



Information on this walk was originally compiled by Chris Giles.

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Keynsham - Ashton Way car park
Horse World - Whitchurch

PUBLIC TOILETS

Various pubs and cafes - Keynsham
Horse World Café - Whitchurch Tel. 01275 540173
Black Lion, Whitchurch Tel. 01275 834498

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

Please check the above timetables by logging onto www.firstgroup.com or by phoning Traveline on 0870 608 2608. For rail information call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or log onto www.wesssextrains.co.uk.

Trains to Bristol Temple Meads operate from Keynsham Station every 30 - 60 minutes on Mondays to Saturdays. The same service runs every 1 - 2 hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Train

Designed by Visual Technology, Bristol City Council. 0205/4908R

Buses to Bristol can be caught on the High Street next to Keynsham Church. On Mondays to Saturdays the 349 bus provides a regular service to Bristol City Centre via Brislington. On Sundays and Bank Holidays service 339 operates along the same route at half hourly intervals. The journey time is approximately 25 minutes.

Services back from Keynsham

The 376 Bristol to Wells service runs every half hour to Whitchurch on Mondays to Saturdays, and hourly on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Bristol Bus Station and Temple Meads. Please get off the bus at the Maes Knoll pub; ask the driver if you are unsure of its location. Turn left at the traffic lights and walk along Staunton Lane to join the walk.

To join the walk at Whitchurch

Take the No. 54/54B Cribbs Causeway to Stockwood service from Bristol City Centre (Colston Street and Temple Meads) and get off at Sturminster Road, at the Manston Close stop. Ask the driver if you are unsure where to get off. The service runs every 15 minutes Mondays to Saturdays. The 54B service runs half hourly along the same route on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Bus
To join the Railway Path at Manston Close

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Distance: 4 1/2 miles
Walking Time: 2 1/2 hours
GRADE: Easy/Moderate 3

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Whitchurch to Keynsham

(Via the Whitchurch Railway Path)

This linear walk begins at Manston Close on the Whitchurch Railway Path and crosses attractive rolling countryside to Keynsham, via the distinctive and peaceful village of Queen Charlton. It is possible to shorten the walk by one mile by taking a bus to Whitchurch and joining the walk at Staunton Lane.

Maps:

Explorer 155 Bristol and Bath
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172 Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref: ST 614 696



PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Whitchurch Railway Path

Initially conceived to serve the Somerset coalfields it was not until 1863 that the Bristol and North Somerset Railway Company secured Parliamentary approval for the Bristol to Radstock section. The Radstock to Frome section had opened some ten years earlier. Passenger services to Frome, with stations at Brislington, Pensford Hallatrow, Welton and Radstock were not achieved until 1875. From 1900 rail traffic went into steady decline, except the war years, when the Somerset coalfields were at full stretch. Passenger services ceased in 1959 and the line finally closed to all traffic in 1968.

The Railway Path now forms Route 3 of the National Cycle Network. It joins Bristol City Centre with Whitchurch and travels to Chew Magna and beyond. The route has seen significant improvements such as better access points and improved surfaces.

If joining the Railway Path from Manston Close. Walk along Manston Close, join the Railway Path and walk in the direction of Whitchurch. At the end of the path turn left at the T-junction. Follow the path toward the houses and look for the National Cycle Network signpost - this points the way to Whitchurch. Follow the path through to Staunton Lane, turn left and walk through the village to Horse World.

Horse World

Horse World is a high quality visitor experience, developed by the Friends of Bristol Horses Society, one of Britain's largest equine rescue sanctuaries and retirement homes for horses, ponies and donkeys. The attraction is located at Staunton Manor Farm, a group of listed heritage farm buildings dating back to the early nineteenth century. For details of opening times contact Horse World on 01275 540173.



Valley north of Queen Charlton village

Keynsham

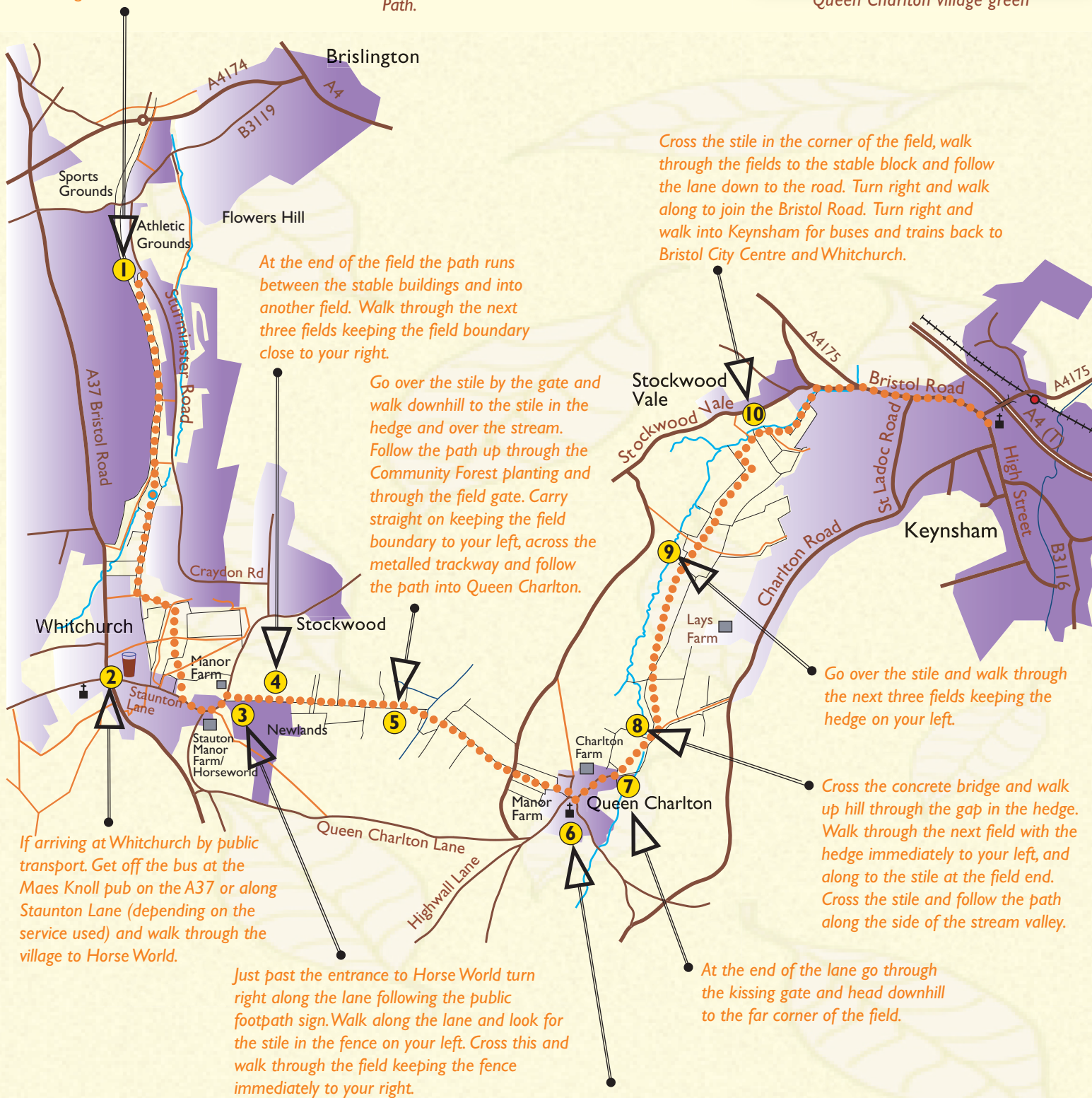
Situated between Bristol and Bath the town originates from Roman times where it was noted as a 'trejectus', meaning ford. Keynsham was the site of the largest Roman villa in Britain. Legend has it that the name Keynsham derived from 'St Keynes Home', Keynes being the daughter of Brynceiniog, a Welsh prince. However, the real origin of the name is thought to be 'Caegineshamme', meaning 'Caegins meadow' - hence the present day pronunciation. In later times, like much of this region, Keynsham's economy thrived on the basis of the brass industry, the mills being powered by the waters of the River Chew. A local legend states that the rhythmic pounding of the hammers from a Keynsham brass battery was the inspiration for the Hallelujah chorus of Handel's 'Messiah'. This is the subject of an ongoing dispute with the residents of neighbouring Salford, who claim that it was the hammers of their brass workings.



Queen Charlton village green

Queen Charlton

It is thought that the village may be so-named following a royal visit in the 16th century. The village has retained its traditional character and there are several attractive houses grouped around the village green. Take some time to examine the village cross and explore the church, dedicated to St. Margaret. The footpath between Whitchurch and Queen Charlton, dating to medieval times, is called the Priest Path.



Bridge over river at Stockwood Vale



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Key

- public house
- walk route
- other paths
- field boundary
- road
- railway/station
- waterway
- urban area