

# Walks around Church Hill

Walk



Church Hill Centre to Moon's Moat

These walks have been created in association with the Church Hill Big Local Partnership

initiative on local walking trails.

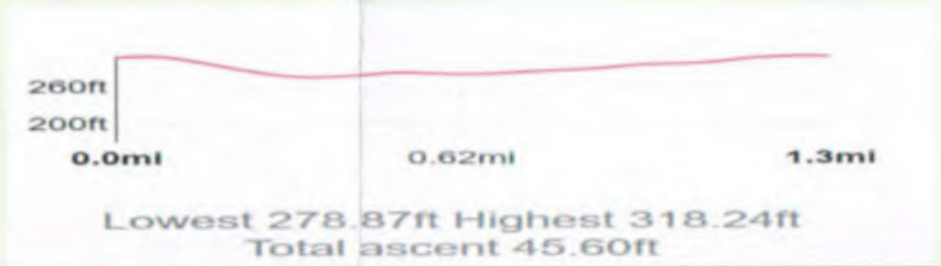
[www.churchhillbiglocal.org.uk](http://www.churchhillbiglocal.org.uk)

[www.redditchwalks.org.uk](http://www.redditchwalks.org.uk)

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Approx 1.5mile (2.3km) Gentle walk along urban footpaths & pavements. Level terrain with slight inclines.



Car Park—Church Hill Shopping Centre Public Transport—47,48,57,58,150 buses to Church Hill Centre



## Moons Moat

The Moons Moat area takes its name from an ancient moated homestead which dates back to the 12th century.

The medieval homestead was inhabited by the Mohun family which is where the name "Moon's" Moat comes from (Mohun being an early name for Moon).

The homestead grew up in an isolated position away from the settlements of Beoley and Ipsley and would probably have been cut out of the oak forest which covered the area.



It was a typical of the moated homesteads which were popular at this time.

Located in an isolated position two fields away from Icknield Street, it is roughly square in shape, the moat is still well-preserved and still holding water on three sides. The entrance appears to have been "by a causeway in the middle of the north side of the moat.

Moated homesteads in the Medieval Period were not designed for defensive purposes but for the show the importance of the family.

Leaving the car park begin at the front of the Shopping Centre. Walk turn right and follow the path along the bus route, passing St Andrews Methodist Church until you reach the footpath which is Icknield Street (Roman Road). Turn left and cross the bus route (take care to look out for buses) and continue down the Icknield Street path.



The houses you see on the left are the Marfield Lane Cottages (with modern additions built on). These are dated 1888. Marfield cottages were at at junction of Marfield Lane, a major route out of Redditch, and Icknield Street, the major Roman North South route which continued as a route for motor traffic until the 1970s.

Follow this road past the Marfield Cottages until you reach Moons Moat School on the left. The school is the same shape as a medieval fishpond shown on historic maps. This was done to preserve the 3 metre high dam of the pond, which is at least 700 years old.

Turn left along the path passing past Flanders Close.



Follow the main path through the housing and you will arrive at Moons Moat. This was an ancient moated homestead which dates back to the 12th century.

(See the box for additional information on the Moons Moat site)



Passing round the monument cross the footbridge over the stream and turn left.

Walk for about 400 yards and turn left again along a path between Loxley Close and Exhall Close. Keep to this and cross Rickyard Lane (looking out for traffic!). Continue on to Knowle Close and return to Church Hill Centre and the Car Park.

