

The Standing Stones Walk

Approx distance 8 miles
Approx duration 5 to 6 hours



Visit the ancient standing stones, and enjoy glorious views across Chew Valley lake. A moderate walk, with two or three gentle hills and one steep, but short hill. The lack of stiles is noticeable, and instead there are several kissing gates.

You can start the walk direct from the Caravan Park, or take a bus to Chew Magna from outside the village shop. You can if you like drive to Chew Magna and park behind the Pelican Inn or other suitable street parking spot. From here the walk would be approx 6 miles.

If starting the walk from the Caravan Park, first select the Chew Magna circular walk and follow this until you reach Chew Magna, then continue as below.

Walk into the churchyard towards the main door and then halfway along, bear right and follow a smaller tarmac path in the churchyard which hugs a stone wall on the right. Cross a low stone and metal pipe and then continue ahead on the drive and bear round right by historic Chew Court. Follow the beautiful drive out under trees and past saddle stones. On the right see the picturesque cricket field.

Reach the main road. Cross the road and go through the stile opposite, then go ahead in the field to another stile in the far left corner. Cross, and follow the footpath arrow to the right and soon cross another stone slab stile and reach a track. Follow this along the River Chew. As the river bends left, so do you, following a smaller track. Continue on this, climbing gently following the left edge and river. At the field corner, stay in the field (don't go through into the next) and bend around right along the edge. Pass a corrugated iron barn and go left over a stile.

Follow a clear path across the field and drop down into a smaller valley by pine trees. Cross a footbridge over a tributary of the river Chew. Reach a footpath marker pole and come onto a track, the two Rivers Way, which for much of its journey follows the Chew all the way to the River Avon. Turn right and stay on the track as it bends and then goes gently uphill to give you open views over the countryside. After about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile you come into Stanton Drew.

In Stanton Drew, reach the main road. For refreshment turn right a few yards to the Druid Arms. To continue the walk, turn left on the main road passing the small village war memorial and after a few yards, fork right and bend right again. Come to a sign for the famous Stone Circles, just to the left of the footpath which you

take, up the farm drive.

To visit the Stones, go left down a residential road and right at the end. There is an honesty box at the entrance for the £1 admission fee.

Take the footpath along the tarmac farm drive. Go through a metal kissing gate and continue on the track to the next gate. Don't go through, (unless you just want to go ahead a few yards and see the Stone Circles over the hedge), but turn right along the field edge and go through another metal kissing gate (ignore a stile on the left). Now simply follow the hedge all the way up to a road in Upper Stanton Drew.

Turn left past the small village school and almost immediately go right on the marked footpath track just before Victoria Cottage. This brings you through a metal kissing gate and into a field where there is a choice of paths. Continue ahead following the left hedge in the field you are in, heading for a metal kissing gate about half way along the far edge. If there are no crops in the field, you can bear right across the field. If it is planted, follow the left edge around. Go through the gate and then carry on following the right hedge and go through another kissing gate to a road. Turn left passing a line of houses and then branch right on the road in the direction of Chelwood.

At the T junction, cross over the stile opposite. Head across the field and climb up to the trees on the top of the small hill. Go over a stile and through the trees and drop down on the path. Come out over a stile onto a lane (Moorledge Lane). Go straight over and up the steps opposite, through a little gate, and past a house on the left. Now follow the left fence ahead with attractive views as you go. Ahead up on the hill is a line of houses in Newtown. Climb gently still following the left boundary and reach the road on the edge of Newtown.

Turn right onto the road and follow past the Pony & Trap, taking the first left, Knowle Hill. Follow this tarmac lane around, ignoring the first footpath track and ignoring all side turns, pass a farm* on the right and continue to follow the tarmac road (this is a quiet road with little or no traffic). Pass Knowle House on your right and continue until you reach the road junction, with the 'no entry' opposite (Ham Lane) go up the lane and back to the Caravan Park.

* Should you have started at Chew Magna, then you should go up the path, opposite the farm (as marked *) Once you reach open land, with a house on your right, turn right and follow the path, turning left at some barns, through a stile and continuing on the path until you reach Denny Lane. Turn right to the main road, then left over a bridge to the car park in Chew Magna.