

## Riverside Heritage Walks

# River Avon, Road & Rail Walk

Riverside walk rich in historic and wildlife interest. Optional extension loop exploring hidden woodlands and geology

Route Description: Hanham pubs to Keynsham Lock or complete loop

1



Head east along the River Avon Trail. See traces of the old Londonderry Wharf and The Dramway that once carried coal from Kingswood to the river. Look out for cormorants.



60 mins

Loop: 100 mins

↔ 2 m / 3.25 km

Loop: 4.5 / 7.25 km

▲ Level, grassy paths

Loop: Some steep steps, rough ground and high stiles

Arrive at Keynsham Lock on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Continue beneath the old bridge beside

The Lock Keeper pub, and up onto the bridge. You can now retrace your steps to the start or continue on loop walk.

2

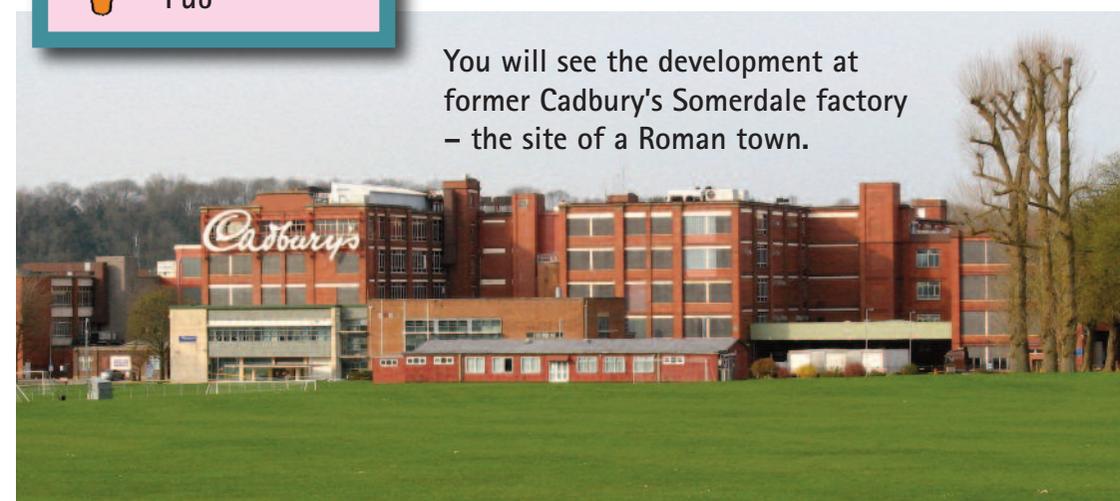


### Key

- Route
- 1 Route guide
- River Avon Trail
- ⋯ Short cut
- Refreshments
- Shop
- Pub

Keynsham

You will see the development at former Cadbury's Somerdale factory – the site of a Roman town.



## Route extension

Turn left and left again to arrive on the main road (A4175). Cross with care and go uphill towards town, with the Station on your left.

3



4 Note the medieval archway across the road – a relic from the remains of Keynsham Abbey. Cross the A4 road on the bridge. Note the church beyond. Turn right into Pool Barton immediately and see the architecture prize-winning 1970s Old Vicarage Green (left). Continue on surfaced path, with the road on your right, following the path past Pool Barton.

5 Drop down along the path over the wild grassland, keeping the road close by on your right. The grassy path is bordered by tall poplars as it passes between the road and two sportsfields. Note how the invasive Himalayan balsam has spread across the floodplain.

5



6



When you arrive at a metal kissing gate (beside a 5-bar gate) on a surfaced minor road, see the exposed vertical rock face ahead and behind the house – it marks the Durley Hill Fault – where the soil changes from grey / brown to red / brown as you travel NW. Turn right under the A4 road bridge, cross a stream and enter the wood over a metal barrier (left), before you meet the bridge carrying the railway line.

7 Follow the undulating path mainly beside the stream on your left, through this charming woodland. Ignore a footbridge over the railway line, go through the black railings, and up several sequences of steep steps until you meet first a stile and then a metal barrier bringing you out on the A4174. Step over, turn right and walk along the pavement noting the exposed rock strata beside you.

7



8 When you have crossed both the rail and river bridge, turn right and zig-zag uphill to find a wooden stile. Cross here and drop down sharply into the woodland, following the path past an old quarry, until you meet the surfaced River Avon Trail. Continue left, past the cottages, the weir and the pubs to return to the start point.

8



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REVITALISING OUR WATERWAYS



KEYNSHAM



*This walking trail has been produced by the WaterSpace Partnership working to revitalise the River Avon and Kennet & Avon Canal in Bath & North East Somerset.*

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