

# Chew Magna A Circular Walk

Approx distance 4 miles  
Approx duration 3 to 4 hours



***A medium length walk, with very few gradients although it can be muddy in parts. Lunch can be had in Chew Magna. The start of this walk takes you through Chew Valley Lake Country Park.***

Leave site via Caravan Park exit and turn left down Ham Lane for approx 800 yards.

At the T junction turn left into a no-through road, after approx 100 meters, you will see a well worn path into the wood, on your right. Take this path through the wood (in wet weather you will need to take care where you step, although this is usually the only potential muddy part of the walk) until you reach a single file wooden bridge, cross the bridge and follow the well marked, all weather path for roughly one mile to the first picnic area (toilets available here if needed).

Continue along path leading to the 2nd car park, more toilets and a very nice café (ideal for that last cuppa before really starting this walk).

After refreshments leave this area by the entrance gate to the main road, just across the road, slightly to your left, you can see Denny Lane. Cross the road and start to walk up Denny Lane.

In approx 200 yards, look for a gateway on your left, with a footpath sign, climb the stile and follow the tarmac road down the valley and, just before the bridge and a sign saying 'strictly private', take the signposted footpath on the right into the woods.

Continue in the same direction for about ¼ mile, through fields and across several stiles, with the river, meandering along through the woodland, on your left.

Eventually the path reaches the edge of Chew Magna, at a gate and stile in the hedge. Go through the gate and you can turn right to visit the village (and lunch), but otherwise head back diagonally in a south easterly direction, across the brow of the field you have just walked across.

Go through a gate and follow the field edge to a stile in the hedge. Cross this and the road below and take the footpath (Pitts Lane) signposted opposite.

Continue past a farm, through a gate and past another farm to reach a stile. Cross this and follow the left hand field edge to a gate marked 'Public Footpath'. Continue along a narrow path, which can become overgrown, and go through another gate, to reach an open area known as Knowle Hill. Take a left at the open area and follow in a southerly direction down a hill to reach a road. Turn right and follow this road, past Knowle House until you reach the road junction, take the road with 'no entry sign', this is Ham Lane and your return to the caravan park.

### **Things to look out for on your walk**

The lake is an important site for wintering wildfowl, including a small but regular flock of Bewick Swans. Thousand of tufted duck, pochards and gadwall can be seen from October to March. The members of the sailing club are often active on the lake and anglers can be seen on the banks, fishing for brown and rainbow trout. Pitts Lane is a fascinating example of an ancient hollow lane, with properly layered hedges containing a variety of species – the more species there are, the older the hedgerow.