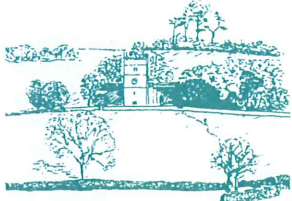


The plant life in turn attracts many flying insects and in summer you may see swallows, house martins and swifts flashing up and down the river gathering food on the wing. Swifts are astonishing birds for they spend practically their whole life on the wing. They sleep, eat, drink, gather nest material and mate on the wing.

When you reach the end of the footpath, cross over the road and turn right; walk across the green heading for the small metal bridge (do not cross the bridge) and continue to follow the river. On reaching the housing development, leave the river and walk along the road crossing at the pedestrian crossing. If you look back at this point, you get a

wonderful view of the Cotswold escarpment. Keep walking along the road until you reach a large roundabout. Turn right



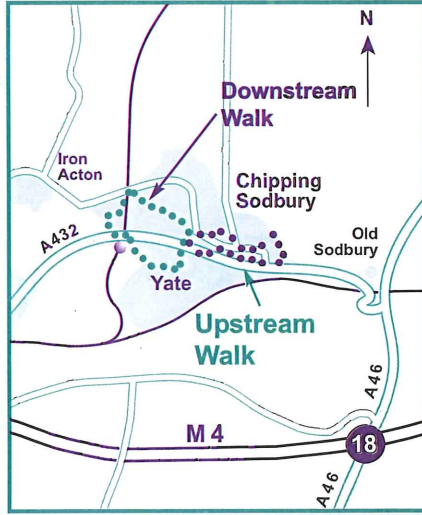
View looking towards Old Sodbury

and cross the road heading for a seat under a tree. Head for the dual carriageway and turn right down a wide, grassy path. Continue down this path leading into Woodmans Road. At the end turn right into Hounds Road.

Continue down Hounds Road and immediately before the Baptist Church on the left turn left through the kissing gate. The Baptist Church was built in 1818 on the site of an earlier Baptist meeting house.

Walk along the path adjacent to the school playing fields. At the end of the path turn left. At the junction, cross the road on your right and then turn down Love Lane. Take the right fork and follow the path alongside the dual carriageway straight back to the Shopping Centre. Alternatively, follow the River Frome back to the starting point.

### Location Map

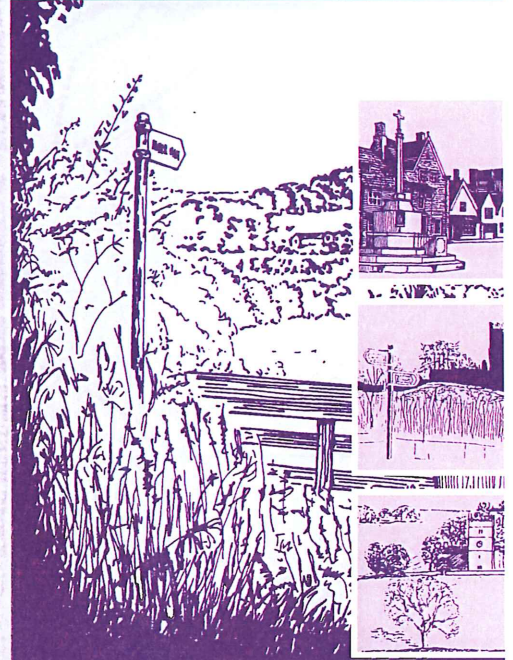


### Downstream Walk

This is another walk in the same series covering an easy circular route around the western area of Yate and central Yate. This route uses part of the Frome Valley Walkway following the River Frome.

© Yate Town Council PROW/Downstream Walk amend04

# UPSTREAM WALK YATE



Designed by Graphics and Mapping 10396/05



continue inside.....

willow bark. ingredient for aspirin, was first found in note that salicylic acid, the active from the main trunk. It is interesting to weight of wood causes branches to split suggests, the wood is brittle and too much life span of the crack willow. As the name mostly for safety but this also increases the The bank side willows have been pollarded sure to be seen along the riverside walk.

and white birds are unmistakable and their tails all the time. These little black the ground, with short erratic runs, bobbing When feeding, they chase insects close to Britain and are often seen near water. Look out for pied wagtails which breed in

Looking across Jubilee Gardens, Chipping Sodbury



At the Frome Valley sign, turn right and walk through Jubilee Gardens dedicated in 1977 for Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. Note the pretty waterfall on the left and the row of attractive cottages high up on the left.

right is Rock House, a late 17th century On reaching Quarry Road turn left. On the River Frome. World War, and tested in the Mill during the First beside the Cow were made in the small quench their thirst! Smoke bombs those coming to buy feedstuffs could the tall gabled roof was the Cow Inn, so is closest to the river. The building with Pass the 17th century Cow Mill. The mill birth.

Potter fame, or went there shortly after born there, including JK Rowling of Harry 1988, generations of Yate children were had raised. From then, until its closure in Memorial Hospital with the £2,000 they Committee purchased it and ran it as a the 1914-1918 War Memorial Fund was originally Melrose House. In 1920, You now pass the Memorial Centre which workhouse mortuary.

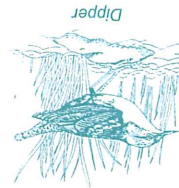
Walk past Ridgewood on the right, which is now a social services building and a thriving Community Centre. Known as 'The Spike' these buildings were the home of the Poor Law Union - the Workhouse. Built in the 1830s, staff lived in the gatehouse. Immates were separated into women's and men's wings, so husbands and wives only met occasionally. Residents had to grow food, break stones for road mending and do other hard manual jobs needed by the parish. The dance studio behind was originally the



Wagtail

plans for the building to Switzerland. By Edward Burgess in 1883 who sent for House for the Ridge. The Lodge was built on the corner of Broadway was the Lodge House (now offices). The unusual building lining the drive are still there - to Ridge Ridge Play Area - some of the walnut trees drive to Ridge House. It led across the the neighbouring building was the main on your left between Firgrove House and Back on Station Road; the narrow footpath beetles and dragonfly larvae.

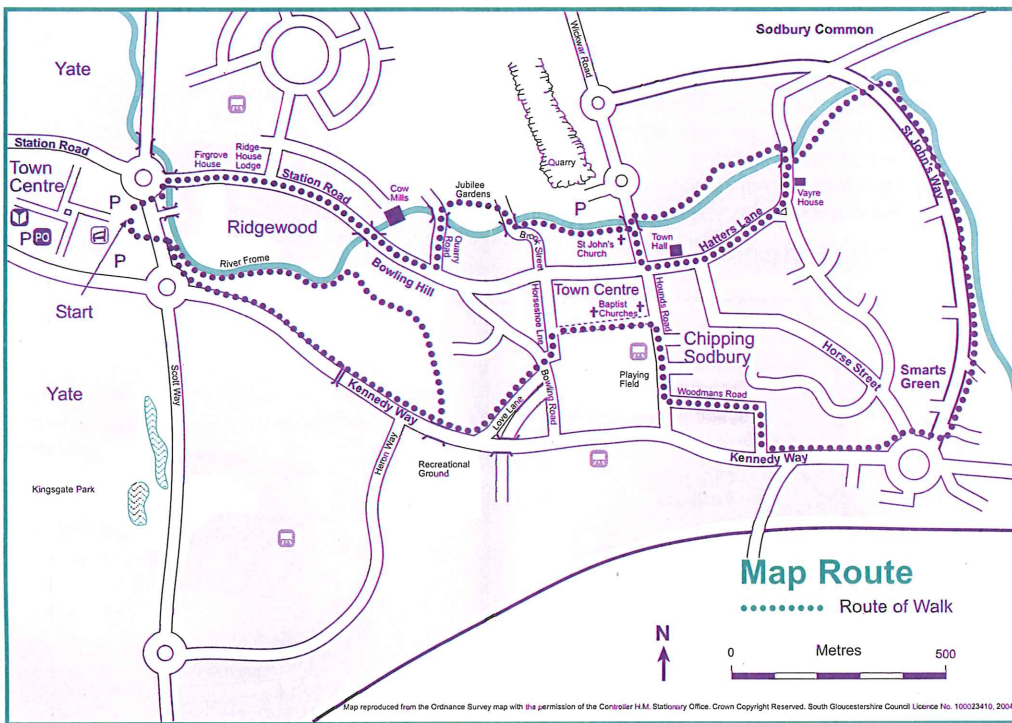
water as he searches the river bottom for has a third eyelid which he uses under sticklebacks and bullheads. The dipper course, feeds on small fish such as relatively healthy river. The kingfisher, of the Frome is a birds indicates that presence of both shy birds. The kingfisher darts up the river but they are flash of blue as a lucky enough to see a



Dipper

You can't catch sight of them. You may be River Frome, don't be too disappointed if Although they have been recorded on the space area - if you look towards the river Leave the road and walk into the open the triple arched bridge. Cross the road and the River Frome noting Road heading towards Chipping Sodbury, and turn right at the junction with Station Road past the Bottle Bank on your right Shopping Centre and walk north along Link Leave the Link Road Garage at the





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Pipistrelle

Willows are host to many insects who visit the tree to feed on both the leaves and flowers.

At dusk pipistrelle bats will flit along the banks and around the trees catching insects on the wing. Do not be alarmed – their echo sounding navigation is far too efficient to allow them to collide with you or become tangled in your hair.

At the end of the Jubilee field, go through the kissing gate turning right into Brook Street, noting the attractive cluster of cottages on your left dating from the early days of quarrying, cross the bridge. This was once the main route into Sodbury from the north, part of the ancient salt track from the Midlands via Wickwar to Pucklechurch and beyond. Through traffic from Wickwar to Chipping Sodbury came across this bridge and up the very steep hill to the High Street. This was once a thriving area of the market town, with many buildings dating from the 1600s. On your left, just before the Frome Valley Walkway signpost is the three storey Mill House.

Before you turn onto the Frome Valley Walkway, detour slightly; follow the road uphill towards Chipping Sodbury. On your left you will see a single storey building, now converted into a house, with a semi-circular hood above the door. Built of rubble in 1692, it was the Quaker Meeting House for many years. Return downhill to the Frome Valley Walkway sign. Follow the path between the river and beautiful lawned gardens. This garden has been laid out on what was once the Mill Pond. Beyond the lawns lie the long thin gardens of the houses in Chipping Sodbury High Street. Called burgage plots, these are classic feature of medieval market towns.

When the walk passes walls, tall grass or bushes, stop and look for spiders. Not all spiders spin webs or snares to catch their prey. Some actively hunt or pounce on unsuspecting insects. Those who hunt have excellent eyesight, whereas those

who spin webs do not. This short sightedness can be very hazardous for the male spider, who, if he gets his messages wrong, is likely to be mistaken for dinner by the female.

However you feel about spiders, you cannot fail to marvel at the complexity of the web, or the beauty of a web covered in dew drops.

At the end of the path climb over the old stone stile. Either turn right to go through Chipping Sodbury or cross Wickwar Road to follow the river.

### Option 1 – Chipping Sodbury

Turn right past St John's Church which dates from the 12th century. Look in the walls for the tombstone of Richard and Edith Colymore, who died in the 1520s. Later in the walk you will see their legacy - 'Tudor House' in Hatters Lane. Turn left into the main street of Chipping Sodbury. The name Chipping Sodbury derives from 'chipping', the saxon for market. The King granted Sodbury the right to run markets before 1190. In 1227 it was also given the right to run two fairs a year – these remain as the two 'mops', in March and September, when the fair arrives in the street.



Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury

To the right of Hounds Lane, you will see a late 18th century cast iron water pump, and beside it a cast iron horse trough, built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. Horses who had pulled heavy farm loads up Brook Street would need a pretty large drink!

On your left you will see the Town Hall which stands on the site of the original 1452 Guild Hall. The Guild provided a chantry in the church and the two priests, as well as providing alms to the poor. A

priest's house was built (where the display window now is). Guilds were a mix between a social club, insurance society and trade union. When Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries reached Sodbury in 1549, the Hall was seized by the Crown and was sold privately. A few years later the bailiff and burgesses (the Town Council of the time) bought the building back as a Town Hall. The building was heavily remodelled in 1858.

Most of the buildings along Broad Street are of historical importance. Many are built of rubble and rendered. Note the round windows in the roof gables. The muddle of styles and dates shows how owners kept rebuilding to meet modern styles and changes in their needs and wealth. The George is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the area from the late 16th century. It was built of rubble, but for someone who wanted to look rather grand – hence the ball finials on top of the gables.

Spot the bow windows on number 73. The bay on the left is 19th century; the one of the right is 18th century.

Until 1954 markets were held here on the first and third Tuesday of the month, when it moved to Yate as the site could not meet new regulations. Cattle, stalls and market fair all crammed onto the land on which we now park, called the 'Pitchings' - the place where the market stalls were pitched.

The Town Cross was erected in the 1300s, with figures of the saints upon it. This was replaced by a plain cross in the 16th century, which stood at the junction of Broad Street and Horse Street, until it was moved to Brook Street, near the mill, in 1772. It was salvaged and restored as a war memorial after the Second World War.



War Memorial, Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury

You now turn left into Hatters Lane which was once on the main road out of Chipping Sodbury to Oxford. Tudor House, a gabled building on the left, was built in the late 1400s, possibly by Richard and Edith Colymore, who were affluent weavers. Like many Sodbury people they owed their wealth to the position of Sodbury as a market for the thriving Cotswold woollen trade. Note the cottages behind Tudor House.

### Option 2 – River Route

When you reach the river, join the Frome Valley Walkway on the right. This is a beautiful stretch of river with an abundance of plants and wildlife.

The fertile soil of the river banks supports a tangle of plant life. Look for yellow flag iris, tall spikes or purple loosestrife and creamy flowers of meadowsweet. In Anglo-Saxon times meadowsweet was used to sweeten and flavour mead – if you smell it you will see why.