

# Mendip Hills AONB



## TRAIL TYPE

Walking

## GRADE

Moderate

## DISTANCE

5 miles (8 ½ km)

## TIME

3 hours

## OS MAP

Explorer: 141

Landranger: 182

## CONTACT

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## FACILITIES

Free car park on Herriotts Bridge.

Shops and pubs in East Harptree and West Harptree.

Farm Shop and tea room near Herriotts Bridge.

# Chew Valley and the Harptrees

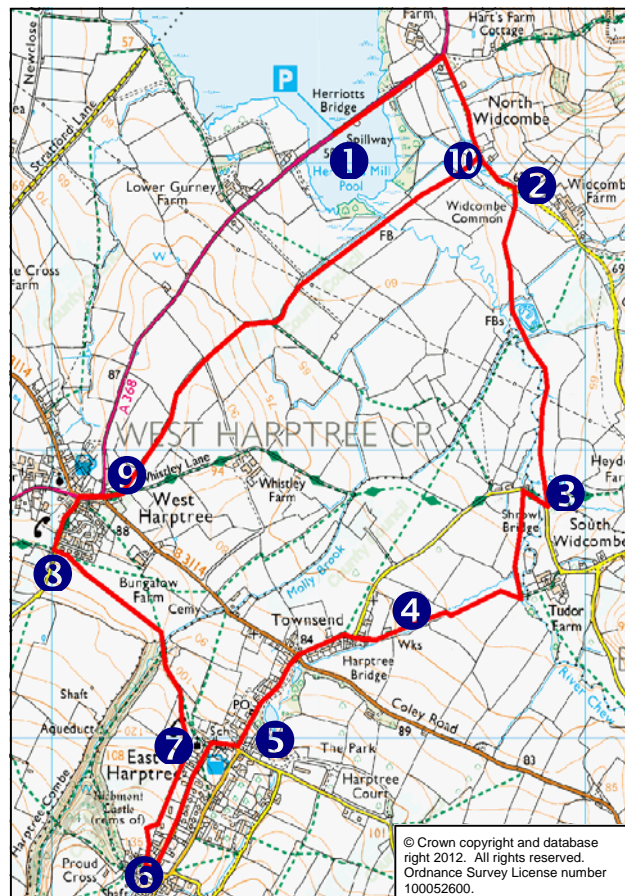
This walk follows the River Chew a few miles from its source at Chewton Mendip where it follows a wide, broad valley before reaching Chew Valley Lake.

As the route climbs to East Harptree there are fine views of the northern slopes of the Mendip Hills and across the Chew Valley.



## TERRAIN

This is a moderate 5 mile (8½ km) walk along paths and lanes in gently rolling countryside. There are no very steep climbs but the ground is uneven in places. Most of the walk uses kissing gates and there are some stiles.



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## START/END

Free car parking on  
Herriotts Bridge Layby.  
Grid Ref: ST571581

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY BIKE

Herriotts Bridge is 1 mile  
off the Sustrans National  
Cycle Route 3  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

### BY BUS

Service 672 Bristol to  
Blagdon.

### BY CAR

The free car park is on the  
A368 between East  
Harptree and Bishop  
Sutton.

## DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION

The largest lake in south-west England Chew Valley Lake was created in the 1950s to supply water for Bristol. In the half century since 1200-acre lake was created, it has acquired such importance for its natural history that it has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Look out for waterfowl including snipe (common and jack snipe), lapwing, widgeon, mallard, tufted duck, goldeneye, coot and moorhen.

**(1)** From the Herriotts Bridge lay-by take the wide path in the roadside verge towards Bishop Sutton. Where the road bends left cross over and walk along the minor road continuing past some cottages on the left and take the next footpath on the right (the footpath sign is on a telegraph pole) through a metal gate **(2)**.

In the field keep the hedge on your right until you reach a metal gate, then head diagonally right across the field to a wooden kissing gate in the middle of the opposite boundary. Go through the gate, cross the stream and follow the path to the right of the pond and then ahead to go through a metal gate. Continue ahead, passing a bend in the River Chew on your right, and cross a wooden footbridge. Continue straight ahead through a long field to a footbridge and stile onto a lane.

**(3)** Turn right along the lane and almost immediately turn left onto a footpath opposite a house, bear diagonally left through the field aiming for a gate and footbridge just before the far left corner.

After the bridge bear right to go through a kissing gate, then turn right through a metal gate and go straight ahead diagonally across a field. Just before the corner cross a stile and footbridge on the right then turn left and keep to the field edge.

**(4)** Go through a kissing gate in the corner of the field leading to a narrow path alongside a water works. Cross a stile and keep ahead to a second stile and gate onto a lane. At a junction turn left and follow the road past some houses on your left, carry straight on at the cross roads and walk up the road opposite.

**(5)** At the clock tower, erected in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, turn right, follow the road round a left hand bend passing the Waldegrave Arms and carry on uphill. As the road bends left turn right onto Combe Lane go past two cottages on your right and turn right onto a track marked with a yellow waymarker **(6)**. Where the track splits bear left and go through a wooden gate then straight ahead along the footpath.

**(7)** Cross a stone stile and bear left to the bottom left corner of the field then cross a stile and continue ahead along a narrow strip of land, then downhill to cross a stream and a stone stile. Continue ahead through the middle of a field, part way along continue ahead following a footpath waymarker on your right then turn right through a small metal gate. Cross a footbridge and turn left to follow a path through a field then through a kissing gate and past a play area on your right then along a narrow path between buildings to join the road.

Turn right along the road, then right again onto the main road crossing the road joining from the right and go straight ahead along Whistley Lane, then left through a metal gate onto a footpath **(9)**. Bear right across the field, go through a kissing gate and over a footbridge then continue ahead with the hedge on your left. Go through a kissing gate and bear left onto a track between hedges. At a metal gate bear left along the track with the hedge on your left. Just after the power lines leave the track and follow the waymarked footpath ahead through 4 fields and onto the lane.

**(10)** Turn left along the lane, cross the road and turn left back to the layby.