



Walk 2

A circular walk from Keynsham to Queen Charlton

Maps: OS 1:25,000
Explorer 155 Bristol & Bath

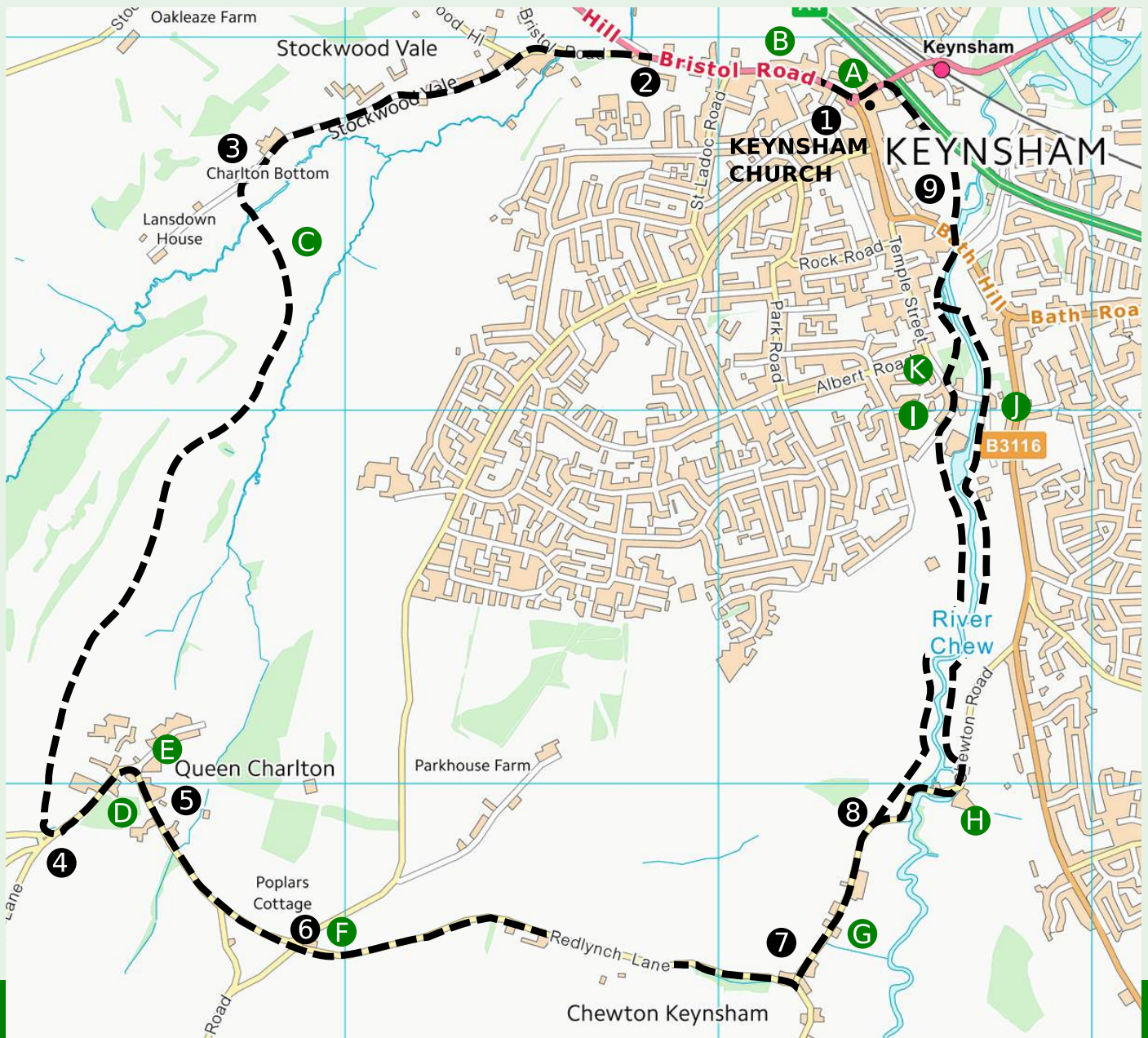
Distance: 5.5 miles
Time: Allow a minimum of 2.5 hours
Terrain: Easy, but waterproof boots recommended for the uphill stony track between Stockwood Vale and Queen Charlton after wet weather. No stiles. Note that a significant part of the walk is along country roads.

Start: Outside the Keynsham Parish Church
Post code: BS31 1DQ, NGR ST654688

Public Transport:

Rail: The start of the walk is 350yds west of Keynsham Railway Station
Bus: All routes through Keynsham stop by Keynsham Church.
Parking: Keynsham central area carparks (pay and display)

Refreshments: There are many cafes in Keynsham.





1 Walk down the main Bristol Road (A4175) for a quarter of a mile and turn **LEFT** towards **STOCKWOOD** at the 2nd mini roundabout by the "REST-A-WHILE CAFÉ".

i Note stonework from Keynsham Abbey in the walls near Old Manor House and Crown Inn.



Keynsham Abbey boss

i Note Almshouses on right. B



Almshouses

2 Walk past the workshops on the left, bear left, then turn **LEFT** into **STOCKWOOD VALE** and proceed half a mile along the valley, past all the houses on the right.

3 Turn **LEFT** down a track and after 100 yards over a stream and into **ENGINE HOUSE LANE** (not signposted). This lane was originally constructed to serve the small coal mine in the adjoining field, but is now very stony and uneven. C

Climb this stretch for a mile into **QUEEN CHARLTON**.

4 On reaching the road, turn **LEFT** into the village. D

i On the left is a **NORMAN ARCH**. The origin of this is not known but possibly was the entrance to the Abbots Court House.



Norman Arch

5 Follow the road past the village green which has a mediaeval market cross. By St Margaret's church, bear **RIGHT**. E

i The market cross was originally sited further east but was moved to the green as part of Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations.



Market Cross

6 Follow the road to the junction with Charlton Road at the **POPLARS**. Cross Charlton Road here into Redlynch Lane and continue down into Chewton Keynsham. F



Wall plaque

i The wall plaque gives date of 1788 and the old spelling "Queen Charleton"

7 Turn **LEFT** into the village. Follow the road through the village. G



Millenium stone

8 The walk is completed by following the River Chew back to **KEYNSHAM**.

EITHER:

On leaving the village where the road turns right, turn **RIGHT** through a kissing gate at the bottom of the stony track. After 50 yards, turn **LEFT** and follow the path keeping the river on the right. Follow the river back to Keynsham and the **ALBERT MILL**. I

Produced by Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society © 2016

Photographs taken by members of the society and courtesy of Cadbury Archive, Mondelez International and Paul Townsend.

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2016

Supported by





Albert Mill wheel



Albert Mill - Mill stone

Walk through the mill past the cottages to the grass triangle, turn **RIGHT**.

i One of the houses on the left has a plaque showing the high water level of the 1968 flood. **J K**

After 50 yards, before the bridge, turn **LEFT** into the Memorial Park. Follow the path with the river on the right.

OR:

Follow the bends past the sluices which once served the local mill.



Sluice gate

A few yards past the main gates of **CHEWTON PLACE**, go through the kissing gate on the **LEFT** to join the path beside the River Chew and continue for 0.75 mile to **STEEL MILLS**. **H**

Pass through the narrow section between two walls, turn **RIGHT**, then **LEFT** down **STEEL MILLS**.

Continue straight on past the bridge and take the path which follows the river on to the car park.

Turn **LEFT** to cross the footbridge over the river and then turn **RIGHT** to join the path.



Keynsham Park weir



Keynsham Park wheel

9 Follow the path under the main road. At the bandstand, turn **LEFT**, then diagonally **RIGHT** up the hill past the bowling green to Station Road.

Turn **LEFT** here to get back to the church. **A**

Points of Interest

A St John the Baptist Church

The building, dedicated to St John the Baptist, was commenced in about 1270 A.D. and largely completed 200 years later. This was always intended to be the parish church rather than an extension of the Abbey.



B Almshouses

These cottages, altered so they now form six dwellings, were reputedly built by Sir Thomas Bridges for the poor widows of men killed in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685. The coats of arms are those of Sir Thomas and his wife Lady Anna Rodney.



The Old Bristol Road, Keynsham, Somerset

C The Charlton Bottom Coal Work was originally here. It was put up for sale in 1781 with a pumping engine and waterwheel but it is not clear whether coal was extracted here after that date. In 1969 a 150ft deep shaft containing 84ft of water was exposed by a farm worker who was bulldozing the land to clear the colliery workings.

D The Manor House is on the right as you approach the green. It was built by William Hayward in 1582 after he had been granted land in the village following the Dissolution and was extensively rebuilt and enlarged in the next 200 years. It was known as The Parsonage. In 1793 Vikris Dickinson moved into the house and renamed it.

E Queen Charlton village green

There are several attractive houses grouped around the green here. Opposite the church is a large house, the Tolzey House. This would have been the administrative centre of the village for Keynsham Abbey.



F The Poplars

This property was originally Poor Houses built by Vikris Dickinson in response to the housing shortage in 1788. They were originally a terrace of 6 cottages, each with 'one up one down' and with an earth closet at each end to serve the nearest 3 properties. There was a large garden and the occupants would no doubt have been the envy of the less fortunate poor elsewhere.

G Chewton Keynsham

The village once included a small mining community. The manor of Chewton Keynsham was purchased by Thomas Warner in 1815. The Warners were good landlords and built cottages for the workers and a school for fifty children (now the village church). The most distinctive feature of the Warners' buildings was the black-glazed "Bridgwater" roof-tiles. These are still prized for their appearance and efficiency.



H Chewton Place

The house was originally built in about 1770 by Thomas Lediard and following a number of changes in ownership was substantially improved by Henry Mynors in the 1870s. It was bought by Imperial Tobacco in 1963 and used as a training centre. It reverted to private ownership 2013. The unique Owl Tower was built by the original owner.



I Albert Mill

Now converted into flats Albert Mill, originally known as South Mill, was the last working dyewood mill in the country when it finally closed about 1964. Different types of imported timber were first chipped and then crushed to powder to be sold to dyers or cloth producers to make dyes. The main timber used was logwood, which gave a blue dye, but others were used to give reds and yellows.



J 1968 flood

The River Chew is placid and low in most summers. However on 10th July 1968, swollen by a rapid 6 inches of rain, the river burst its banks and destroyed several bridges including the parapet of the bridge at Dapps Hill. It rose to the bedroom windows of the houses there, which is commemorated above the window of one of the houses.



K Dapps Hill

The modern housing development on the left after Albert Mill was once the site of Keynsham Gas Works, which was built in 1857 and closed in the 1920's. No.6 Dapps Hill was originally the Dappifer's house. The Dappifer was an official of the Tudor court.

Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people