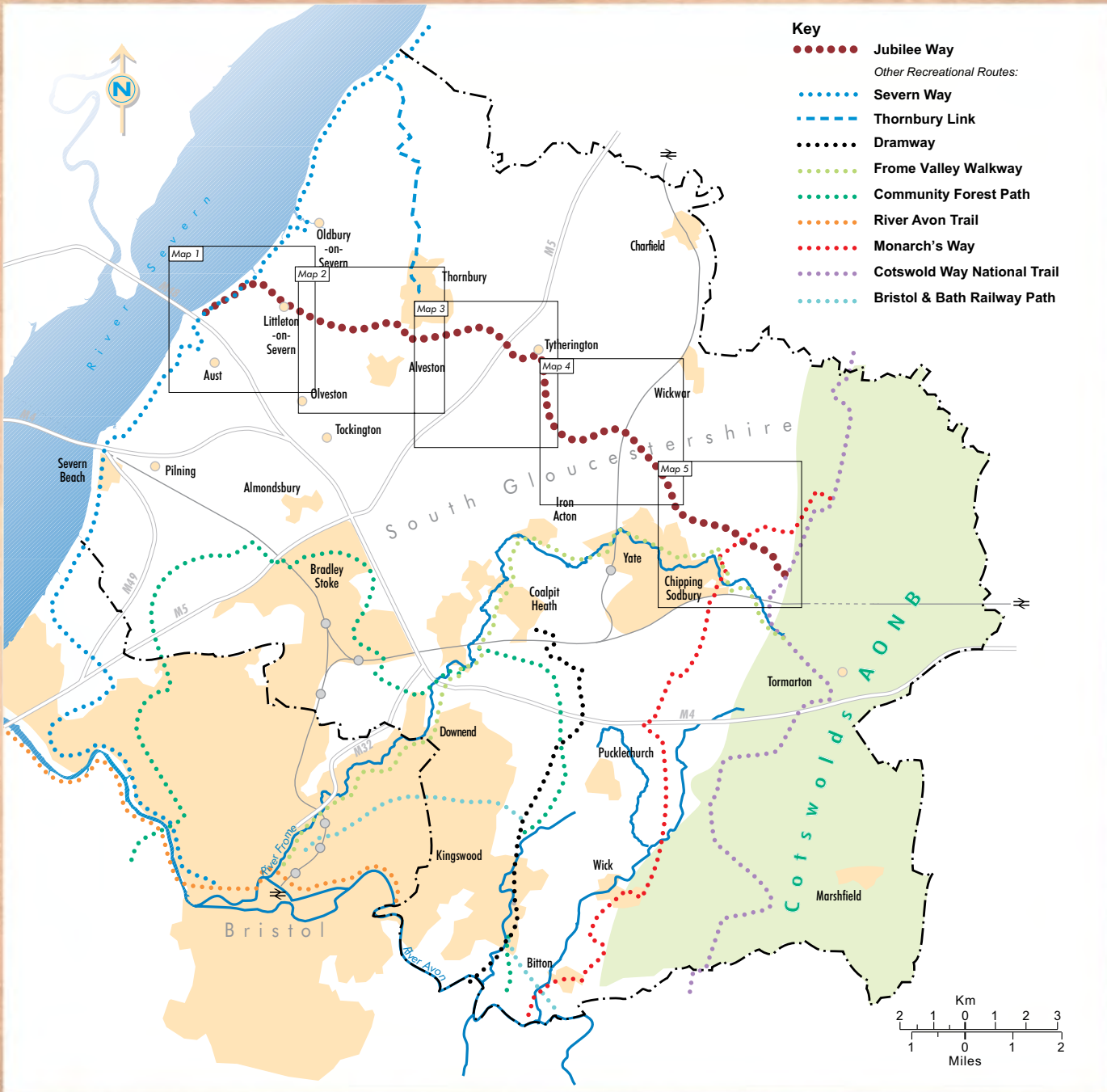


*Stepping stones
through time,
from the
Severn to the
Cotswolds*



Jubilee Way



- Key**
- Jubilee Way
 - Other Recreational Routes:
 - Severn Way
 - Thornbury Link
 - Dramway
 - Frome Valley Walkway
 - Community Forest Path
 - River Avon Trail
 - Monarch's Way
 - Cotswold Way National Trail
 - Bristol & Bath Railway Path



Bus Services

Bus Services serving the Jubilee Way

Rail or Bus Stops near the Jubilee Way	Service
Aust, M48 roundabout	X11 Bristol - Magor X14 Bristol - Newport
Chipping Sodbury, St Johns Way and Wickwar Road	X42, 342 Bristol - Yate - Chipping Sodbury 482 Cribbs Causeway - Chipping Sodbury also services 41, 581, 620, 622, 627 and 686 stop within 5 minutes walk.
Old Sodbury	41 Yate - Malmesbury 620 Bath - Yate - Tetbury
Rangeworthy, "Rose & Crown"	622 Cribbs Causeway - Thornbury - Chipping Sodbury 626 Wotton-under-Edge - Bristol
Thornbury, Health Centre	309 Bristol - Thornbury 310 Bristol - Thornbury - Dursley 312 Fishponds - Thornbury 615 Thornbury Town Service 622 Cribbs Causeway - Thornbury - Chipping Sodbury
Thornbury, Leisure Centre	309 Bristol - Thornbury 310 Bristol - Thornbury - Dursley 312 Fishponds - Thornbury 614 Severn Beach - Thornbury 622 Cribbs Causeway - Thornbury - Chipping Sodbury
Tytherington, "The Swan"	622 Cribbs Causeway - Thornbury - Chipping Sodbury 201 Thornbury - Gloucester
Yate, Greenways Road	X27 & 329 Bristol - Yate 482 Cribbs Causeway - Chipping Sodbury 622 Cribbs Causeway - Thornbury - Chipping Sodbury

Yate rail station is approximately 10 minutes walk from the Jubilee Way and is served hourly by trains on the Gloucester to Bristol Temple Meads line. For train times contact **0845 48 49 50** or www.nationalrail.co.uk

For details of bus times contact Traveline on **0871 200 22 33**. (calls cost 10p per minute from a landline) or www.traveline.info Services are subject to change so you should always check bus or train times before setting off.

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Key for Route Maps

	Route
	Motorway
	A Road
	B Road
	Minor Road
	Lane
	Track
	Railway
	Footpath
	Field Boundaries
	Public House
	Church, Chapel
	Telephone
	Buildings
	Ponds, Streams, Rivers
	Built-up Areas
	Woodland
	Local Nature Reserve Sites (LNR)
	Trees
	Viewpoint
	Station
	Golf Course
	Museum
	Information Centre
	Bus Stops

Introduction

The South Gloucestershire section of **The Jubilee Way** is a 26km/16 mile long route which links Aust, at the south side of the Severn Bridge, with Old Sodbury at the base of the Cotswold Hills. It offers an attractive walk along the banks of the Severn Estuary before heading east over the fertile fields and pastures of the Severn Vale towards the market town of Thornbury, and then on to the limestone



escarpment of the Cotswolds.

The Jubilee Way links two major long distance footpaths, the Cotswold Way and Offa's Dyke Path.



View over Old Sodbury

The Jubilee Way

What kind of walking to expect

This is comfortable walking, through the fertile, rural landscape of the Severn Valley to the Cotswold Hills. The route climbs gently towards the Cotswold Hills and, for most of its length, the slopes are gentle, although there are a couple of steeper sections where it crosses small ridges. Some sections of the route can be exposed in windy conditions, especially the Severn Estuary and Sodbury Common. There are lovely views from several points, westwards out over the Severn Valley towards the Forest of Dean and the Welsh mountains, and east up towards the Cotswold escarpment.

Although it is possible to walk the 26km/16 miles of the South Gloucestershire section of the Jubilee Way in a day and a half, it is much more pleasant to take two days. This gives plenty of time to enjoy the scenery, admire the views and sample local inns and cafes.

Public transport, inns and cafés

All the villages and towns along the route are served by regular bus services. There are frequent buses to Chipping Sodbury, Yate and Thornbury; services to the other villages are less regular. Yate is on the Bristol to Gloucester rail line although the station is about 2.5 miles from the route. More details of public transport services are given on the inside back cover.

There are excellent inns and cafés in the towns and villages along the Jubilee Way; these are all marked on the route maps.



The Ramblers' Association

The Ramblers' Association devised the Jubilee Way in 1985 to celebrate the Association's 50th anniversary. It was an ambitious undertaking, creating a huge national walk by using existing public rights of way to link many of Britain's long distance paths. The route in South Gloucestershire was researched and developed by Thornbury Rambling Club and Southwold Ramblers Club.

The South Gloucestershire section of the Jubilee Way has been adopted by South Gloucestershire Council as it offers an attractive and valuable link between the Cotswold Way and Offa's Dyke Path in South Wales.



Landscape and Geology

Rock and rolling landscape

Geography comes alive as we walk the Jubilee Way across the valley of the Severn from the river to the Cotswold Hills. There are two main features in the landscape - the valley of the River Severn and the limestone escarpment of the Cotswolds. The Severn Valley is a deep, drowned valley that has gradually filled up with silt and mud over thousands of years. The Cotswolds are a limestone escarpment with a spectacular west-facing scarp and a long, gentle dip slope that drains east to the Thames Valley.

The geology under our feet has a major impact on the route of the Jubilee Way. Starting from the River Severn, the route rambles across the clays of the Severn Valley and can be muddy in places, especially in winter and after rain. The land rises, and becomes drier and less muddy, as the route crosses small limestone ridges before rolling gently down into Ladden Brook Vale. The route continues east to the wide, open landscape of Sodbury Common and up towards the bottom of the limestone escarpment at Old Sodbury.

Although it seems permanent, the Severn Estuary is not a static landscape; the river is continually eroding and depositing material, altering the shape of its valley and creating new areas of land and water. In the seventeenth century there was a famous argument when villagers from Awre on the west side of the Severn claimed ownership of the silts and mud that had recently built up on the eastern bank near Slimbridge. To this day the land is still called the New Grounds.

Flood warnings

This stretch of the River Severn is very prone to flooding, and people have been building sea walls and banks for centuries to try and prevent the river from overflowing its banks and flooding the low-lying land in the valley. It's a never-ending job as the river can rise swiftly, especially in the winter months, and the banks are likely to get damaged when the river is in spate. Parish records show that at the end of the nineteenth century there were five banksmen working full time on the sea banks between Aust and Oldbury. The work continues today, co-ordinated by the Environment Agency, repairing and improving the sea wall along the lower reaches of the river and the estuary. It's not all bad news though; the floodwaters leave behind a thick layer of mud, which enriches the fields and pastures, and the new sea walls often include new riverside footpaths.



The estuary at low tide

Landscape and Geology

Reclaiming land from the sea

The sands, silts and muds carried downstream by the River Severn make rich, fertile soils and people have been draining and reclaiming land alongside the estuary for centuries, at least since Roman times. By the fifteenth century the landowners around Thornbury and Berkeley had carried out large-scale drainage works on the low-lying land near the river, expanding the area of land that they could use for arable crops and livestock.



A rhine in the Severn Valley

There were more improvements to drainage in the seventeenth century, with bigger ditches and sluices being put in place. The ditches, known locally as 'rhines' or 'rhynes', flow into 'pills' - tidal creeks at the river's edge. Today an intricate network of rhines continues to drain water from the land, creating rich pastures for sheep and cattle.

Seaside rock

The Oolitic limestone of the Cotswolds was formed millions of years ago, when this area had a tropical climate with warm, shallow seas full of coral beds. Over thousands of years the shells of sea creatures built up on the seabed and were compressed, forming limestone. Later movements in the earth's crust gradually forced the seabed upwards, creating a series of limestone hills that extend from Dorset to Yorkshire.



Cotswold stone buildings at Old Sodbury

Over the centuries the honey-coloured limestone has been used for building, and has given the Cotswolds their beautiful towns and villages.

Splendid views



The rural landscape of the Severn Valley

There are several excellent viewpoints along the Jubilee Way with lovely open views over the Severn Valley and across the river to the Forest of Dean and Wales. There are also impressive views along the River Severn, downstream towards the two Severn Bridges and upstream towards Oldbury Power Station.

Journeys



Artist: Jon Mills

Signpost - National Cycle Route

The Jubilee Way weaves its way along and across the routes of many historic journeys. There are ancient footpaths, tracks that have been used for moving livestock, Victorian railways, passenger and freight lines and quiet country lanes as well as today's busy main roads including the M5 and M48 motorways. It's

amazing to think that goods and people are moving at twenty times the speed of journeys taken just a few decades ago. A newer transport initiative is the National Cycle Network, which now passes through the area.

The journey to market

Green lanes and tracks that were used to herd cattle are sometimes called drove roads. Historically, they were a vital part of the rural landscape. These broad, grassy tracks were used to drive cattle and sheep to summer grazing and to cattle markets and fairs.

There are many of these old routeways in the Severn Valley, linking the summer grazing on the riverbanks with the tracks that led to local markets. They were particularly important between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries when they were used to drive large herds of cattle south to the fast growing city of Bristol.

Journey of rock to rail

The limestone quarries at Tytherington had their own branch line railway linking them with Thornbury and the main Bristol to Gloucester railway line. Nowadays the link to Thornbury has been abandoned, but the route east to the main line is still used to transport stone to destinations around the country.

International wildlife journeys

The Severn Estuary is one of the biggest estuaries in Britain, with the Rivers Wye, Usk, Parrett and Avon all draining into it, as well as the Severn. It's also one of our most important wildlife sites, famous for its wading birds and migrating fish. During the winter it can often have well over 100,000 wading birds that have flown in from the frozen north to feed and roost on the huge sandbars and mud flats that are exposed at low tide. The estuary is such an important place for wildlife that it is protected by international and national legislation and is designated as a Ramsar site, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area.



Journeys

Journey to work - a tale of two bridges

The Jubilee Way offers spectacular views along the Severn to two engineering masterpieces, the original Severn Bridge and the Second Severn Crossing. The Severn Bridge was opened in 1966 to carry the M4 from southern England to South Wales. During the 1970's and 1980's the volume of traffic using the bridge increased dramatically and it became clear that a second bridge was needed.



Severn Bridge

The Second Severn Crossing, which is located three miles downstream of the Severn Bridge, was opened in 1996 and now carries the M4 over the Estuary. It has an innovative wind-shield as part of its design, which allows it to remain open during adverse weather conditions. The motorway on the Severn Bridge has been renamed the M48 and carries local traffic between Chepstow and Bristol and southern England.

Journeys of discovery

Local members of the Ramblers' Association developed the South Gloucestershire Jubilee Way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organisation in 1985. It offers a link between two wonderful long distance footpaths - the Cotswold Way and Offa's



Second Severn Crossing

Dyke Path. The Cotswold Way is a National Trail that follows the Cotswold Edge for 163km/102miles, between Chipping Campden and Bath. The eastern end of the Jubilee Way joins the Cotswold Way at the village of Old Sodbury. Offa's Dyke Path follows the line of an eighth century earthwork dyke that was built by King Offa to mark the boundary of Anglo-Saxon England. Offa's Dyke Path is 270 km/168 miles long, and runs from the Severn River south of Chepstow to Prestatyn in North Wales.





SECTION 1 (See Map 1)

Severn Bridge to Littleton-upon-Severn

Aust Cliff

Aust Cliff is a popular site with geologists who visit the cliff in search of fossils. Hundreds of fossilised bones from marine reptiles, including dinosaurs, have been found in the blue lias limestone and clays that make up the top section of this impressive 30m cliff. Most of the cliff is made of a red clay called Keuper Marl. The cliff is interesting because the whole sequence of rocks from the Lower Jurassic period can be seen - millions of years pressed into layers of different rocks and shales - like a huge rock sandwich!

Severn Bridge

The Severn Bridge was designed by Sir Gilbert Roberts and was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1966. It replaced the Aust ferry, which used to carry passengers, vehicles, cargo and livestock across the Severn to Beachley. This site has been a crossing place for the Severn for centuries, possibly since before Roman times. The Severn Bridge is a suspension bridge, and, at the time it was built, it was one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. It was unique in its design with slender, widely spaced suspension wires hanging in V-form to give extra rigidity to the platform. The twin towers are 130m high, with a central span of 988m between them.

Whale Wharfe at Littleton

This wharf is visible upstream and was the scene of great activity in January 1885 when 40,000 people flocked to see a whale, which had been stranded on the riverbank. It would be a big crowd nowadays, but it was an amazing number of people in 1885, given that there were no roads or railways, so people had to travel by boat, horse-drawn carriage or on foot. Littleton Wharf has been known locally as Whale Wharfe ever since. The two towers of the Magnox reactor at Oldbury Power Station dominate the skyline upstream of the wharf.



Aust Cliff





MAP 1

Severn Bridge to Littleton-upon-Severn



Junction of Jubilee Way with Severn Way





SECTION 2 (See Map 1 & 2)

Littleton-upon-Severn to Thornbury Golf Course

Green Lanes

Rushen Lane and Bond Lane are ancient trackways either side of Littleton-upon-Severn that have been an important part of the rural landscape for centuries. They are historic routes, sometimes known as drovers' roads, which were used to move cattle and sheep between farms and local markets. There are medieval ridge and furrow field patterns in some fields next to Rushen and Bond lanes. You can see the characteristic elongated reverse 'S' shapes on the ground, which were created by the turning circles of oxen pulling heavy wooden ploughs.

The drover's route continues on the eastern side of Littleton-upon-Severn where it is known as Bond Lane.

Littleton-upon-Severn

This attractive village was once a tiny port on the River Severn that was used for shipping coal and bricks. Coal from the Forest of Dean and the South Wales collieries was brought by boat and unloaded at the wharf for distribution around the nearby farms and villages. Bricks made from local clay were the main trading goods from Littleton, exported to various places up and down the river. The White Hart inn, in the centre of the village, offers accommodation and meals as well as drinks.



The White Hart at Littleton-upon-Severn

Wood Well Meadows Local Nature Reserve

This nature reserve is managed by South Gloucestershire Council and local people and it consists of two permanent pastures. The upper meadow is particularly rich in wildflowers including four types of orchid. The fields are enclosed by dense, species-rich hedgerows and the reserve also includes a pond and copse. There are excellent views from the upper field to the Severn Estuary, the two Severn bridges and into Wales.





MAP 2

Littleton-upon-Severn to A38

* Alternative route after heavy rain.



Rusben Lane



SECTION 3 (See Maps 2 & 3)

Thornbury Golf Course to Rangeworthy

Thornbury Golf Course

The Jubilee Way follows a way-marked route across Thornbury Golf Course. There are excellent views of the Severn Estuary with its two power stations as well as a bird's-eye view of the attractive market town of Thornbury, complete with its castle and parish church of St Mary's. This popular golf course was opened in 1992 and has two 18-hole courses that offer challenging golf for all grades of players. The clubhouse is open to walkers for meals and drinks. Please make sure you keep to the marked route and be aware of the possibility of stray golf balls.

Tytherington

Tytherington village is famous for its limestone that has been quarried for hundreds of years. It was particularly important in the second half of the twentieth century when it supplied millions of tons of limestone for motorway construction. Tytherington stone was used for the Second Severn Crossing and for the regional shopping centre at Cribbs Causeway. The stone was also used for the new village post office that is owned and managed by the villagers and run by a band of volunteers.



Tytherington Church

Tytherington church has a splendid, one-handed clock on its tower. It dates from the early sixteenth century, reflecting a time when the pace of life was slower and people didn't count their time by the minute.

Tytherington Branch Line

Tytherington quarry is one of the largest quarries run by the Hanson group and has its own special rail-link running from the quarry to Yate where it joins the main Bristol to Gloucester line. The railway line is used to transport limestone around the country. The quarry blasts stone from the rock face using sophisticated laser surveying techniques and computer profiling. It is loaded by hydraulic shovels and taken to the plant area for crushing and sorting into different sizes. Large boulders are used for sea and river defences, while smaller stone is used for road surfacing and concrete.





MAP 3

A38 to Rangeworthy



Tytherington Quarry



SECTION 4 (See Map 4)

Rangeworthy to Yate Rocks

Rangeworthy Court

The earliest records for Rangeworthy Court date from 1167 when it was part of the Manor of Thornbury. There are the remains of a twelfth century doorway in the north chancel of the present church, which was probably a private entrance for the Lord of the Manor. The medieval manor house was more or less rebuilt in the seventeenth century, with lovely stone mullioned windows and a heavy, studded front door made of oak. Since then it has had a varied history as a farmhouse and a private school, but has been a hotel since 1980.

Green Lane

The hedges on either side of this attractive green lane are a valuable habitat for many different kinds of plants and animals. The hedges contain a wonderful mixture of trees and shrubs, with hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose and field maple as well as splendid mature oak and ash trees. These provide food and nesting sites for many birds and animals such as blackbirds, robins and wrens. At night Green Lane is a busy wildlife corridor with foxes, owls and bats hunting for their prey.

Celestite

The hummocky hills between Ladden Brook and Limekiln Road are old spoil heaps with a history! Some are the remains of mining for celestite, a very rare mineral found in the local clays. It was used for refining sugar beet, and more recently has been used

in fireworks, creating spectacular crimson flares. Between the 1880's and 1960's Yate was the world leader in the production of celestite, with up to 90% of the world's supply coming from this area. Some of the hummocks are spoil heaps from old coal mines and small quarries where the local Pennant stone was dug for building materials.



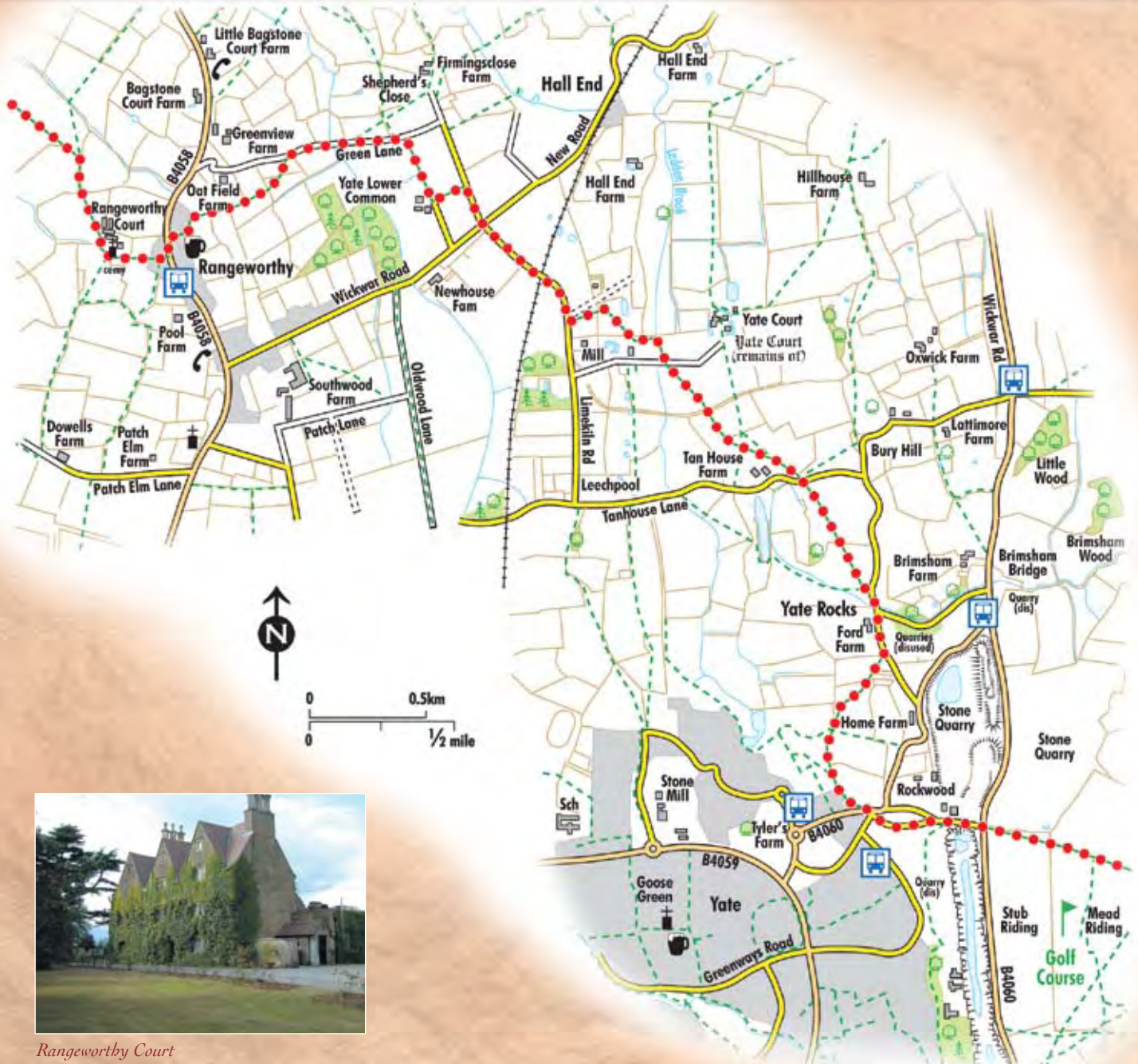
View over Ladden Vale





MAP 4

Rangeworthy to Yate Rocks



Rangeworthy Court



SECTION 5 (See Maps 4 & 5)

Yate Rocks to Old Sodbury



Yate Rocks

Yate Rocks and Chipping Sodbury Quarry

Yate Rocks and Chipping Sodbury Quarry are part of a limestone ridge that stretches north to Wickwar and Cromhall. People have been digging the stone from this

area for centuries, as long ago as the Romans, who had small quarries here. Quarrying began on a large scale in the nineteenth century and by the 1950's large areas had been worked out, with some quarries abandoned. Today, quarrying is mainly east of Wickwar Road, north of the Jubilee Way. In the 1800's Yate Rocks was a popular beauty spot, with people coming for day trips to see the attractive limestone rocks.

Chipping Sodbury Golf Course

There has been a golf club at Chipping Sodbury since 1905, making it one of the oldest courses in the area. It's an attractive course, with a series of lakes and ponds that are home to a variety of wildlife, including ducks, geese and even swans. The Jubilee Way crosses the course on a clearly way-marked route, and it is important to be aware of stray golf balls as they can be dangerous. Please make sure that you stay on the route and keep dogs on leads.

Sodbury Common

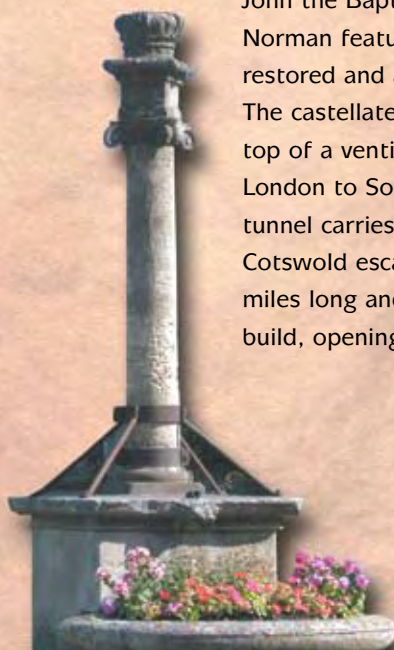
Sodbury Common is a large open grassy area that is grazed by cattle. The Common is a valuable habitat for wildflowers and grasses as the land has never been ploughed, and dates from the time before most land was enclosed by hedges, around 200 years ago. In summer, there can be dozens of butterflies feeding on the flowers, and many visiting birds hunting for seeds and insects in the grassland. It is a lovely open space, with wide, far-reaching views along the Severn Valley and up towards the Cotswold edge.

Old Sodbury

The Jubilee Way ends in Old Sodbury, at the monument opposite the Dog Inn. The Monument commemorates 60 years of the reign of Queen Victoria 1837-1897. The Cotswold Way also passes through the village, alongside the parish church of St

John the Baptist. The church has some Norman features, although it has been restored and altered over the centuries.

The castellated tower on the skyline is the top of a ventilation shaft for the main London to South Wales railway line. This tunnel carries the railway through the Cotswold escarpment. It is two and a half miles long and took over five years to build, opening in 1903.





MAP 5:

Yate Rocks to Old Sodbury



*Commemorative Monument,
Old Sodbury*

Additional information

Links with other promoted walks

The fold-out map on the front inside cover shows all the long distance promoted routes in South Gloucestershire. The Jubilee Way links with three long distance footpaths, the Severn Way, Offa's Dyke Path in South Wales and the Cotswold Way. Both the Jubilee Way and the Frome Valley Walkway start in Old Sodbury and the Monarch's Way crosses the route at the north-east edge of Chipping Sodbury.

Enjoy walking

Parts of the Jubilee Way can be muddy at times, especially after rain and during the winter months. Wear sensible shoes or boots and carry a waterproof so that poor weather won't spoil your walk.

Useful Contacts

The **Public Rights of Way Team in South Gloucestershire Council** look after the Jubilee Way, the Monarch's Way and the Severn Way as well as all local footpaths in the area. To contact them telephone.

Tel: 01454 868686. www.southglos.gov.uk

The **Cotswolds Conservation Board** works to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is based at The Cotswold Conservation Board, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire, GL54 3JH;

Tel: 01451 862034. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

The **Cotswold Way National Trail** Officer is based at The Cotswold Conservation Board, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire, GL54 3JH;

Tel: 01451 862034. www.nationaltrail.co.uk

The **Frome Valley Walkway** is looked after by the **Avon Frome Partnership**.

Tel: 0117 9224325. www.fromewalkway.org.uk

The **Severn Way** is promoted by the Severn Way Partnership, for more information visit.

www.severnway.com

We would like to thank Sarah Douglas for undertaking the research and community consultation work for this booklet along with provision of the text.



Countryside Code

Advice for the public

*Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
Keep your dog under close control
Consider other people*

Advice for land managers

*Know your rights, responsibilities
and liabilities
Make it easy for visitors to act responsibly
Identify possible threats to the safety of
visitors*

*To find out more about the Countryside Code,
contact www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or email
openaccess@countryside.gov.uk
or telephone 0845 100 3298*



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