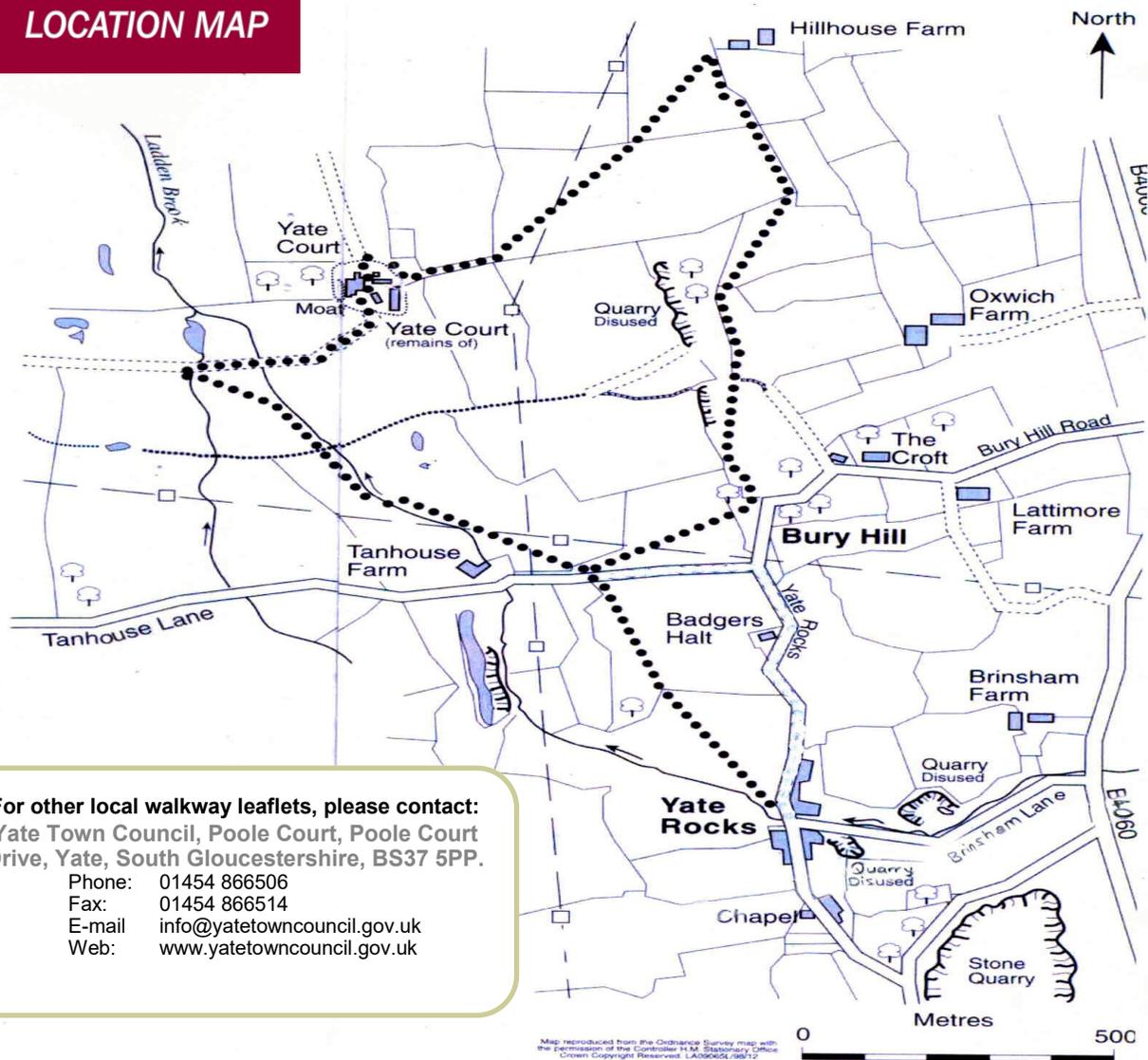


LOCATION MAP



For other local walkway leaflets, please contact:
 Yate Town Council, Poole Court, Poole Court Drive, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 5PP.

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Yate Town Council Yate Court Walk

This walk is approximately 5km and will take around 1.5 - 2 hours to complete.

Ordnance Survey map reference: Explorer 167.



YATE COURT WALK

Commence this walk in Yate Rocks at the kissing gate opposite the ford. Follow the Jubilee waymarked route in a north-westerly direction to the kissing gate at the field boundary, then in a straight line to Tanhouse Lane. Cross to the kissing gate opposite. Then look for a stile in the left hand hedge, approximately 10 yards from the lane.

Cross this stile. *You will see Tanhouse Farm to the left. This is the site of an old tannery probably built in the 1700s. The original tannery stands in the yard opposite the house and has the top half timbered as was characteristic of such buildings.*

Much of this walk crosses farmland. Unfortunately modern economic farming methods are unkind to wildlife and many species desert to live elsewhere. Despite this you should see Magpies and in the summer, Starlings looking for grubs. You may also see Skylarks and Lapwings gathering in the autumn. Cow parsley, buttercups, daisies and dandelion cling to the edges of the fields.

Proceed to another stile in a wire fence and continue along the line of the pylons to the stream where you cross by bridge. Follow the right-hand hedge, cross the old tramway at the stile and proceed slightly left to the gate in the wooden fence and then, to the stile in the wire fence.

The old tramway used to carry stone from the hill down to the limekilns below.

Turn right onto Yate Court Road, proceeding through the Court to the stile in the hedge.



Yate Court is the oldest and most important of three manor houses in the area. It was fortified by the De Wyllington family at the end of the 13th century. In 1522 it became the home of the disinherited Berkeley family. The original double portcullises 14th century gatehouse has, in recent times, been relocated to Berkeley Castle.

At the hedge turn very sharp right. Keep to the hedge and pass through the gate. Then go left onto the track and go through two further gates into a field. Head half left in a north-easterly direction towards Hillhouse Farm at the top of the hill.

The hill is known as Bury Hill - Bury being a Saxon name for a hill fort. Although never properly surveyed and much disturbed by quarrying, this hill may well have been the site of an ancient camp. The area was once the home of the old English Dubonnai tribe merged with the Saxons.

The grassland at Bury Hill is steep and has escaped the influences of farming. There are many different grasses and flowers growing here. On sunny days you will hear the buzz of bees, grasshoppers and crickets and see butterflies amongst the flowers.

At the hedge adjacent to Hillhouse Farm, (from where you can see Oxwich Farm on your left) turn right, following the hedge in a southerly direction, through the next field to the stile. *(Robert Oxwich came into possession of Yate Court in 1712 and it is said because he could not afford to rebuild the court, he instead built the impressive Oxwich Farm which is decorated with ornate carvings.)*

Fork right to the field boundary above the old quarry. Proceed over two stiles to the track, then take a sharp right into the field above the edge of the quarry.

Continue in a southerly direction. Cross the tramway by two stiles and continue onto a stile giving access to the woodland. A short distance into the woodland, turn right down a waymarked path to a stile and field. Proceed half left to a gate followed by the kissing gate into Tanhouse Lane.

Cross over to the kissing gate opposite and return by path to the starting point.