

Follow the pathways around Pill



Discover the delights of the riverside village of Pill during this short circular walk.

Take in the views of Pill waterfront at the end of Watch House Road before starting this walk, which begins near the old railway bridge.

The name 'Pill' means a tidal inlet or creek but the village was called Crockerne Pill until the early 19th century. It is believed this derived from crock (crocker) and in the 12th and 13th centuries there was a flourishing pottery industry here.

The River Avon played a huge role in people's lives and many ships moored here rather than making the difficult journey up to Bristol city docks. Boats were built next to the creek and sails made in the village. The customs officer's Watch House at the end of the creek is a reminder of how busy the port was.

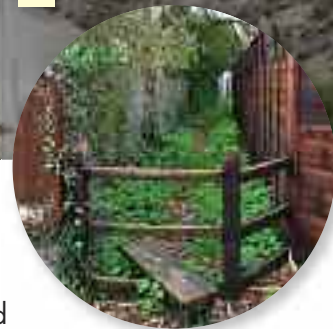
A shared cycle and footpath starts near the bridge and a paved path winds up through Watchhouse Hill. This public open space includes old pasture, mature orchard and ancient woodland.



Continue along the path which runs alongside the railway and offers views across the rooftops. You'll pass sports pitches and sculptures. At the end of the path you'll come to a T-junction with the cycle path, Sustrans route 41.

Turn left onto the path and follow it past the sports field, then turn right along The Green and onto Macrae Road. Turn right and shortly on your left is a stile and public footpath sign leading across the cricket pitch. Exit over the stile on the opposite side of the field, into Cabot Way. At the end of the lane, go over a small wooden stile leading

onto a footpath between two fences around St. Katherine's School.



Turn left at the end onto the road, past the school entrance, and continue on the footpath behind the hedge. Just before the paved footpath rejoins the main road, the footpath continues on your left as a grassy track.

At the end is a stile leading out into a field. Continue straight across, towards the stile next to the metal gate. Keep dogs on leads if there are horses.



Walk information

Distance: about 3.5 miles

Difficulty: medium. A few stiles – not suitable for very large dogs

Duration: allow 2 – 2.5 hours

Map: OS Explorer 154

Refreshments: Numerous pubs in Pill and various shops in the precinct

Continue straight across the next field, over the stile, following the yellow waymarkers. Continue ahead through the metal gate, over the next stile, then continue ahead as the field veers downhill.



The final stile leads you onto Blackmoor Road, and the A369 is on your right. Turn left onto the main road and cross with extreme care. The public footpath (now part of the Gordano Round) continues on the right, just past the sign for Abbots Leigh Kennels and Cattery.

Go down the lane, climb over the wooden stile at the end and continue across the field. Go past the farm shed and then follow the field downhill, towards the bottom right corner. Cross the wooden bridge over the stream and then follow the path to the left (with the stream now on your left).

The footpath will come to a crossroads and you need to turn back on yourself, following the yellow waymarker as it points uphill.



Continue on this path, over the stile at the top, and then continue on the footpath behind the fence.

Beware of the barking dog – but don't worry, he can't get through the fence!



At the end turn left onto Happerton Lane, past the pink house, and continue past Happerton Farm. There are a number of footpaths off this lane if you have more time or feeling more energetic and want a detour before heading back to Pill.

If not, continue until you see a wooden gate with a yellow waymarker and public footpath sign on your right.

Continue across the field towards the farm buildings and then exit the field over the stile, onto the A369. Cross the road with care into the car park of the Rudleigh Inn and walk behind the pub across the cricket pitch. The yellow waymarker is in the right-hand corner. Head straight across the field, towards the next stile between the trees.

Follow the path between the fences, continue ahead, and then turn right

onto Crockerne Drive. Follow this right to the end. If you turn right onto Westward Drive, then left onto Eirene Terrace, it will take you back to Mount Pleasant and your starting point.



How to get there

Start at map ref: ST 529756 (OS 154)

Car: Pill can be reached from the A369. Follow the signs into Pill and in the centre turn into Mount Pleasant, just after the shopping precinct. Park along here or Watch House Road. Please park responsibly.

Bus: Portishead to Bristol services 358 and 359 every 30 mins. Stop near shopping precinct.



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