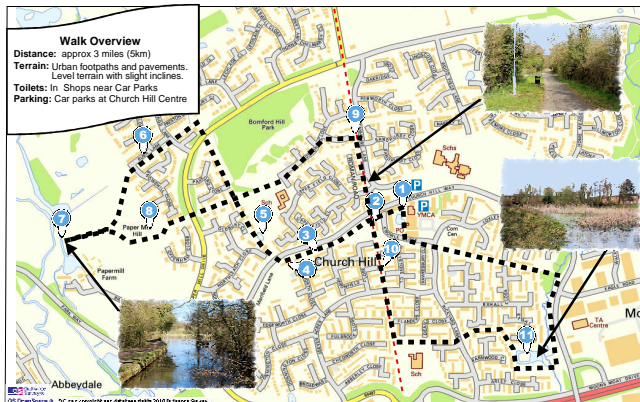


# Walks in Redditch

## Church Hill Walk (S1) Moons Moat and the Roman Road

**Distance:** approx 3 miles (5 km)  
**Terrain:** Urban Footpaths and pavements  
 Level terrain with slight inclines  
**Toilets:** ask at YMCA  
**Parking:** Car Parks at Church Hill centre



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Leaving the car park begin at the front of the Shopping Centre. Walk along the path by the bus route away from the centre until you are at the junction of Ikniel Street (Roman Road) and Marfield lane. The houses you see are the Marfield Lane Cottages. These are dated 1888. Walk directly away from the cottages down Marfield Lane. This road was one of the original main routes from Redditch and is a continuation of Beoley Road.



After a short walk you will see on your right an L shaped building (Scout Hut). This is Marfield Barn and was part of Marfield Farm which was located in this area. Cross the bus road and continue along the path to the right of the houses. You will see on your right a marl pit. These are common in the area and are the pits that remain when the clay (marl) was removed. The clay was used for making pots and other utensils in Medieval times onwards



Continue along this path and pass through the underpass going under Papermill Drive. Following the path you will arrive in Rush Lane. To the left is a hedge which follows an original field boundary line. Hopper's hypothesis is that the number of woody species in a 30 yard length of hedge equals the age of the hedge in centuries. On the skyline can be seen the steeple of St Stephen's, in the town centre, one mile away.



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Follow this tarmac path and you will arrive at Papermill ponds. The paper mill and the farm has been converted into private dwellings. There are two pools which originally fed the mill which are full of wildlife. Returning along the path take the right fork up the slope. Near the top, the field to the left shows clear evidence of ridge and furrow created by a system of ploughing used in the medieval period.

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Passing the marl pit to the left, just after the 'ridge and furrow', continue to follow the path over the footbridge and continue straight on until you reach the route of Ikniel Street, the Roman road. Follow this road past the Marfield Cottages until you reach Moons Moat School. At the school turn left and follow the path past the school and through the houses. When you reach Rickyard Lane pass under via the underpass to the left of the path.

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Follow the main path through the housing and you will arrive at Moons Moat. Originally a hunting lodge with a moat, dating back to the sixteenth century, Moons Moat was later extended to include a fishing pool. Passing round the monument cross the footbridge over the stream and turn left. Turn left again, before the bus road turns left, and you pass along a path between Loxley Close and Exhall Close. If you keep to this path you will then return to Church Hill Centre and the Car Park.

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# Church Hill Walk (S1) - Moons Moat and Roman Road (Map)



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