

POINTS OF INTEREST

The walk starts along the long-distance '**Stour Valley Way**' which follows the river from its source at Stourhead to Christchurch Harbour.

Until 1966, **the arches** carried the single track of the old railway.

Cutt Mill (remains) would once have been an important and busy part of Hinton St Mary's village life – but now it is a haven of riverside tranquillity.

A huge oak tree beside Stalbridge Lane (cover photo) is known locally as the '**Barnes Oak**' after the Dorset poet who was raised in the area. This ancient lane, the Halter Path, can be very wet, even in dry spells.

'**Colber Bridge**' is named after a nearby settlement that has long since vanished. The 'J Conway 1841' inscribed in the ironwork was a clock-maker in the town who was paid £163 to design and build it.

Looking from the top of the Recreation Ground towards the river, **Bathing Island** can be seen.



Photo credits: John Lewis, Graham Rains, Jan Wardell

STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

WALKABOUT 5 River Stour / Cutt Mill / Stalbridge Lane

The walk follows the Stour river valley, crossing it at Cutt Mill and returning along the ancient lane linking Sturminster and Stalbridge (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

River Stour / Cutt Mill / Stalbridge Lane



RIVER STOUR / CUTT MILL / STALBRIDGE LANE

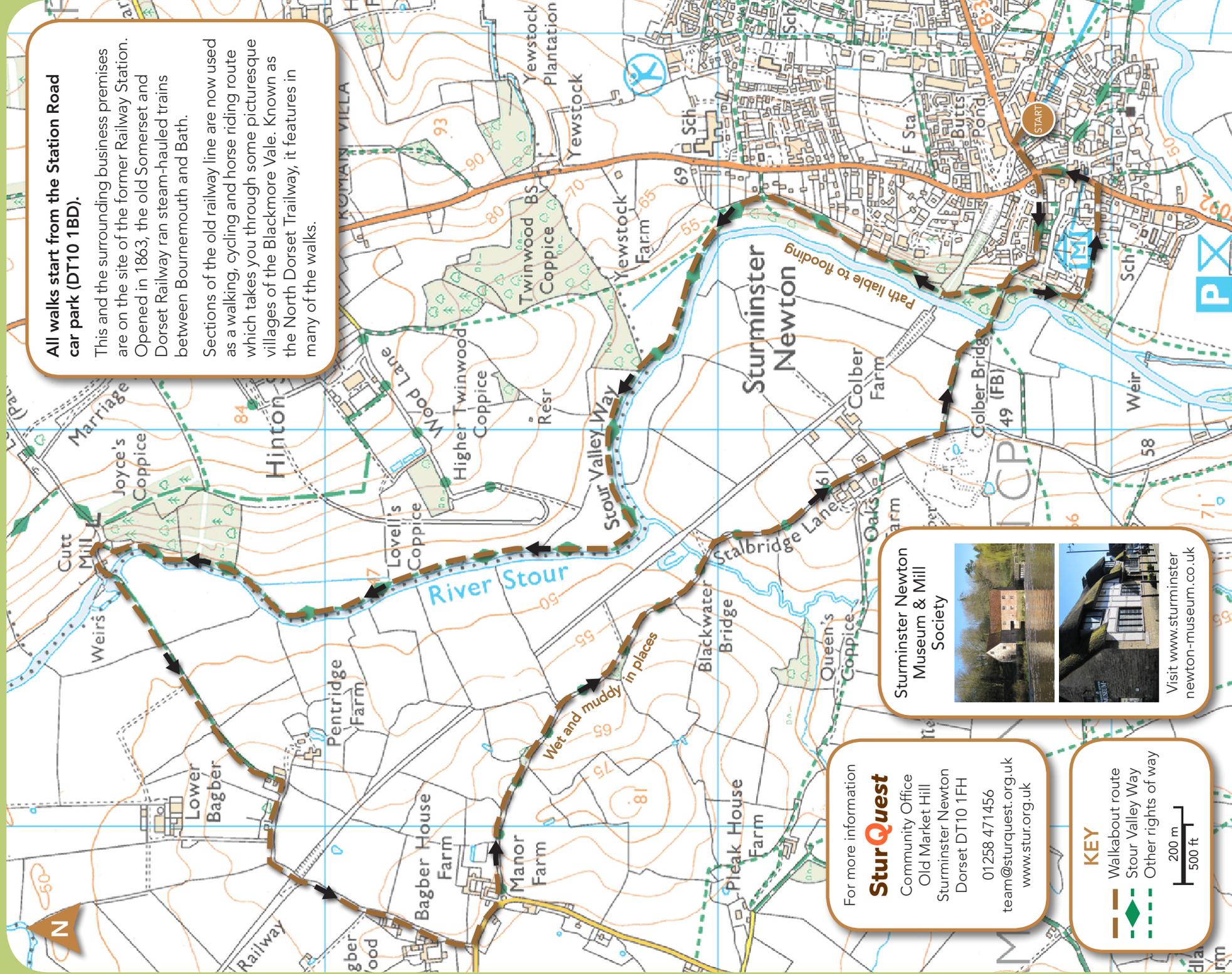
The walk follows the Stour river valley, crossing it at Cutt Mill and returning along the ancient lane linking Sturminster and Stalbridge.

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.

For more information
SturQuest
 Community Office
 Old Market Hill
 Sturminster Newton
 Dorset DT10 1FH
 01258 471456
 team@sturquest.org.uk
 www.stur.org.uk

KEY

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

200 m
500 ft

Sturminster Newton Museum & Mill Society



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

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