



**Walk 3**

**A circular walk in the Avon Valley between  
Keynsham and Saltford**

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

Distance: 5.5 miles  
Time: Allow a minimum of 2.5 hours  
Terrain: Easy, Fields, riverside, several stiles, some paths may be overgrown in summer and muddy in winter.

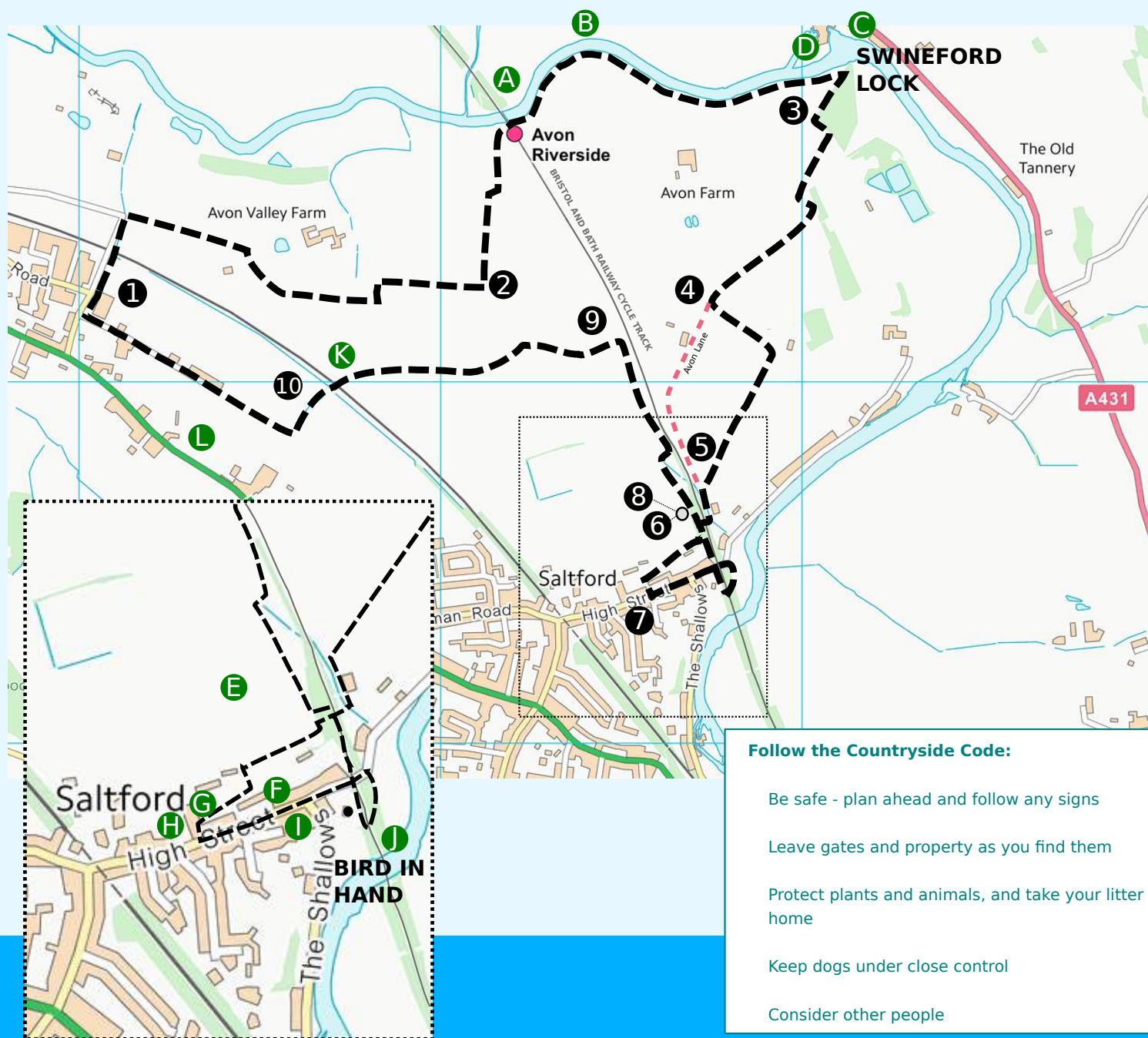
Start: Pixash Lane, junction with Ashmead Road  
Post code: BS31 1TP, NGR ST670683

**Public Transport:**

Bus: Bus routes between Bristol and Bath stop on Bath Road approx. 200m from Pixash Lane.

Parking: On street parking available on Pixash Lane and Ashmead Road

Refreshments: The Bird-in-Hand public house in Saltford.





① Walk along Pixash Lane, over the railway to the bend.

Turn **RIGHT** towards Avon Valley Farm. Continue to the white marker stones with a 5-bar gate on the right.

Cross the stile, by the sign "Alternative Footpath". Follow the path for approx 300yds to a sharp corner. Turn **LEFT** and after a few yards turn **RIGHT** keeping the hedge on the left.

② At the next boundary turn **LEFT** over a wooden bridge. After 80 yards turn **RIGHT** over a bridge, then **LEFT** along the field boundary.

Follow the edge of the field down to the River Avon. Continue under the former railway bridge, now the **BRISTOL-BATH CYCLE PATH**. **A**



Midland Railway Line

Walk along the river bank, formerly a **TOWPATH** **B** for approximately 2/3 mile to **SWINEFORD LOCK**. **C**

③ Just before the lock is a kissing-gate; the route turns **RIGHT** at this point but a detour through the gate for a further 50 yards leads to the lock and a view of **SWINEFORD MILL** opposite. **D**

Follow the public footpath up the edge of the field, with the wood on the **LEFT**

After a dog-leg continue to a metal kissing-gate at the top of the field. Keep **LEFT** through this to the next kissing-gate.

Turn **RIGHT** here and follow the track to Avon Farm.



Swineford Lock

④ The path is clearly signposted **LEFT** at this point.

*NOTE - to avoid this next length, which has some high stiles and may be partly overgrown, follow Avon Lane for 500 yards from the entrance to Avon Farm to point 5.*

Follow round the top of the field to a kissing-gate in the corner, over a stile along a narrow length to a farm track.

Cross this and then the pastures via some fairly high stiles. Walk along the top of the field with the fence on the right.

The next stile leads to a narrow path. At the end of this, go down a steep track to a kissing-gate.

⑤ Walk **LEFT** down Avon Lane and after 75 yards opposite Vine Cottage, turn **RIGHT** up a path that leads through a subway under the former **MIDLAND RAILWAY LINE**. **E** Pass through the kissing-gate and turn **RIGHT** up a flight of steps.

⑥ Turn **LEFT** at the top and follow the path round the edge of the field and cross a private driveway, into the church-yard.

**i** Immediately on the right, see the **LAMOROCK FLOWER TOMB**. **F** Walk around **ST MARY'S CHURCH** **G**



Lamorock Flower tomb

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and in the corner of the church-yard you can stand on the bank by the wall to see the back of **SALT FORD MANOR**. **H**

**7** Leave the church via the main path, past Pound Cottage then turn **LEFT** down Saltford High Street. **I**

Pass under the former railway bridge and turn immediately **RIGHT** up the path built to reach to **KELSTON STATION**. **J**

At the top, turn **SHARP RIGHT** towards Bristol. Be aware of the danger from cyclists. From the Bird-in-Hand, walk 200 yards, look for a gap in the wall and a waymark on the **LEFT**. Turn through this, **LEFT** again through the kissing-gate and up the same steps that led to point 6 above.

**8** Turn **RIGHT** at the top, and follow the path via a kissing-gate and a bridge at field boundaries. Turn **RIGHT** through a wide gap in the hedge with a waymark.

Turn immediately **LEFT** before the bridge along an old lane.

**9** At way-marker post on the right, follow the main path to the **LEFT**. When the path emerges into open field, continue across the field, with the hedge on the left.

Cross the stile/bridge, then follow the path to the **LEFT** and over another stile. Continue round the field, keeping close to the hedge as it curves to the **RIGHT**. The stone parapets of a bridge will become visible.

Cross over **BRUNEL'S RAILWAY LINE** **K**



Footbridge over Brunel's railway

**10** Bear **RIGHT** along a permissive path for 150 yards to a stile. Cross to another stile by a 5-bar gate into World's End Lane.

**i** After a few yards there is a gate on your left and across the field is a white-painted property. At one time was named Infra Grange by its then owner **HORACE BATCHELOR**. **L**



Former home of Horace Batchelor

Continue over another stile and follow this lane until it joins Pixash Lane.

## Points of Interest

### **A** Bristol-Bath Railway Path

The path over this bridge is part of the Railway Path, opened in 1979. Its popularity led to the concept of the National Cycle Network, which now comprises 14,000 miles of route across the UK.

### **B** Towpath

The Avon Navigation was a scheme to make the river navigable from the limit of tidal flow at Hanham to Bath. A horse-towing path was built in 1812; this switched from bank to bank to suit the space available, with the horses moved across using ferries.

### **C** Swineford Weir and Lock

Built in 1726, the lock was part of the Avon Navigation. It was necessary to allow river traffic to by-pass the weir which provided water to power the mills on the opposite bank.

### **D** Swineford Mill

This industrial complex is known as Swineford Copper Mills, though mills on the site have been used for various purposes at different times. The existing buildings mainly date from 1840 and, with their waterwheels and machinery, are Grade 2 listed.



River Avon at Swineford  
near Bitton



### **E** Midland Railway Line

Opened in 1869, the Mangotsfield to Bath branch of the Midland Railway enabled trains from the Midlands and north of England to reach Bath and later to continue to the south coast via the Somerset & Dorset Railway.

### **F** Lamorock Flower Tomb

The Flower family - the eldest son was usually called Lamorock - lived at Saltford Manor from 1627 to 1878.

Notice the family name and the word "peace" cut into ironwork.



### **G** St Mary's Church

The oldest part of the church is the lower part of the tower, believed to date from Saxon times; the font is Norman. In the 19th century, alterations included the addition of the gallery and porch and the installation of three bells, although only one remains.

### **H** Saltford Manor

Constructed before 1150, this is reputed to be the oldest continuously inhabited private house in England. It was extensively rebuilt in the mid-17th century but retains a Norman window in the main bedroom, a fragment of a medieval painting, a 17th century kitchen and an imposing Tudor fire-place.



*Saltford Manor*



### **J** Kelston Station

This basic station was unusual in having no road access. It was busiest on race days at Bath Racecourse, reached by a three-mile trek over the fields, and regatta days at Saltford.



*Bird-in-Hand*



*Saltford Regatta 1963*

### **I** Buildings on Saltford High Street

On the right is Brass Knocker House, dating from 1747 and named after the door-knocker made at the nearby brass mill.



*Brass Knocker House*

### **K** Bridge over Brunel's Railway Line

Opened in 1840 this is an "accommodation bridge", carrying the pre-existing path over the tracks of the former Great Western Railway and designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It is built in the mock gothic style that Brunel adopted in this area.

### **L** Horace Batchelor

Horace Batchelor put Keynsham on the map in the 1950's and 1960's when he advertised his Infra Draw system for picking the winning games in the weekly football pools on Radio Luxembourg. The success of his marketing made him a rich man and he lived in this house until his death in 1977.