



Walk 4

**A circular walk from Chewton Keynsham to
Compton Dando and Burnett**

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

Distance: 6 miles

Time: Allow a minimum of 2½ hours

Terrain: Moderate. Fields, riverside, several stiles, some paths may be overgrown in summer, muddy in winter, some hills

Start: Start is in Chewton Keynsham (no public transport) by the post box.

Post code: BS31 2SU, NGR ST653666

Public Transport:

Rail/Bus: If starting from public transport links to Keynsham, follow the River Chew through Albert Mill to Chewton Place. Then continue along the road to the start point.

Parking: On the Chewton Road, approx 400yards from Chewton Place

Refreshments: At the Compton Inn in Compton Dando



Compton Inn



View from Wandsdyke towards Burnett



View down to Compton Dando

Follow the Countryside Code:

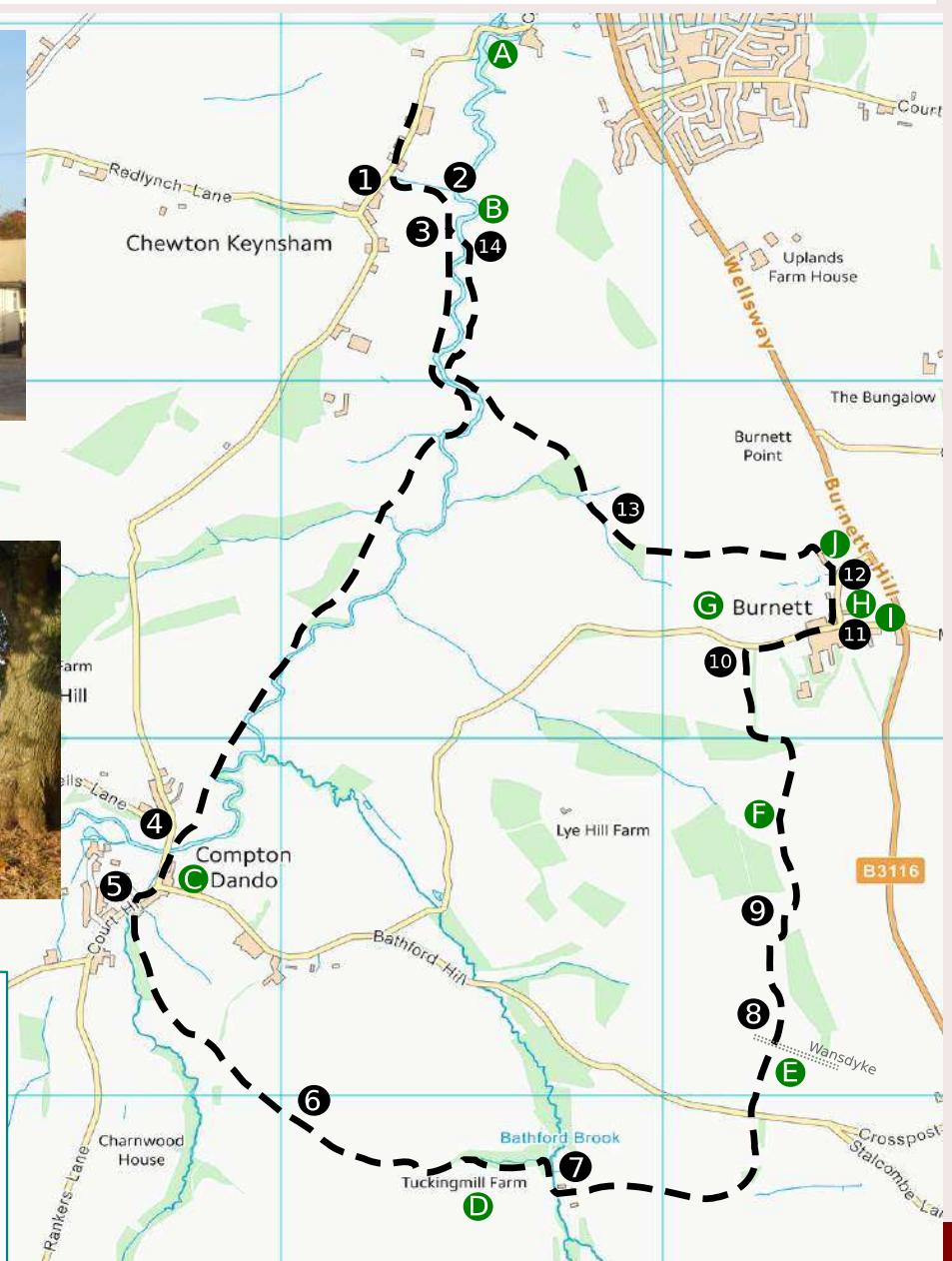
Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs

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





1 From Chewton Road turn **LEFT** by the footpath sign and post box.



Chewton Road

2 Follow the path to the river and turn **RIGHT**. Continue following footpath signs to a lane where Uplands Bridge crosses the river. **B**



Brick water tower

3 Cross the lane and through the kissing gate. Follow the 2 rivers footpath signs for approx. 1 mile to the road just before Compton Dando.

4 Turn **LEFT** following the road past Compton Inn, once known as the Gamekeeper. **C**



Compton Dando Church

5 Turn **LEFT** by Compton Cottage through the kissing gate/cattle grid. Follow the driveway through a kissing gate to a third kissing gate with 2 waymarkers by a large oak tree. Follow the path straight ahead across the field to another kissing gate. Cross this field keeping the 2 oak trees in the middle of the field on the left to an opening on the far side. Go up the slope to a kissing gate.



View of Wansdyke

Produced by Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society © 2017

Photographs taken by members of the society and from archives.

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Artwork by Alex Copp

6 Cross this field, keeping the brick water tower on the left, to a kissing gate

i As you walk through Tucking Mill, notice the postbox in the wall on the right, from the time of King George V who reigned between 1910 and 1936.



Postbox at Tucking Mill

7 Follow the paved path half a mile up the hill to a cattle grid. Cross the road, through another kissing gate. Follow the path ahead, crossing a section of the Wansdyke. **E**

8 After crossing the Wansdyke, go through the kissing gate and head up the hill to the top with the wood on the right. Go through the kissing gate and turn **LEFT** after 20 yards.

9 Follow this path through a dog leg, passing a clay pond on the left. **F**
At the end of the path, cross the farm track in front of the gate through into a wooded path. Follow this path through to the road in Burnett.

10 Turn **RIGHT** towards Burnett and after 400 yards, turn **LEFT** down the road by the Manor House.



Manor House at Burnett

Pass Manor Barn on the left, the Church of St Michael and the village pump on the right to the bend in the road. **H** **I**



Church of St Michael

12 Turn **LEFT** immediately before the War Cottage **J**

Cross a stile after 100 yards and turn **LEFT**. Follow the path straight ahead for half a mile down to a copse.

13 Turn **RIGHT** and walk to brow of hill. Follow the footpath straight across the field with farm buildings ahead. Go through the kissing gate and follow the river half a mile to Uplands Bridge. **B**



Just below Uplands Woods is the site where on the night of 26th August 1944 a Wellington Bomber on an exercise crashed with the loss of all six crew. The weather was good and the cause was never established.



Wellington Bomber

14 Turn **LEFT**, go over the bridge, then turn **RIGHT** across the field. Go through 2 farm gates, then turn **LEFT** and follow the path back to Chewton Road and the start of the walk.



Sluice gate at Chewton Keynsham

Points of Interest

A Chewton Keynsham

The Mill close to Chewton Place had various uses over the centuries but from about 1896 it was used to generate auxiliary power for the Keynsham Electric Light & Power Company. As a result the village became one of the first in England to have mains electricity. In 1922 the mill was no longer required for this purpose and became derelict. A house was later built on the site.



B Chewton Packhorse Bridge

This bridge is now a scheduled ancient monument and known locally as Uplands Bridge. At one time it was used by stagecoaches and the track now joins the road at Uplands. In earlier times the River Chew was tidal as far as the bridge.



C Compton Dando

Compton Dando was listed in the Domesday Book as Comtuna meaning "valley enclosure". The Dando part comes from the 13th-century landowner. The Somerset Dando's came originally from Normandy. The names Fulco Dando and Toke Dando feature in documents dating to 1273.



D Tucking Mill

The tucking mill was the home of the Bince family from the early 1800s. They built their own Methodist chapel and burial ground. Tucking (also known as fulling) is a process in woollen clothmaking which involves cleansing the wool to eliminate oils and other impurities.



E Wansdyke

The Wansdyke is a long ditch and bank, dating to the Dark Ages, roughly between 400 and 700 AD. It runs from the Avon valley south of Bristol to Savernake Forest near Marlborough. The east-west alignment indicates a fortification against a danger from the north. It is one of the largest linear earthworks in the UK.



Wansdyke near Compton Dando

F Clay pits

Clay from the clay pits which can be seen on the left was used to manufacture land drains in Compton Dando. Land drains were installed in the 19th century as part of agricultural improvements to feed the growing population.



Clay land drains

G Burnett Village

The village of Burnett has strong links with John Whitson, the founder of Red Maids' School. After the break up of the monasteries, the manor of Burnett was sold to John Cutte, a wealthy Bristol wine merchant. In 1570 he took on John Whitson as an apprentice. Cutte died of the plague in 1575 and the manor passed to his son Nicholas. After Nicholas'



death, John Whitson married his widow, Bridget. He was mayor and MP for Bristol. He died in 1628 and left monies and assets in his will including the parish of Burnett to found a girls' school – the Red Maids, which is the oldest surviving girls' school in the country.

H Church of St Michael

In 1102 the village came under the control of Tewkesbury Abbey. The church dates from the 13th century and has a monumental brass to John Cutte (mayor of Bristol) on the chancel wall dated 1575. Either side of the doorway are 2 ancient tombs, one of the Ford family dating back to 17th century. The churchyard contains the graves of many generations of the local families. The Red Maids' school choir performs here regularly in tribute to their founder.



I Village Pump

The village pump was once the only source of water. It was renovated in 2000 to mark the millennium.



J War Cottage

This cottage was used by soldiers returning from World War II. Like the rest of Burnett and surrounding farms, it was owned by the Red Maids estate until the 1980s, when the properties were sold into private ownership.

