

6. Historical Walk (extended from D. Harrowin, C.V.W.)

Estimated time 3 hours, estimated distance 4 miles. Terrain varied, slopes, stiles, mud in bad weather

From the “**King’s Head**” PH. cross the road, cross the playing field and pass the MUGA to the waymark post. Go down the steps, cross the bridge to join the Cotswold Way at **Manor Farm**. Turn left, through kissing gates and across the fields to join the road by the bridge at Old Brook House. Choose:

Either: To see more historic buildings and the good work of canal restoration continue along the road past **Stanley Mill** on your left. Follow the road to the traffic lights. Cross over the A419 as signposted for the Cotswold Way. Take the pedestrian ramp into **Ryeford Road** as far as the canal. Turn right to follow **the towpath** along the canal to **Ebley Mill**, passing Nowhere Locks, the circular the weir, Oil Mills Bridge & Bridge House. Turn right around the mill. Cross a bridge with a good view of the weir. You may see kingfishers here. Continue right to rejoin the footpath over common land. The ground ahead may be wet. Aim for the old railway bridge which has both steps & a ramp up to the **cycle track**. Turn left for the pedestrian controlled lights to re-cross the **A419**.

Or: For a more rural walk, cross the bridge and turn right onto the footpath, which follows the **mill leat**. Follow the footpath beside the mill leat, over the footbridge, across a field, and over the A419 with care. Bear right across another field and footbridge, on through a meadow parallel to the **Stroudwater Canal** (opened 1779) to Bridge road. Turn right along the road, past Snow Mill & its sculptures. Cross the river & turn right onto a footpath. Follow “Lane’s Siding”, a dry track south towards the bypass to find a kissing gate onto the **cycle track**. Turn left, parallel to the A419, passing **Ebley Mill** in the distance. Follow the cycle track / Cotswold Way to the pedestrian crossing of the **A419**. The history of this area is in “Historical Notes & Memories of Old Ebley” by C. Harrison. The original Ebley Mill dates from 1299. Cloth was exported worldwide from Stroud & Red Indians were nicknamed “Stroudies” if seen wrapped in red blankets.

Across the A419 follow the footpath waymarker posts uphill, past the cricket pitch to a stile onto the road. Turn right and follow the road past **Selsley Church** with its Pre-Raphaelite features and unusual architecture.

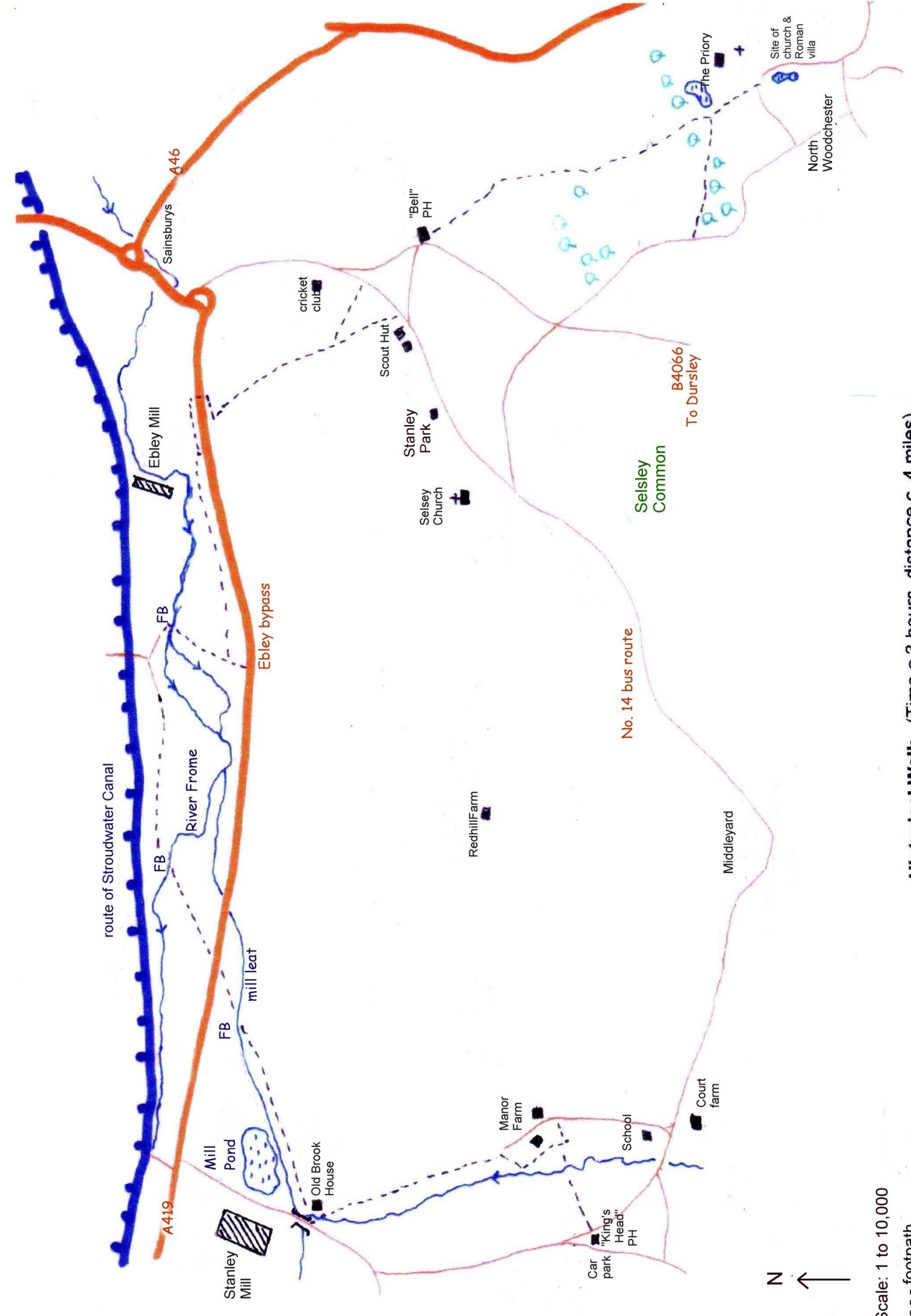
Turn left past the **War Memorial** along the Grove to the crossroads at the B4066.

Cross over into Water Lane. At the second set of woods join a footpath on the left to find a view of **the Priory**. Cross over the water into Woodchester Parish. Follow the footpath, through a kissing gate, onto a road, past **the Priory, the remains of a church** and the site where **the Roman mosaic Orpheus Pavement** is buried to preserve it. The Roman owner of such a mosaic must have been very wealthy and powerful.

(If you continue into Woodchester there is a shop in Selsley Road and refreshment is available at “the Ram” or the “Royal Oak”.)

Return the way you came, through the kissing gate, but now keeping close to the field boundary on your right. Cross the stream lower down than earlier & go through the wood. Continue uphill over cow pastures with stiles. Cross another stream into a bridleway to the “**The Bell**” public house.

Turn left along Bell Lane to the No.14 bus stop, opposite “The Green”, to return to King’s Stanley.



Historical Walk (Time c.3 hours, distance c. 4 miles)
 Based on a walk by D. Harrowin, CVW

Scale: 1 to 10,000

- - - footpath

FB Footbridge