

POINTS OF INTEREST

The overgrown edges of the **Trailway** are a haven for wildlife, and the sunny, sheltered banks are ideally suited for a variety of butterflies.



Along the river watch out for **dragonflies and damselflies**, a variety of waterfowl, and perhaps even a Kingfisher.



On the horizon ahead lies **Hambledon Hill**, where impressive ramparts of an Iron Age promontory fort can be seen.



The first experimental cremation in Britain took place in Manston churchyard in 1883, 'in a simple and inexpensive furnace' and the ashes of the deceased were placed in the **mausoleum** here.



In Hammoon, there is a 14th century church and a **16th century thatched manor** with stone-mullioned windows.



Administered by English Heritage, **Fiddleford Manor** (open daily) contains beautiful carved timber work dating back to the 15th century.



Photo credits: Giles Nicholson, Graham Rains, Jan Wardell

STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

WALKABOUT 2 Manston / Hammoon / Fiddleford Mill

A longer walk through two neighbouring hamlets, mainly in the River Stour valley with views of Hambledon Hill (approx. 5.5 miles).

This is one of a series of circular walks from Sturminster Newton which take in the surrounding area of the Blackmore Vale. They are mainly on Public Rights of Way, with some on paths with access permitted by the landowners.

These walks are intended to encourage exploration and appreciation of the variety and beauty of the countryside in this locality, on foot. Cyclists are not permitted to ride on public footpaths and by law must give way to walkers and horseriders on bridleways.

When walking, please remember the Countryside Code, particularly:

- respect the local community, farmland and others enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control
- keep to the marked paths and cause no damage to crops, livestock or wildlife

Appropriate footwear is recommended, since wet or muddy conditions can be encountered at any time.

The Sturminster Newton Walkabouts have been developed by the Sturminster Newton Town Council in association with Dorset County Council and are available from Sturquest Community Office, Sturminster Library, the Museum and Sturminster Mill or can be downloaded from www.dorsetforyou.com/walkabouts

Further information can be obtained from the Town Council on 01258 475136.



Sturminster
Newton
Town Council



STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

Manston / Hammoon / Fiddleford Mill



MANSTON / HAMMOON / FIDDLEFORD MILL

A longer walk, through two neighbouring hamlets, mainly in the River Stour valley with striking views of Hambledon Hill and its magnificent Iron Age earthworks.

STARTING POINT

Station Road car park,
Sturminster Newton

DISTANCE

approximately
5.5 miles

All walks start from the Station Road car park (DT10 1BD).

This and the surrounding business premises are on the site of the former Railway Station. Opened in 1863, the old Somerset and Dorset Railway ran steam-hauled trains between Bournemouth and Bath.

Sections of the old railway line are now used as a walking, cycling and horse riding route which takes you through some picturesque villages of the Blackmore Vale. Known as the North Dorset Trailway, it features in many of the walks.

Sturminster Newton Museum & Mill Society



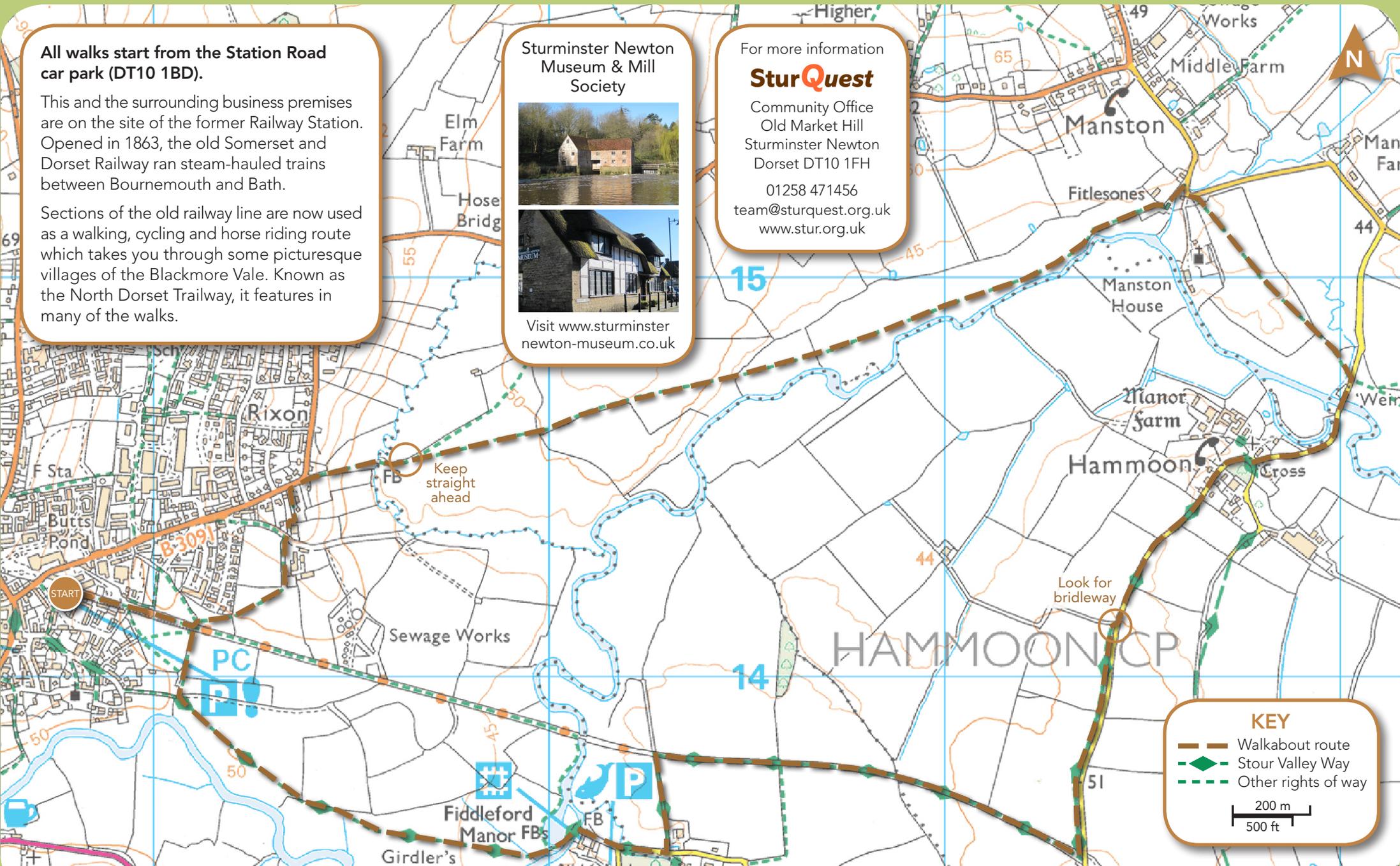
Visit www.sturminster-newton-museum.co.uk

For more information

SturQuest

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KEY

- Walkabout route
- Stour Valley Way
- Other rights of way

200 m
500 ft