Distance: 6¹/2miles
Walking Time: 3¹/2 hours
GRADE: Moderate/Hard 4

Marshfield is a small medieval market town, linear in form, occupying an exposed position on the dip slope of the southern Cotswolds. The town possesses a rich and vibrant history and a wealth of historic buildings, many of which are listed. The walk explores the town and surrounding countryside, taking in the beautiful and spectacular landscapes associated with St Catherine's Valley before climbing to the neighbouring village of Cold Ashton. The walk is quite strenuous, involving some relatively long climbs.

Maps:

Explorer 155 Bristol & Bath

1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath

1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref: (start of walk) ST 776 736



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bus

The 635 Bristol - Chippenham service operates to/from Marshfield from The Centre (Colston Street) every two hours Mondays to Saturdays. The journey takes about 1 hour.

There are no Sunday and Bank Holiday services.

We recommend you check your journey times by logging on to www.traveline.org.uk or by calling the Traveline number below.

PUBLIC TOILETS

High Street, Marshfield

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

The Crown 01225 891189
The Lord Nelson 01225 891820
The Catherine Wheel 01225 892220
Sweetapples Tea-shop 01225 891657





PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

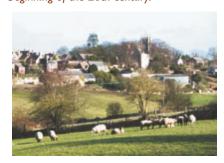
Marshfield

Marshfield was a historically important local town, partly due to its strategic location in the Cotswold wool country but also its proximity to Bath, and to Bristol with its port. From the evidence of Saxon charters, it seems that there was a settlement in the area from at least AD931. The town appears in the Domesday Book (AD 1086) as 'Meresfelde'. It gained market status in 1234 and 30 years later was granted a charter for a three day fair.

By 1334 Marshfield was the fourth most prosperous town in the area, after Bristol, Gloucester and Cirencester. Development further west on the High Street occurred between the late 13th century to around 1600, although there are some 17th century buildings of note, in particular the fine Alms houses at the western end of the village. The next main development period for Marshfield was during the 18th century stimulated by trade in wool, candles and malt.

Malting Industry

Evidence of the malting industry is still found in the former malthouses and storage buildings, often of unusual length, situated to the rear of many properties fronting the High Street. There are records of barley being grown for malting dating back to the 15th century. Malting is the process whereby grain is converted into fermentable material for the brewing trade; it involves soaking, germination and heating. At one time Marshfield had 18 malthouses. The last malthouse ceased operation at the beginning of the 20th century.



View of Marshfield

Marshfield High Street



View from Marshfield High Street

Both frontages of the High Street are continuously developed along their entire length, interrupted only occasionally by narrow streets that afford glimpses of buildings and open countryside beyond. The majority of buildings lining the street are 18th century in origin although several buildings date from the 17th century and many conceal older cores. The facades of the buildings are unified by the consistent use of local stone and other materials, which add great character to the village.

Key Get off the bus along the High Street, Marshfield, either public house at Marshfield Baptist Church or the Crown pub. Walk Follow the path through scrubby circular walk back along the High Street and turn left into St. Martins field to rejoin Green Lane. Retrace other paths Lane. Walk along the lane and take the footpath on the footsteps back to Marshfield and roads right past the houses, signposted to Cold Ashton. bus stops on High Street. field boundary urban area Go through the field gate and Marshfield follow the path downhill to the woodland High St. left and then along the valley. Turn right through a gap in the hedge (second public footpath A420 Cross the stile in the hedge on your sign on right from Cold Ashton). left about 50m before the end of the field and head diagonally towards the Cross stile and walk up through Green Lane farmhouse. Pass through a gap in the field with line of collapsed stone Kissing hedge then a kissing gate, turn right wall to your right. At field gate Little Mood's Wood then in 20 metres bear left through turn right into Hyde's Lane. the five bar gate, over a stile and then Great Mood over the brow of the hill. Descend to the stile, follow waymarkers to next Cold Ashton stile then turn left. At junction of footpath and bridleway, follow the footpath over Cross the stream and stile and then keep hedge bear right uphill across immediately on your right. field. Note the fine views down St. oombe Wood Catherine's Valley. Turn left over the Turn right at the waymarker post stile and follow the field boundary and follow the path back along the Trull's Wood around with hedge on your left, brook to a field gate. Follow the through this field and the next. path up through the field with Beek's stream to your right. ottages Go straight over the farm track, Leigh Lane with stiles on both sides of the Cross the stile and walk through the Monkswood lane. Walk diagonally to the right Reservoir middle of the field, bearing left with the through field and over the stile. contour of the land (do not go over stile on right before the field end). Ayford Bridge Walk through the field with pond and hedgerow to your left to the

500m 1km

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Turn right on to tarmac road and then almost immediately right again down the track.

Cross Beek's Lane following public footpath sign, bear left uphill keeping hedge on your left until you meet Leigh Lane. bottom of the valley. Turn right at St. Catherine's Brook, you have now joined the long distance Limestone Link footpath. Look out for the Limestone Link waymarkers.