

Pensford to Keynsham

Distance: 5½ miles

Walking Time: 2½ hours

GRADE: Hard/Moderate 4

11

This attractive and peaceful waterside walk starts at Pensford and follows the meandering course of the River Chew through the small settlements of Woollard, Compton Dando and Chewton Keynsham. The walk terminates at Keynsham, shortly before the Chew meets its confluence with the River Avon. The walk covers a section of the Two Rivers Way, which is a long distance route following the course of the River Yeo and Chew between Congresbury and Keynsham. The walk also forms part of the Community Forest Path, a 45 mile path encircling the green spaces of Bristol and its surrounding countryside.

Maps:

Explorer 155

Bristol & Bath
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref: (Start of walk) ST 618 637



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

The route of the walk is described from Pensford to Keynsham because of the frequent public transport services back to Bristol from Keynsham. It can of course be walked in either direction.

Bristol to Pensford by bus

The 376 - Bristol to Pensford runs Mondays to Saturdays every 30 minutes, from Bristol Bus Station and Temple Meads via Whitchurch. The 376 service operates along the same route on Sundays and Bank Holidays, at hourly intervals. Please get off the bus in Pensford at the stop immediately next to River Chew bridge, ask the driver if you are unsure of its location.

Keynsham to Bristol by Bus and Rail

Buses to Bristol can be caught on the High Street opposite to Keynsham Church. On Mondays to Saturdays the 349 bus runs every 20 minutes to Bristol City Centre via Brislington. On Sundays and Bank Holidays service 339 operates along the same route at half hourly intervals. **Service 318 to Keynsham**, Mondays to Saturdays from Cribbs Causeway, Parkway Station, Downend, Staple Hill, Kindgswood and Longwell Green. Operates hourly. No service on Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Trains to Bristol Temple Meads operate from Keynsham Station hourly on Mondays to Saturdays. The same service runs infrequently on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

We recommend you check your journey times by logging on to www.firstgroup.com for buses; calling National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 for trains or calling the Traveline number below.

PUBLIC HOUSES EN ROUTE

'George & Dragon' High Street, Pensford (01761 490516)
'The Rising Sun' Church Street, Pensford (01761 490402)
'The Compton Inn' Court Hill, Compton Dando (01761 490 321)

PUBLIC TOILETS

Keynsham - High Street, car park behind the post office

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Pensford

In 1540 John Leyland described Pensford as a 'market townlet occupied with clothing'. Indeed, much of the town was occupied with the weaving industry after weavers set up looms to avoid the restrictions of the City Guilds. Later on, the area developed using the profits of the wool trade and coal trade. Most of the buildings consist of red/brown pennant sandstone, as does the most striking feature of Pensford, the 1873 Railway Viaduct.

Woollard

Woollard was the site of a medieval bridge until the great flood of 1968, when it was irreparably damaged. The economy of Woollard once relied on the waterpower of the Chew to power a mill for grist (corn for grinding or malt crushed for brewing). It later became a tin-rolling mill.

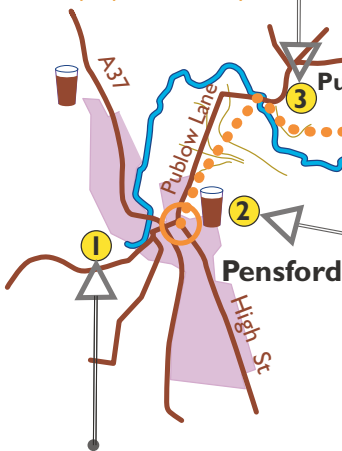
Keynsham

Situated between Bristol and Bath, the town originates from Roman times where it was noted as a 'trejectus', meaning ford. 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 residents of neighbouring Salford, who claim that it was the hammers of their brass workings.



Railway Viaduct at Pensford

Publow Church has a 15th century tower in the perpendicular style.



Before starting the walk it is worth having a look at the Pensford Viaduct with its sixteen arches. This is a magnificent relic of the Bristol and North Somerset Railway. The railway, built between 1863 and 1873 linked Bristol to the earlier Frome to Radstock line of the Great Western Railway.

At Woollard a former 18th century industrial village turn left at the road, go over the river then take next right signposted to Keynsham.



Compton Dando Church

From the bus stop turn into the High Street following the sign to Publow Church and bear left along Publow Lane. Immediately after the new houses on the right go through the kissing gate and follow hedge on left to next kissing gate then diagonally across field to Publow church. You have now joined the Two Rivers Way/Community Forest Path, which is waymarked along the entire route to Keynsham.



0 500m 1km

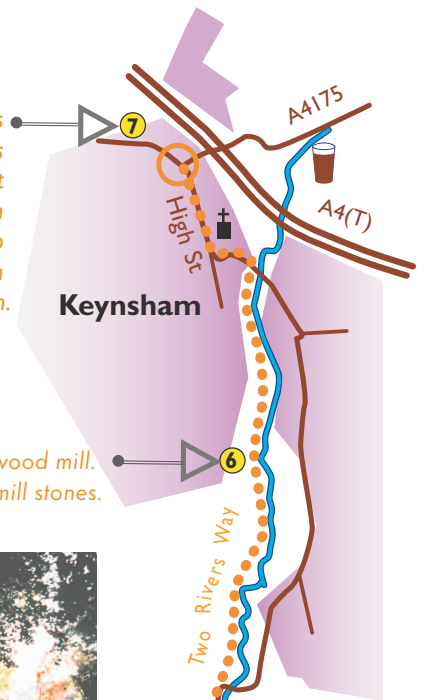
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There are several pubs and cafes to be found in Keynsham. Buses back to Bristol can be caught at Keynsham Church on the High Street. Regular services also operate from Keynsham Railway Station.

Albert Mill used to be a dyewood mill. Note the water-wheel and mill stones.



River Chew at Compton Dando



Chewton Keynsham

Compton Dando

The church at Compton Dando is dedicated to St Mary. The name Compton is thought to mean 'enclosed valley' whilst Dando may have derived from a family name.

Key

-  public house
-  walk route
-  other paths
-  roads
-  field boundary
-  urban area
-  woodland