Walk Guide

Chew Valley Lake & Knowle Hill

Mendip Hills National Landscape



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Information & Walk Highlights

Chew Valley Lake was created in the 1950s to supply water for Bristol. The lake supports a huge population of waterfowl and other birds and is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA).

The short walk to the top of Knowle Hill is rewarded with far reaching views across the Chew Valley to the Mendip Hills and Dundry Ridge.

Terrain

This is an easy 2 ¼ mile (3 ½ km) walk along paths and lanes in gently rolling countryside. There are no very steep climbs but the ground can be muddy and slippery in places. This walk uses kissing gates and there are no stiles on this walk.

Difficulty & Trail Type
Easy | **Walking**

Distance
3.5 km (2.5 miles) or 2.5 km (1.5 miles) short option

OS Map
Explorer: 155
Landranger: 182

How to get there

- **By Bike:** Sustrans National Cycle Route 3-**www.sustrans.org.uk**
- **By Bus:** Service 672 Bristol to Chew Stoke.
- **By Car:** The Chew Valley Lake car parks are on the road from Chew Stoke to Bishop Sutton.

Facilities

- Refreshments and public toilets at Chew Valley Lake.

Respect, Protect Enjoy

Sections of this circular walk travel through wildlife friendly areas. Please be aware of this and know your Countryside Code:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Be considerate of locals and others enjoying the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs

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Directions & Information

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(1) From Car Park 1, with the lake on your right, head to the far corner and take the signed footpath. Follow the gravel path along a corridor of land alongside the lake to the next car park.

START OF SHORTER OPTION (2) From Car Park 2 follow the main exit route past the toilet block to the road. Cross the road and turn right walking along a wide grass verge to a footpath sign. Turn left through a metal kissing gate and follow the footpath straight ahead keeping the hedge on your left. Go through a second metal kissing gate and continue ahead across another field toward some houses.

(3) Just before reaching the houses go left through a wooden pedestrian gate then immediately right between 2 houses, then continue ahead across a gravel drive to a road. Turn left along the road, passing Knowle House on your left. Follow the road around a right hand bend and take the first footpath on the left clearly marked by a green waymarker **(4)**. Follow the footpath which takes you around the boundary fence and climbs gently.

(5) The path emerges from trees to a level area where several paths join with views of the Dundry ridge ahead. Take the first path immediately to your right going uphill. Go past a path joining from the left and a, little further along, a path joining from the right to follow the main path as it bends to the left the take a right hand turn going uphill. Follow the path uphill, turn right at a junction of paths and onto the top of the hill. From the top of the hill bear left and follow the path downhill. The path bends to the right and curves around the hill, with Chew Valley Lake coming back into view, before dropping down to the road opposite a footpath waymarker.

(6) Turn right along the road to Knowle House then turn right and follow the waymarked footpath across the gravel drive and between 2 houses (this looks like a private drive but is a public right of way). Go through a wooden gate, turn right and head downhill across 2 fields to the road.

(7) Turn right and walk along the verge before crossing the road and following the main route back to the car park.

END OF SHORTER OPTION

(8) Turn right in the car park and, with the lake on your left, follow the footpath back to the next car park.

