

14. All Change... King's Stanley's old buildings.

This walk is almost entirely by road. The towpath and Lane's Siding can be a little muddy.

From the car park walk south past "The King's Head", the Tudor cottages** and Brittonia Cottage. Opposite is "The Old Post Office" and "Images" Hairdresser which has been a cycle shop and bakery**.

Turn towards Castle Street. Once this Upper Green area had the village pump and "The Old Crown Inn", behind which stood the Workhouse. Opposite the turn into Borough Close are two fine old buildings. Borough Farm gives its name to the new development and "Old Castle House" gives us Castle Street.

Return to "The King's Head". "The Red Lion" is still recognisable, but our stocks are no longer here. Turn right into Broad Street (originally "Back Lane"). Pass "Star cottage" and Shute Street and pause at the stream. In 1545 Thomas Twissel's will provided funds for a bridge at Blake Ford. Close by are Court Farm and the Pound. A short diversion into Pigg (Peck) Street takes you to Manor Farm, past a field called "The Puggis".

Continue along Broad Street to Middleyard, passing "The Nelson" on the right. A number of houses carry reminders that weavers lived here in the past. In Greencourt, on Selsley Hill, was "The Weavers Arms". There are some fine old houses along here from prosperous times. Walnut Tree House, Stanley Hall and Stanley House date to the 18th and 19th Century. There are fine views from here back to Middleyard.* Some properties are a little mysterious. Old Church Farm and its House do not seem to relate to a church, and Redhill Farm was called "Day House" in the 16th Century.

A really fine group of buildings are found at the top of the hill. Peaked ("Picked") Elm Farm, All Saints Church and Stanley Park** are worth a little research.

If you turn right along The Grove to the crossroads with Water Lane you can see the site of Selsley's "New Inn".** Turn left, past the cattle grid to "The Bell". Near "The Bell" is a farm named "Stanleyend", the early name for Selsley.

Continue downhill, past Bell Lane. "The Nag's Head" was here and also Selsley's old school. Poole Lane had the post office*, bypassed by the New Road.

Walk on, Past the cricket field to Sainsburys traffic island.

Follow the cycle track along the route of the "Dudbridge Donkey". At the second stile, opposite Stowe Cottage, turn right along "Lane's Siding" for a usually dry footpath to the bridge past Oil Mills (Snow Business). At the towpath look right for views of impressive buildings at Bridge House and Ebley Mill. Walk left, towards Stonehouse, past Holly Tree House and the unusual circular weir in its garden.

Continue, passing Ebley Wharf on the right. When you arrive at Nowhere there is a dramatic empty, double lock. Continue past the footbridge. On the north side of the canal is the former site of a former market garden, nursery and garden centre..

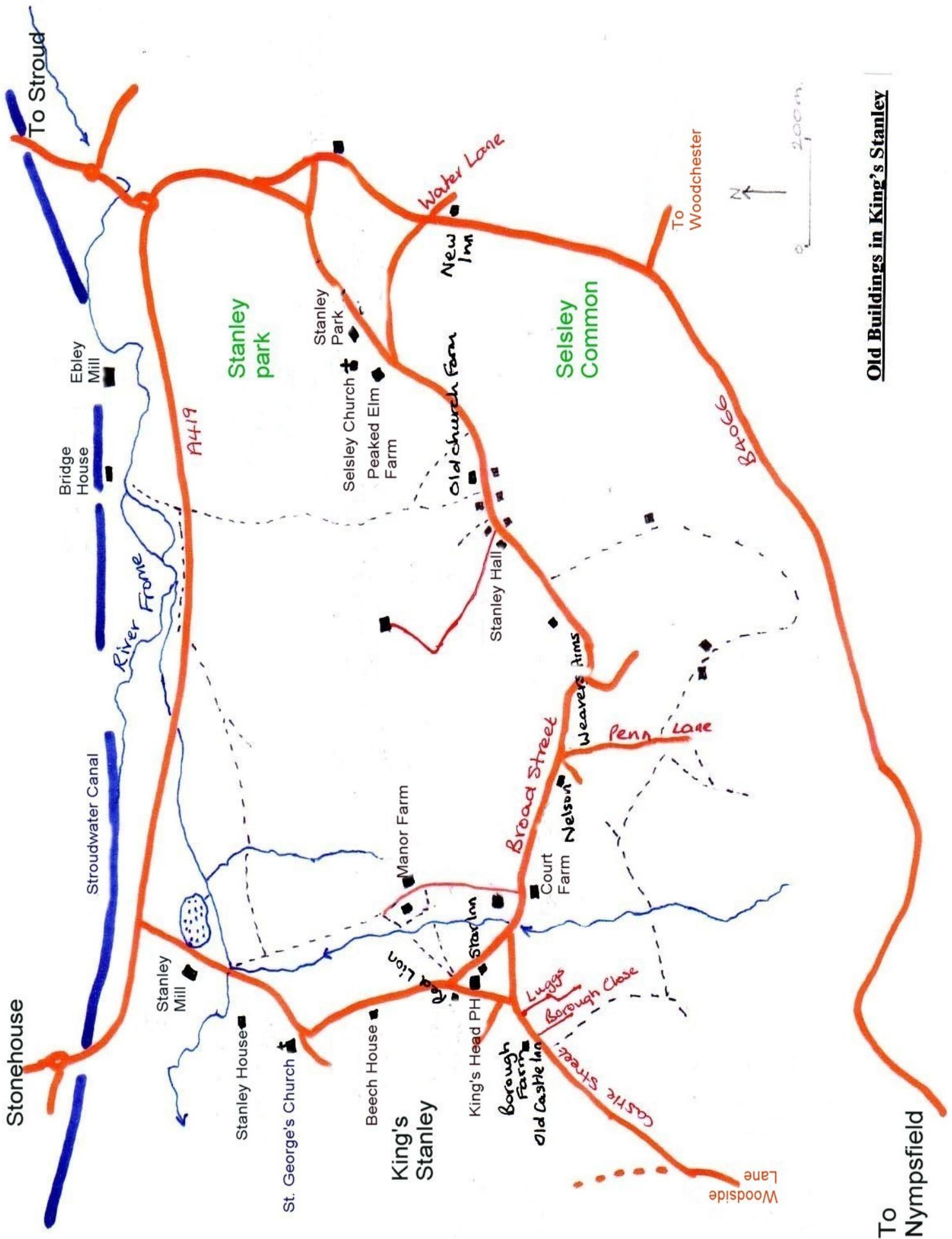
Beyond the bridge were Ryeford's coal pens, wharf and boat yard. At the bridge turn south, past the site of the old sawmill, and cross the A419 where the Midland Railway once ran. The kebab vendor is on the site of Ryeford's station platform. Walk south for King's Stanley, passing Stanley Mill**, Stanley House** and Saint George's Church**. Beech House was the home in 1777 of Anthony Keck, an architect, who worked to produce the Stroudwater Canal.

In Church Street, just before a terrace of red brick houses, was King's Stanley's "New Inn"***. Further along was a nursery of John Price & Son of Ryeford.

Ahead lie "The King's Head" and the car park.

* old photos of these places can be seen in "Old Selsley" by S. Bown

** old photos of these places can be seen in "Stonehouse, the Stanleys, and Selsley" by H.Beard



Old Buildings in King's Stanley

To Nympsfield