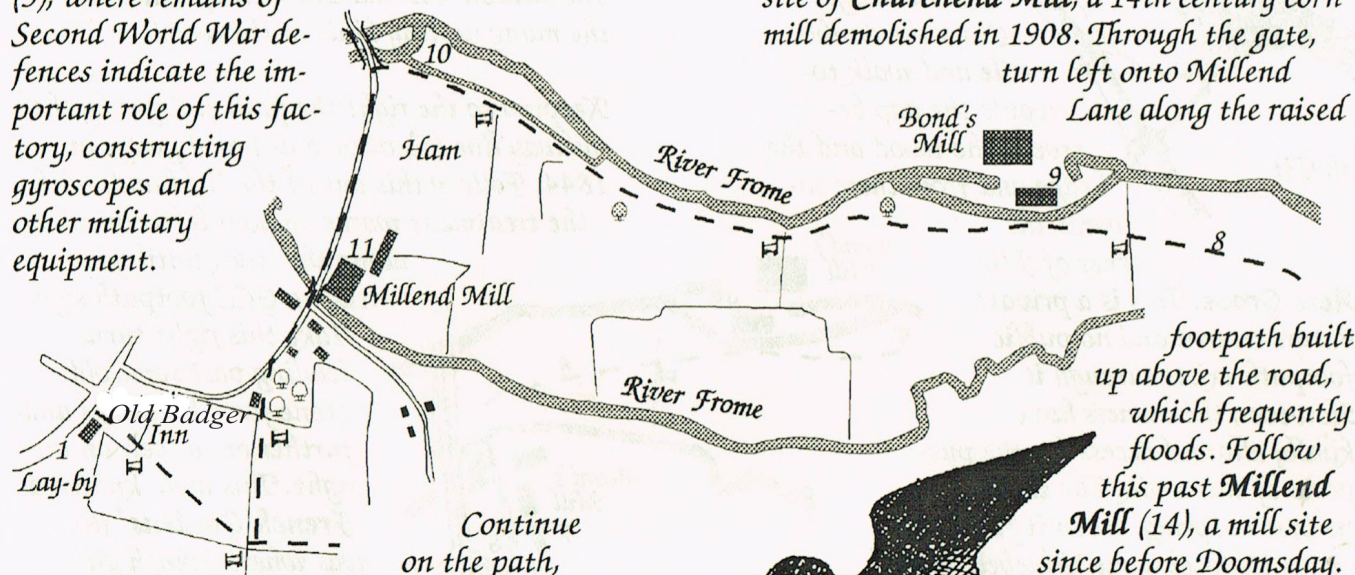


Green Sandpipers, which enjoy these damp conditions can often be seen here during the winter. Follow the path towards **Bonds Mill** (9), where remains of Second World War defences indicate the important role of this factory, constructing gyroscopes and other military equipment.



through the undulating ridge and furrow fields; the result of an ancient ploughing method. As you walk you may catch a glimpse of Eastington Park through the trees on your right.

Follow the path close to the river, home to **Dippers**. In the last meadow, the 'Ham', evidence of a drainage system and its location between the two strands of the Frome suggest that it was once deliberately flooded in winter. This technique increased the fertility of the soil and forced the rapid growth of grass in spring.



Dipper

On the right, you can see a weir where the river is joined by the remains of the **Kemnett**

Canal (10). Built in 1759, it was one of the earliest canals in Britain and was an attempt to link Stroud to the Severn. This is also the site of **Churchend Mill**, a 14th century corn mill demolished in 1908. Through the gate, turn left onto Millend

Lane along the raised

footpath built up above the road, which frequently floods. Follow this past **Millend Mill** (14), a mill site since before Doomsday. Continue along the road and up the hill, until you see a sign-posted footpath to the left. Take this path past the orchard,



Green Sandpiper

into the next field, and follow the old hedge, back to the second stile you crossed at the beginning of the walk.

Turn right here, across the field to the path which emerges by the side of the pub.

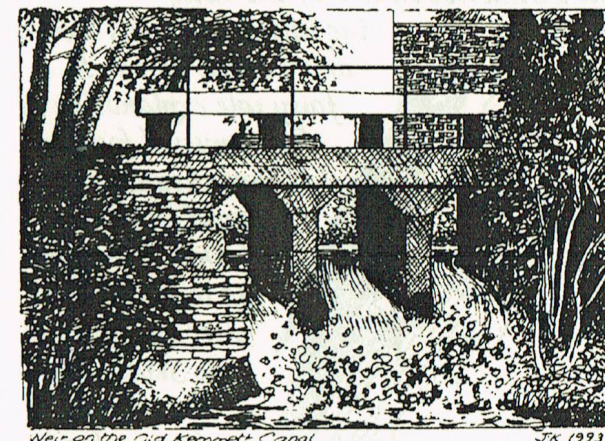


WALKS IN AND AROUND EASTINGTON

Walk 2

A circular walk from the Old Badger Inn

Duration : 1 ½ Hours



Weir on the Old Kemnett Canal

JK 1993

Produced by
Eastington Parish Map Group.

Park in the lay-by near the **Old Badger** (1). Walk down the footpath on the other side of the pub. This will bring you out into the first of three meadows which you cross in a straight line. When the grass is tall in July, walkers put up clouds of Meadow Brown Butterflies and may spot the rare Corky-fruited Water-dropwort, a plant which resembles a delicate Cow Parsley.

At the end of the third field, turn right over the stile, onto the tarmacked lane at **Cress Green** (2). At the small green, take the sign-posted footpath directly in front of you. Walk to the stile approximately 100m to the right of the barn, crossing the next field diagonally to your right (3). Here, there is the best view in the parish of the steep edge of the Cotswolds and the distinctive shapes of the outlying hills; Cam Long Down and Peaked Down. A

fairy tale explanation of these unusual features is that they were dropped by a vengeful Devil, attempting to flood Gloucester by damming the Severn with an enormous barrow-load of earth.



Marsh Tit

Turning abrupt left, over the stile keep close to the hedge.

Cross the double stile and walk towards the gap between the wood and the hedge and from there towards the

corner of **Five**

Acre Grove. This is a private nature reserve and no public footpath exists through it. However, the owners have kindly allowed access for the purposes of this walk. The wood is at its best in spring, when it fully deserves its local name 'Bluebell Wood'.

Enter the wood over the wooden stile

(4). You drop immediately into a dry ditch and then rise onto a bank; characteristic features of medieval manage-

ment. There would have been a high hedge on the bank, which, combined with the ditch, created an effective barrier to cattle or even deer which browse on young trees. Another indication of its great age, is the group of

Wild Service trees to your right as you enter. This species is unable to tolerate disturbance and therefore confined to ancient woodland. The **Marsh Tit** and **Tree Creeper** are two of the many nesting birds in the wood.

Keeping to the right the path emerges by the railway line (5), opened as broad gauge in 1844. Follow this out of the field and, with the treatment works on your left, continue along the track until you reach a GCC footpath sign.

Take this right turn, leading past some old stone farm buildings and further on, a weir on the right. This area, known as '**French Gardens**' (6), was where French girls once grew fruit for Stonehouse Court, much to the delight of the local young men. On the left are buildings associated with **Beards Mill** (7), a former woollen mill. At the end, the tall, narrow building was the Menderer's House, where defects in the cloth were repaired.

Cross the bridge and take the footpath through the gate immediately to your left. This is one of the raised paths (8), built to ensure that workers could travel between the mills when the fields were wet or flooded.



Tree Creeper