

15. Middle Ground

Distance about 4.5 miles, time about 2.5 hours, gentle slopes, a little mud in wet weather.

Leave the **car park** and turn right along High St towards Castle Street. After Borough Close take the next left into a lane by "**Rose Terrace**". Follow this lane for 400m, passing a stable, until you come to a stile on your left.

Cross the stile and go straight ahead, following the edge of the field. Ignore a stile left and continue to the corner of the field. Turn right for a few paces to find a stile and footbridge.

Turn left through a gate and look for a stile on your right. Follow the hedge for a few yards into the corner of the field for another stile into the next field. Continue along the hedge to a gate into a cart track. Pass farm buildings and look right for a stile at a gate. Follow the hedge uphill to the field's corner for another stile and continue uphill towards "**Ridgers Cottage**".

By the cottage turn left to **Penn Lane** and uphill right to a signpost, Go through a double stile. Bear right across pasture, through two gates to pass below a stable and around "**Sandpit Cottage**". After a small gate bear right to find a stile into the woods.

Follow the **Cotswolds Trail** past Beechwood Cottage (formerly "Kennels") and along a broad track round a bend. Ignore the CW's marker post on the right. Continue on the same level cart track to a gate, and then on along Lotts Lane, past "**The Lotts**" and "**The Knapp**". The track drops steeply down to join Broad Street in **Selsey West**.

Turn right uphill past "Stanley Hall" and also "West Lea". Just before "**The Old Club House**" on the right look for a signpost on the left by a gate. Follow the footpath down towards a large willow tree and stile. There is a footbridge over a brook. Continue diagonally (NW) across the field towards Redhill Farm until you meet a stile into a cart track. Cross this into the next field and follow the edge of the field to its corner. Bear right (NE) until you cross into the next field. Go straight ahead to a gate into another field. Pause to look right to appreciate fine parkland left by the Marlings. Continue downhill to a stile by a leylandii hedge around "**Stowe cottage**", formerly the lodge for the Marling's water bailiff.

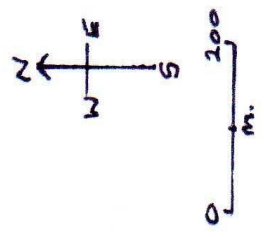
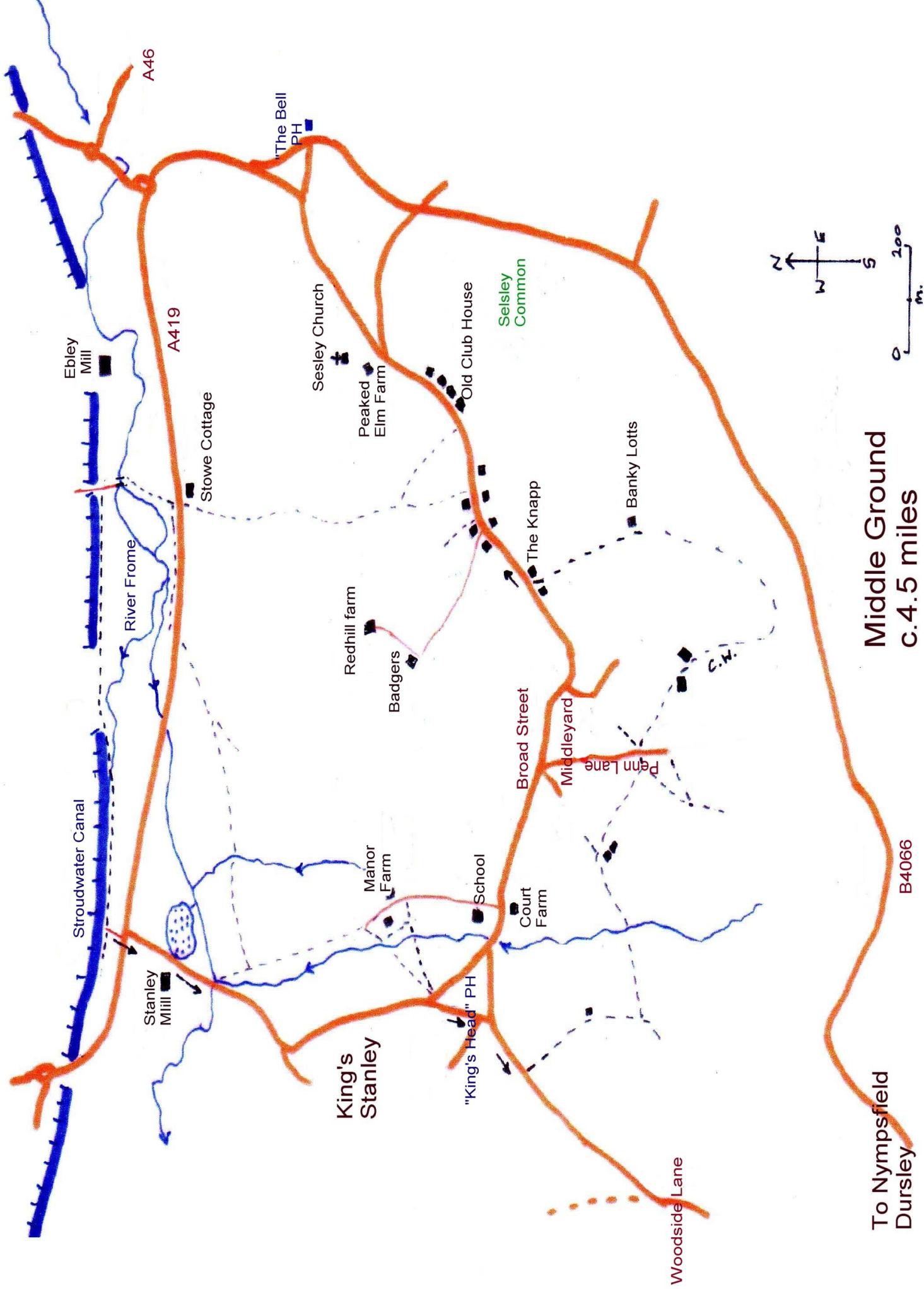
Cross the **A419** with care and decide:

Either continue ahead on a track (formerly a railway siding) across a field to a footbridge, up Bridge Road to the **towpath**, then left by the canal to **Ryeford Rd.** Turn left and follow the signs across the **A419** for the **Cotswold Way** back to Manor Farm.

Or: turn left along the **cycle track** and follow it to the traffic lights to cross the A419 to the CW.

Or: turn left along the **cycle track** and follow it for 250m to another stile. Turn left and cross the by-pass carefully to a stile into a field. Bear right (SW) to find a stile near the corner of the field. Continue to bear right across the field to the next stile approx. at the midpoint of the hedge. Now follow the edge of a large field across two brooks into the next field where you join the **Cotswold way**.

Follow the CW to a kissing gate by the gate to **Manor Farm**. After the kissing gate follow the track around Manor Farm. The slopes to the first footbridge may be slippery so continue to the second footbridge. Go up the steps and then around Marling Close to the "**King's Head**" or the **car park**.



Middle Ground
c.4.5 miles

To Nympsfield
Dursley