

POINTS OF INTEREST

'Riverside', at the far end of the recreation ground, was the **home of Thomas Hardy** and his first wife Emma, between 1876 and 1878.



The island in the river, known as '**Bathing Island**', was once connected to the bank by a wooden bridge.



Most of **the mill** dates from the late 17th century. It has been restored to full working order and is open during the summer months. On the main door jamb are marks recording flood levels.



The **Town Bridge** was built in the late 15th century, and widened in the 17th. The arched causeway approach was added in the 18th century.



The nave and North and South aisles of **St Mary's Church** date back to 1486. Other parts were much altered by the restoration in 1825.



In the Market Place is the **White Hart**, a thatched building dated 1708, apparently surviving the fire in 1729, which destroyed most of the Town Centre.



Photo credits: John Lewis, Giles Nicholson, Jan Wardell

STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

WALKABOUT 4 Recreation Ground / Sturminster Newton Mill / Coach Road

A short picturesque walk with plenty of interest (approx. 1.5 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.



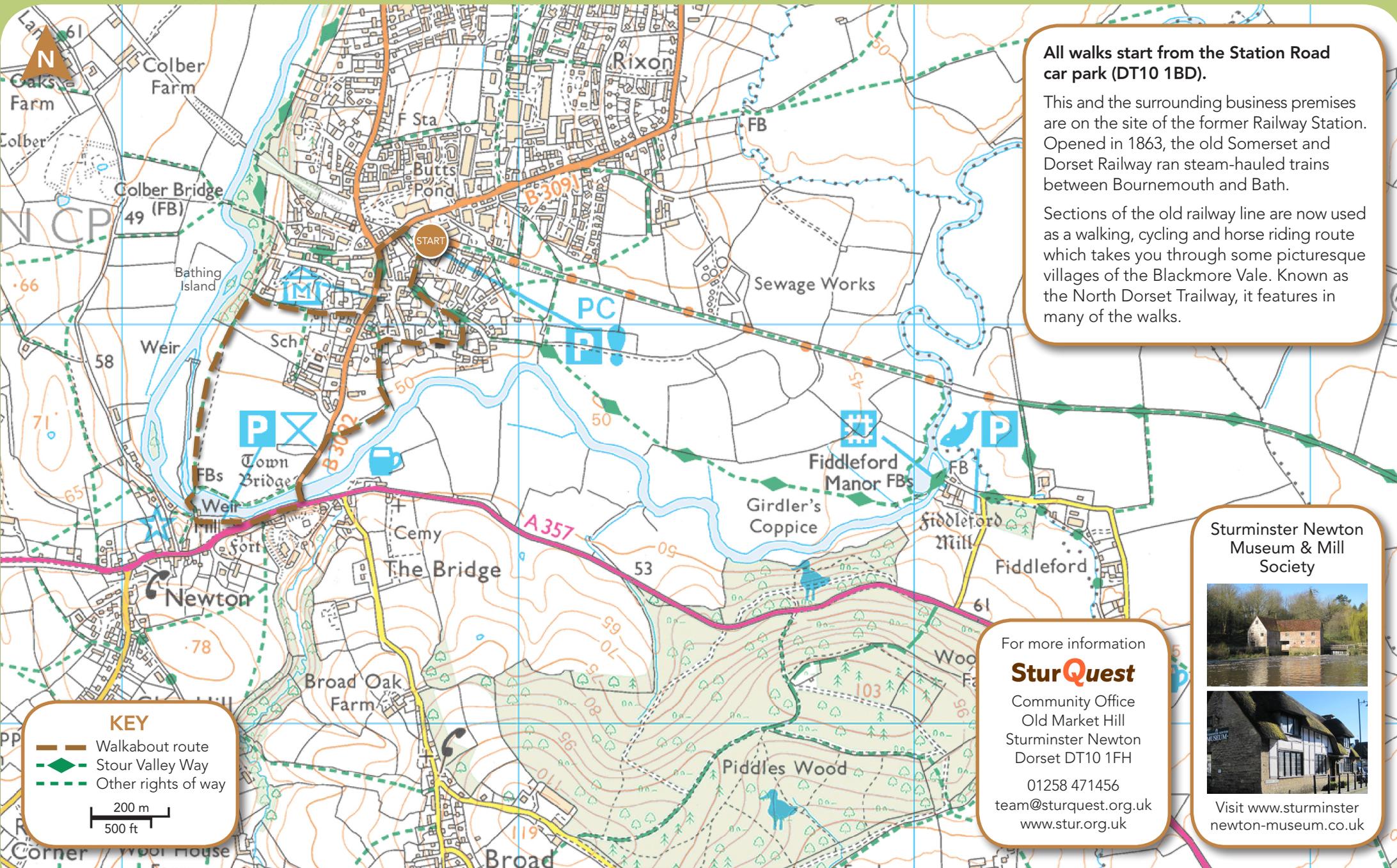
Sturminster
Newton
Town Council



STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

Recreation Ground /
Sturminster Newton Mill / Coach Road





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

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