

# Sodbury Round

Distance: 5 miles

Walking Time: 2 1/2 hours

GRADE: Easy/Moderate 3

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The Sodbury Round explores the pleasant and attractive countryside between the settlements of Chipping Sodbury, Old Sodbury and Little Sodbury. There is an opportunity to visit three churches and walk along the Frome Valley Way to view the mosaic of pasture, woodland and historic features along the dramatic Cotswold escarpment.

## Maps:

**Explorer 167** Thornbury, Dursley & Yate  
1:25 000 scale

**Landranger 172** Bristol & Bath  
1:50 000 scale

**Grid Ref:** ST 727 823



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Services X42/342 provide an half-hourly service from Bristol to Chipping Sodbury, Wickwar Road Mondays to Saturdays and service 342 provides a two-hourly service on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Get off the bus at the Clock, High Street, Chipping Sodbury - ask the driver if you are unsure of the location. Return journeys are from the Clock.

Please check the above timetables by logging on to [www.firstgroup.com](http://www.firstgroup.com) or phone Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

## PUBLIC HOUSES EN ROUTE

There are a variety of pubs and cafes in Chipping Sodbury  
Dog Inn - Old Sodbury Tel. 01454 312006

## PUBLIC TOILETS

Wickwar Road Car Park - Chipping Sodbury

## CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This walk has been taken from a series produced jointly by the Rotary Club of Chipping Sodbury, the Ramblers Association, Country Landowners Association and Cotswolds Wardens. This has been supplemented by information provided by Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.



**traveline**  
public transport info  
0871 200 22 33

## PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

### St. John's Church, Chipping Sodbury

Dating to 1283, the original sections are the chancel arch and north chapel, dedicated to St Katherine, patron saint of weavers. The north aisle, Lady Chapel and south aisle were added in the 1400's, quickly followed by the 100ft tower. The six bells were cast in Gloucester in 1753 and were repaired and re-hung for the 700th anniversary celebrations in 1984.



St John the Baptist Church

### St John the Baptist, Old Sodbury

This is a Norman Church probably built between 1200 and 1225. Of the original building the tower, the double row of pillars and arches, the south door and the splayed windows at the end of the north and south aisles remain. The rest has been restored at various times. The pulpit, organ, much of the seating and many of the windows were installed in 1858 and one of the windows in the south aisle commemorated Canon Nash who carried out much of this work. The lynch gate is a war memorial for both wars.

### St Adelines Church, Little Sodbury

The church may take its name from a convent near the Normandy home of Bishop Liseaux who held the manor from the conquest until Edward II. Alternatively it could be a link with Flemish weavers whose patron saint she was. Nearby hamlets of Petty France and Dunkirk indicate they could have settled in this area.

The Church originally stood in the grounds of the Manor but was moved to its present position when it fell into disrepair. William Tyndale preached in it when he was Chaplain and tutor to Sir John Walsh in 1521. He moved to Germany two years later when his desire to have a bible in English embarrassed Sir John. He was executed for heresy in Antwerp in 1536 only two years before Henry VIII decreed that every church should have a bible in English.



View of the Fort Area near Little Sodbury Wood

### Long Distance Footpaths

The walk takes in sections of three long distance footpaths:

**Frome Valley Walkway** - an 18 mile long path that follows the River Frome from the Cotswolds Hills near Old Sodbury to the centre of Bristol where it joins the River Avon;

**Monarch's Way** - a long distance walk reputedly following the escape route of Charles II after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651;

**Jubilee Way** - created in 1985 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ramblers Association.



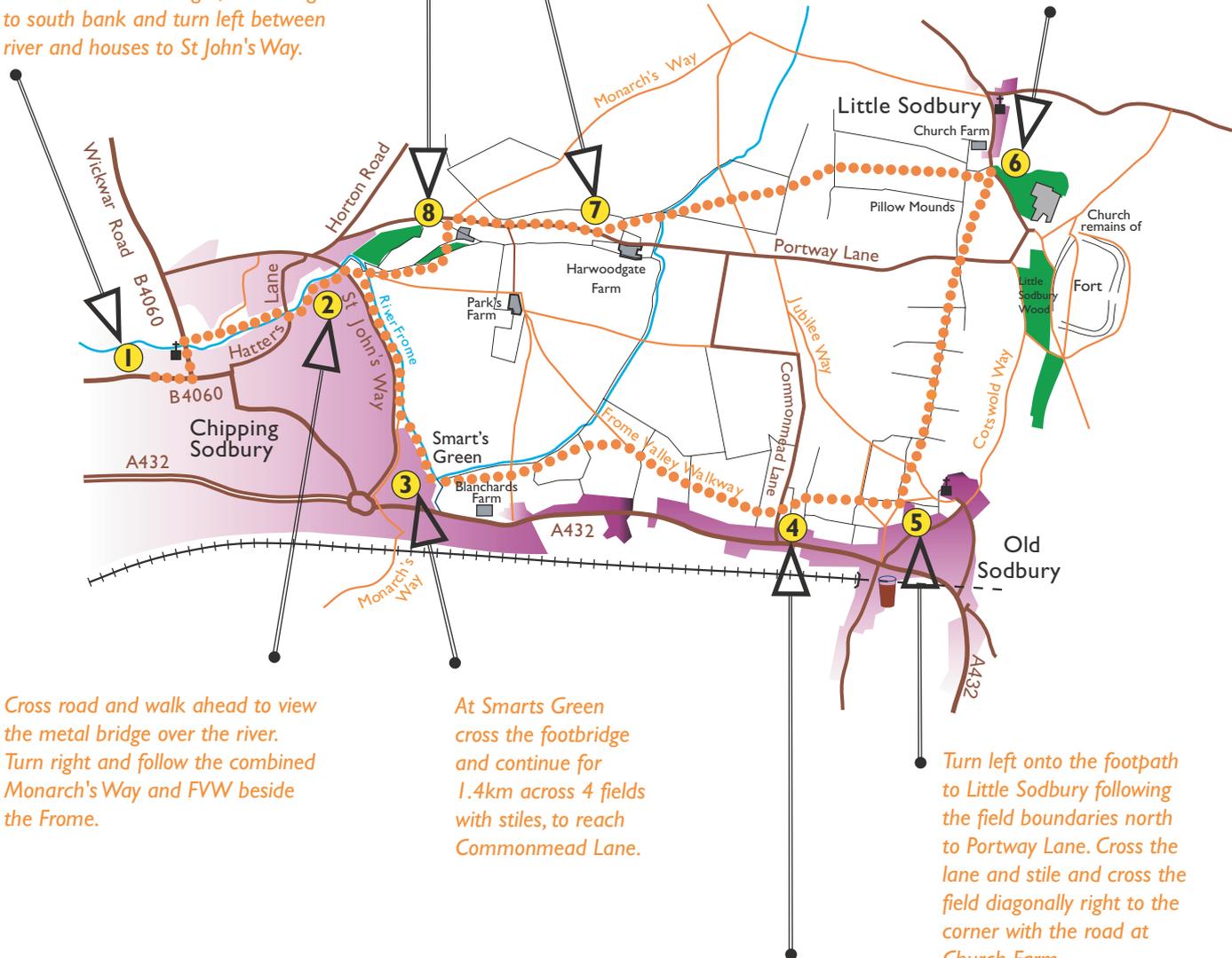
High Street at Chipping Sodbury

From the bus stop walk along High Street and turn left down Wickwar Road. Cross the road next to the car park (next to St. John's Church) to the footpath on the north bank of the River Frome. Follow the Frome Valley Way (FVW) footpath to reach Hatters Lane. Turn right, over bridge to south bank and turn left between river and houses to St John's Way.

Cross stile and walk south then west to the metal bridge over the Frome. Retrace your route back to St John's Church and the Clock bus stop on the High Street.

(You have the option here to cross the stile and walk along the road to St Adeline's Church, Little Sodbury). Walk west along the boundary wall to cross stile into the long field with pillow mounds continuing down centre to the far boundary stile. Turn half left across field to bridge and stiles, cross continuing SW to stile mid-boundary and ahead to far opposite field corner. Cross stile and walk along hedge boundary to stile, exit onto road.

Follow road west past Parks Farm drive to stile on left signed Monarchs Way.



Cross road and walk ahead to view the metal bridge over the river. Turn right and follow the combined Monarch's Way and FVW beside the Frome.

At Smarts Green cross the footbridge and continue for 1.4km across 4 fields with stiles, to reach Commonmead Lane.

Turn left onto the footpath to Little Sodbury following the field boundaries north to Portway Lane. Cross the lane and stile and cross the field diagonally right to the corner with the road at Church Farm.

Cross lane and take the footpath east across Jubilee Way, then follow boundary hedge to meet footpath junction at the corner of the field. (From here you can take a detour to visit St John the Baptist, Old Sodbury, and turn right down Cotswold Lane to visit the Dog Inn).

- Key**
-  public house
  -  circular walk
  -  other paths
  -  field boundary
  -  road
  -  waterway
  -  railway
  -  urban area
  -  woodland