill to the right. Look for a waymark downhill and go across the field to the gateway by some cottages. Cross the lane, and go

past the end cottage and take the lane with "Clutton 1" sign. Go down Clutton Hill for 250 yards. Look for a stile on the right past Clutton Hill Cottage. The path follows near to a hedge on your left. Go over the footbridge after the cottages. Go up the hill, bearing slightly right, until you meet a hedge. Follow the hedge to a stile. Cross the stile, down the field past an old pond and over a bridge. Bear slightly right after bridge and keep right towards the bottom of the next field, entering a small woodland and cross the disused railway line, then follow onto Lower Bristol Lane. Turn right and look for a gate on your left, 200 yards after the cottage "Vilnas". Follow path over stile then through a gate on the left. Keep the hedge on your right up to a cottage. Take the small track to the left and then take the path to your right up to the A37.

CLUTTON TO KNOWLE HILL

3.5 miles

After crossing the A37 keep the hedge on your right. Take the first right hand stile and head across three fields until you enter Tynemoor Wood. Follow the path through the wood and into the next field. Follow the hedge until it turns right, go directly across the field to a gateway then veer right across the next field to another gateway. Look for a stile directly ahead then head right at the stile, crossing two fields. At the lane, turn left until you reach the main road. Turn right down High Street into Stowey Village, and onto the junction of the A368. Cross the road and look for a footpath sign at the right of the cottages. Head across the field and cross the wood and culvert and turn left at the next gateway. Turn left at the lane and look for a stile on your right after 30 yards. Follow the path near the stream to a large Oak. Cross two fields until a stile and steps are reached. Pass through a small field to a metal gate. Turn left on the lane over a road bridge. At the lane junction turn right and follow up the lane for about 600 yards. Soon after passing Knowle House on your left take the footpath onto Knowle Hill. Follow the path forking left, north, around the hill with the knoll to your right until you reach a stone track. Follow the track until you reach the lane.

KNOWLE HILL TO CHEW MAGNA

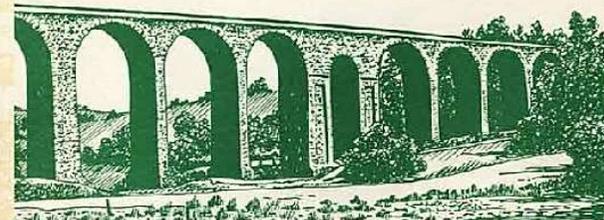
2 miles

From the Knoll Hill Parish Council sign turn left along the lane. Take a left at the next lane junction. After about 250 yards take a path to your right, then cross the field. Go over two stiles and follow the track past some cottages. Turn left and uphill at the lane, taking care of traffic. Look for a stile to your right after about 250 yards. The path follows a large arable field for 400 yards. Cross a stream and stone bridge and stile through a small field to a gateway. Follow the Byway track for about 500 yards until you reach a stone bridge. Cross the bridge onto "Sandy Lane" until you reach the B3130. At the junction turn left and look for a Byway to your right after about 50 yards. Follow the track to Chew Magna. (A short walk, via North Chew Terraces will take you into Chew Magna if required).

CHEW MAGNA TO MAES KNOLL

3 miles

From Chew Magna follow Norton Lane north for about 400 yards until it reaches a right hand bend, past the property "Whitegates". Take the stile ahead and follow the path uphill over two stiles. Cross the next field to a sleeper bridge and stile to the right of a pond. Cross over to the far corner of the next field. At the gateway bear slightly right from the farm track, heading past a pond on your left. Bear right again and cross a stile and plank bridge. Head straight across two fields to a gateway at Northwick. Turn right along a lane for a short distance then take a left lane. Look for a stile on your left after about 40 yards. Go straight uphill bearing right at the top of the field. Veer left to the the top corner of the next field. Cross the next two fields, with the hedge on your left, passing through a black gate. From the next stile the hedge should be on your right. Climb the metal gate and turn right and walk along the lane for about three quarters of a mile. As the lane goes downhill look for a metal stile. Follow the path with the mature hedge on your right. Climb the next metal stile with Maes Knoll Hill Fort ahead of you.



Pensford Viaduct

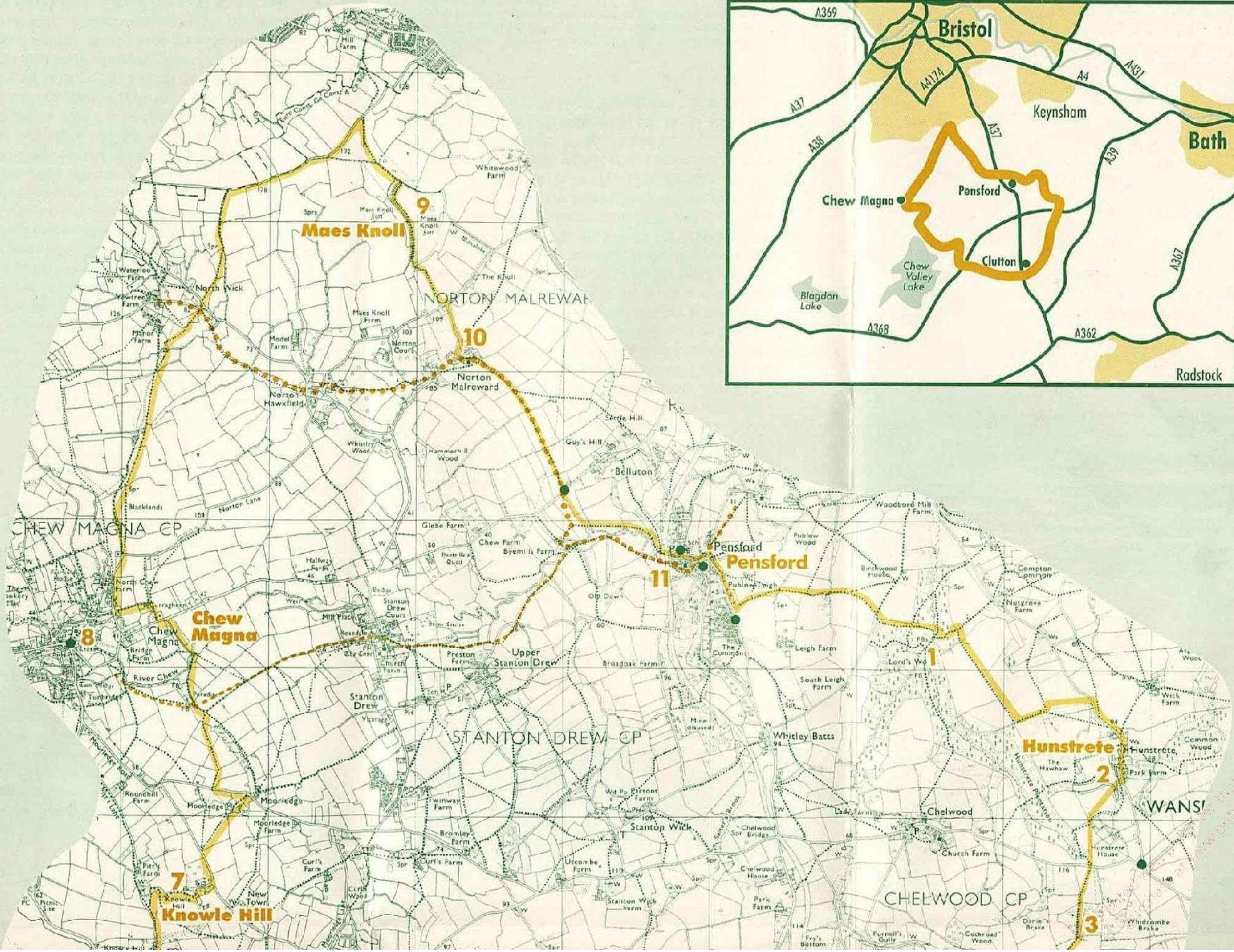
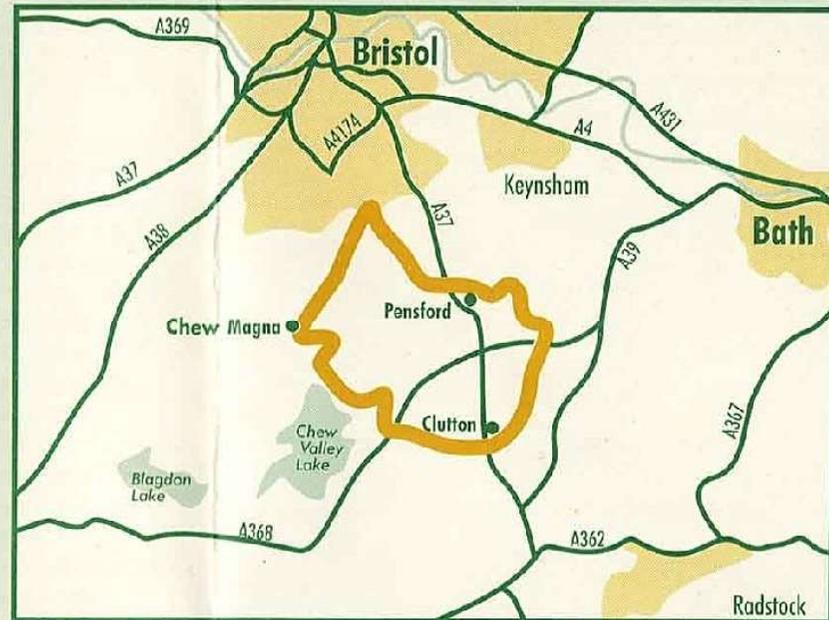
MAES KNOLL TO PENSFORD

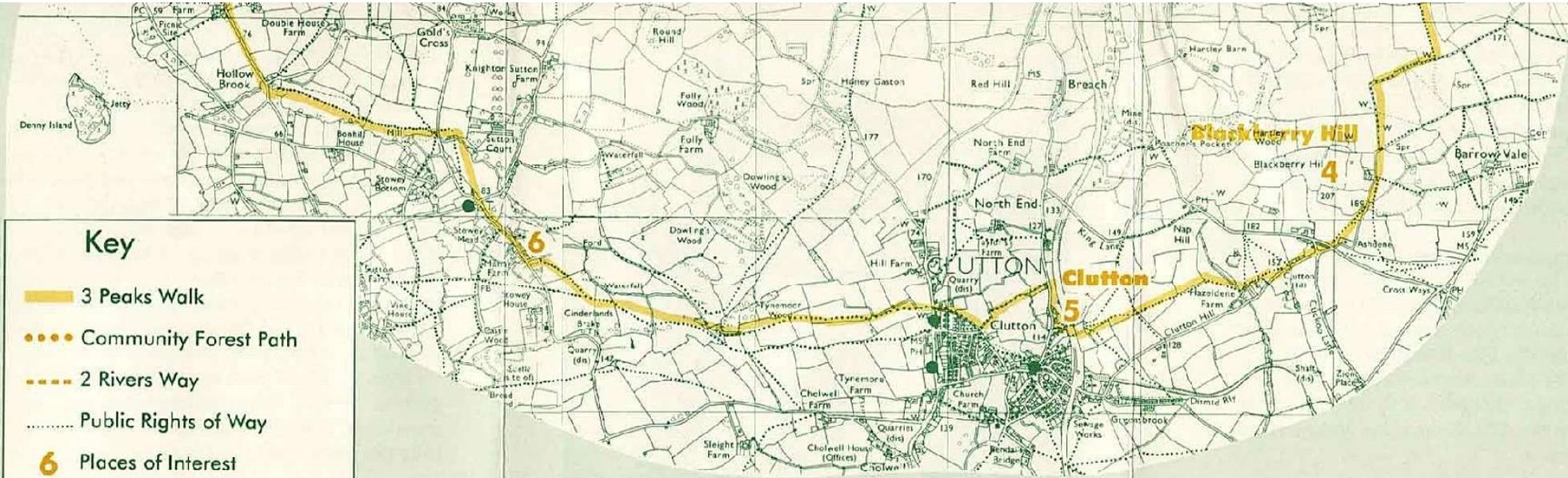
2.5 miles

Follow the path to the first embankment of the hill fort. Turn right at this point to the top of a ridge with a fine view of Chew Valley Lake and the Mendips. Turn left along the top of the ridge. Cross over a stile, keeping the hedge on your right. When the embankment bends left drop down the slope looking for a stile in the hedge. Keep the hedge to your right and go over a stile by the lane. Turn left for a short distance then turn right, at the Chew Magna signpost onto Norton Malreward. Look for a left hand lane after about 400 yards, past a post box in the wall. The "Holy Trinity" churchyard should be ahead of you. Take the right hand track around the church and follow the stone track for about half a mile across a large field to the gateway. From here descend a stony track to the B3130. Take care crossing the road and look for a stile 20 yards to your left. Look for another stile straight ahead, then turn left following the hedge line. At the next stile, veer right for about 60 yards. Do not cross this stile but turn left and look for a double stile next to a horseshoe bend by the River Chew. Cross two more riverside meadows until you reach a stone track which goes under the viaduct and into Pensford. A right hand turn along Church Street past the pub returns to the main A37 and crossing back onto High Street, the beginning of the walk.

The Three Peaks Walk was devised partly by Roland Janes and Avon County Council Public Rights of Way Section. It has been produced by the Avon County Council Countryside Section with support from the Forest of Avon and Wansdyke District Council.

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Key

- 3 Peaks Walk
- Community Forest Path
- 2 Rivers Way
- Public Rights of Way
- 6 Places of Interest
- Bus Stops



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1.5km

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THE COUNTRY CODE

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
 Guard against all risk of fire.
 Keep your dogs under close control.
 Keep to public paths across farmland and fasten all gates.
 Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
 Protect wildlife, plants and trees, and take your litter home.

FEATURES OF INTEREST

General Wildlife Interest: There is a good chance of spotting Buzzards soaring overhead anywhere on this walk. Herons and other waterside birds may be spotted near water such as by the River Chew.

- 1 Lords Wood:** A mixture of broadleaf and coniferous trees some of which is commercially managed. The pond which is passed on the walk is good for wildlife.
- 2 Hunstrete Lake:** Part of the 18th Century landscaped park of the Hunstrete Estate.
- 3 Whidcombe Brake:** An example of ancient semi-natural woodland which is rich in wildlife.
- 4 Blackberry Hill:** A typical ridge in this area, formed out of Lower Lias rock formations.
- 5 The disused North Somerset line of the Great Western Railway** decommissioned in the 1960s.

- 6 Stowey School House:** built in 1837.
- 7 Knowle Hill:** an area of unimproved neutral and acidic grassland, with fine views of Chew Valley Lake Reservoir opened in 1956.
- 8 Chew Magna Church:** has a fine west tower built in the Perpendicular style and some Norman features.
- 9 Maes Knoll Iron Age Fort:** constructed about 250 BC as a defensive barrier to the encampment. The Saxon Wansdyke (maybe 6th Century) leads off Maes Knoll.
- 10 The Holy Trinity Church,** Norton Malreward is of 12th Century origin with a 15th Century tower and some later 19th Century rebuilding.
- 11 The River Chew and the railway viaduct** at Pensford built in the 19th Century.

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