7

The Cliff

Using Sherston 30 & 4 (Macmillan Way), Knockdown Road, Sherston 22 and Brook Hill.

2.3 miles - *lovely views, generally smooth and flat, includes 350 yards along a rugged, narrow ledge and a small, steep hill on road surface.*

Head towards Malmesbury and, about 100 yards beyond the The Bridge, you will see a pillar on the left marked Hunters Field, beside a wide gravelled driveway. Take this track (SHER30), passing between the houses, onto a narrow pathway and through a kissing gate into a field. Go diagonally right across the field,through a second kissing gate and on through a smaller field and a third kissing gate. Now go down the steps onto Tetbury Road.

Do not go along the road but immediately turn left onto a bridleway that runs between a house and field (SHER4). You are following the Macmillan Way, a signed and waymarked route of 290 miles that runs along existing footpaths, bridleways and minor roads. It was opened in 1996 to raise funds, via sponsored walks, for The Macmillan Cancer Relief Charity. The track narrows as it passes along the edge of two more fields and as you join the fourth field, you must veer left quite quickly to cut across it diagonally to the gate, and out onto Knockdown Road.

Turn left here, taking care of traffic, and after about 700 yards on the right-hand side of a sharp left bend, you will come to a stile next to boarding kennels. Cross the stile onto SHER22 and go through the paddock. After the next stile and field you will reach a track that leads to a water tower. A windmill once stood there and was used to pump water to standpipes around the village when water levels were low. It was sold to the Bristol Water Board in the 1930s. Cross over the track, go straight ahead on a path that divides two fields and then along the left-hand side of the hedge. On your left you will see Sherston Primary School, built in 2005 to replace the old school in the High Street. Cross the stile onto Sopworth Lane, go straight over the road and cross another stile on the opposite side, signed to Brook Hill. You are now overlooking the valley on part of Sherston known as The Cliff. This was probably the inspiration for Sherston's original, Anglo Saxon name 'Scorranstan', meaning 'steep slope' and 'stone'. Bear left, following the path down the slope and along the narrow ledge that runs parallel to the top of the hill. There are excellent views in all directions from here. The river at the bottom is a branch of the River Avon and was used to power the old silk mill built in 1872 by Joseph Davenport & Sons. It closed in 1922 and is currently the site of a company that weaves elastic. This is the bold, square building that you will see ahead of you. Keep on this rugged path as it meanders down across hilly mounds, heading towards the final stile (not the gate at the bottom). The track in front of this row of houses leads out onto Brook Hill, part of the B4040. Turn left here and again taking care of traffic, climb back up to the High Street.

SHERSTON CP

Easton Town

Home Farm

Vancelettes Farm

TETBURY ROAD

EASTON TOWN

EASTON SQUARE

CHURCH ST

HIGH STREET

COURT STREET

KNOCKDOWN ROAD

GREEN LANE

SANDPITS LANE

Pyke Farm (remns of)

Recn Gd

Manor Farm

Pavilion

Sch

PO

PW

GP

Cartlpoorts

Weir

Works

Reservoir (covered)

Water Works

Hilliberry Lodge

Pyke Boarding Kennels and Cattery

Pit (dis)

112m

122m

118m

116m

128m

97m

SHER 30

SHER 4

SHER 22

Knockdown Road

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