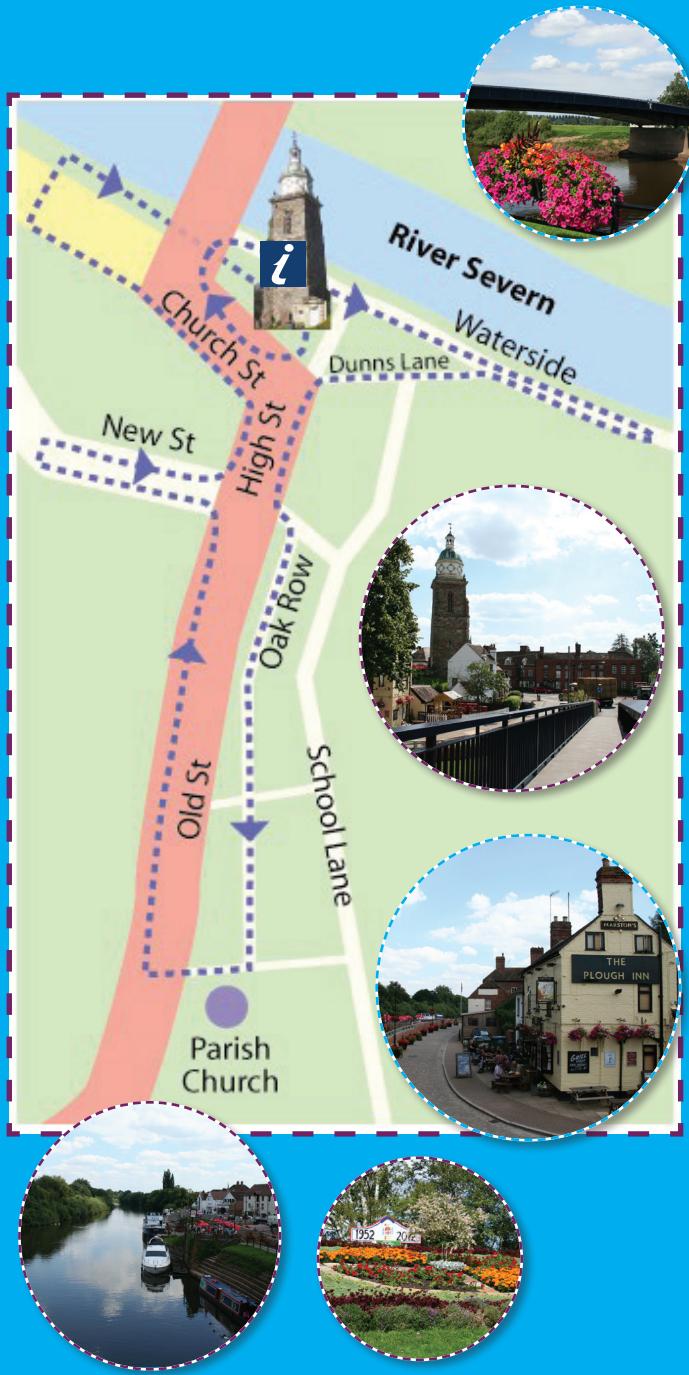


# Upton-upon-Severn TOWN TRAIL



## Publications

The following specialist guides will provide further interest and enjoyment along the Town Trail

**Upton's Pubs** – An account of the town's pubs of yesteryear 50p

**Old Bell Tower & Pepperpot**

Simple fact sheet 10p

**Other publications that may interest you!**

**Upton-upon-Severn** – An overview of the town's heritage and history with numerous photos – 32 pp (Upton TC) £2.50

**Walks around Upton** - A selection of short walks on Public Rights of Way £1.50

**Leaflets on specific subjects of local interest**

Battle of Upton Bridge 35p

The Cholera Epidemic 35p

The Pepperpot & Upton Church 35p

Upton & the River Severn 35p

The following “**Looking at Upton**” and “**Unknown Upton**” leaflets, dealing with natural aspects pertaining to Upton-upon-Severn, are available free of charge:

Birds - The Severn & The Ham

Fishing – Then & Now

The Ham and its Plants

A Mediaeval Town

Fruit and Drink

Cholera 1832

**All publications are obtainable from:**

The Tourist information Centre,

The Heritage Centre,

Upton-upon-Severn WR8 0HT

[upton.tic@malvernhills.gov.uk](mailto:upton.tic@malvernhills.gov.uk)

Phone: 01684 594200



50p

# Upton-upon-Severn TOWN TRAIL

A walk around our attractive and historic riverside town



The complete Trail can be walked in **90 minutes** or enjoyed in shorter section.

The route is considered suitable for everyone.

**Warning** - some of the route passes along narrow roads and beside steep banks of the river.

## We start from beneath the Old Church Tower, which dominates the town's skyline.

It is the town's oldest surviving building and has great value as a local landmark. The original 13th century church stood on this site.

The Upton Heritage Centre, with the Tourist Information Centre, is housed inside the Pepperpot, the tower's nickname, and is open to the public whenever the TIC is open. Notice the bust of Admiral Tennant on your LHS and the War Memorial Cross formerly the Market Cross.

### Return to the churchyard entrance.

**Turn R & follow the pavement with the wall of the churchyard on your RHS.**

### Turn R immediately before the road bridge

The present bridge was opened in 1940 and replaced earlier structures located down river.

### Continue along to the King's Head

The Severn is Britain's longest river and runs from Plynlimon in Wales to its estuary in the Bristol Channel

### Turn R

Notice on the wall (beyond the public toilets) three diamond-shaped plaques that record various flood water levels in 1852, 1886 and 1947. The 2007 flood reached the lowest point of the 1886 plaque.

Nowadays flood barriers, built in 2011-12, prevent the river from flooding the town.

**Turn back down the street** and stop by the King's Head. Look down over the wall to see the lower paved area, which is the site of the former swing bridge.

### Continue walking downstream.

Pause to study the interpretation panel which describes life in the river, along its banks and on The Ham.

### Join Dunns Lane and continue walking alongside Waterside until the road becomes a footpath.

This path across the Upper Ham offers a pleasant optional extension to the walk (look at the interpretation panel).

### Retrace your steps

There are a number of fine Georgian properties that reflect the prosperity that the river brought to the town. Glance R across the river to see the entrance to Upton Marina, on the site of the old brickworks, this reflects the river's 21st century primary use as a leisure facility.

### Bear L at the Swan Inn and Proceed along Dunns Lane

No 21 was once a pub (in the 1800s, Upton had dozens) as is evidenced by the bracket on the wall (look for more as you go from now on!). The Boatyard Cottage dates from 1784.

### Pause at 11, Dunns Lane

The cholera epidemic was caused by waterborne infection. Here there were no drains and raw sewage emptied into the Severn – the same river from which people obtained their 'fresh' water. The burial ground is situated off Cut Throat Lane (not on this walk).

### Turn L into High Street

Ye Olde Anchor Inn building dates back over four centuries. Continue along the pavement to pass under the impressive porch of the White Lion Hotel. 'The Inn' at Upton features in Henry Fielding's novel Tom Jones (1749) and is reputed to be the venue where the famous tragic actress Sarah Siddons (1755-1831) made her one public appearance in Upton. Other interesting Georgian buildings are on the other side of the road.

### Turn L into Court Street

The group of 17th c buildings on the left was Upton's Workhouse. Further ahead is the Old Court House which served as the County Court until 1867, when the court was moved to Malvern.

At the corner of Court St and School Lane there is a block of basalt beside the road, which was deposited here in the Ice Age.

### Keep R of the Old Court House. Go along Oak Row on RHS of the building ahead.

This was formerly the Royal Oak. Note the plaque on the R. commemorating John Wesley's visit. Note also the ornate wrought-iron bracket over the alley.

### Continue along the alley, passing concrete bollards & past the back of the library. Turn down the second alley on R opposite a long brick wall.

### Turn L to Upton Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul.

The church replaced the original church (at the start of the walk) and was consecrated in 1879. Look out for the 1947 flood mark on one of the small pillars off the pavement at the west end.

### Turn R along Old Street.

Old Street is narrow and slightly winding.

On the RHS is a passage adorned by a splendid lamp, which announces the Baptist Church that harks back to 1734.

The Roman Catholic Church of St Joseph (not visited on this walk) is situated in School Lane. Upton is strongly ecumenical and all three

churches work together. There are remains of two Wesleyan chapels. Many of the buildings along Old Street have been reverted to their original domestic use.

The Memorial Hall is set slightly back from the street and dates from 1832. In its time it has been market hall, magistrates' court with prison cells below, town hall and cinema. It now houses the Town Council office and is also used for public and social events and once again for the showing of films.

### Turn L into New Street

The Malvern Hills may be seen in the far distance. New Street contains various buildings of interest.

No 9 was formerly the Bell Inn and the upper storey bears the date 1668. Note also the old sign bracket.

Further down on the opposite side of the road is the former Wesleyan chapel built in 1891 now used as a repair garage.

Note the disused petrol pump!

Opposite is the old fire station, since converted to domestic use. Look closely for a plaque on the brick wall before the last group of houses on the LHS. The plaque refers to the nearby site of the town's ducking stool. This provided a form of punishment in which slanderous women were tied and ducked up and down in the none-too-clean water.

### Retrace your steps back to the cross roads and turn L along High Street towards the river, then turn L into Church Street.

The Tudor Museum contains a splendid collection of Upton artefacts and memorabilia. After it, with the urns on its parapet and its false upper floor windows, is the former Manor House.

### Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing

Walk through the Sensory Garden with its selection of fragrant plants.

### Pass under the bridge and along Riverside. At the Kings Head, turn R and return to the Pepperpot in the old churchyard.

The external interpretation panel describes the interesting buildings opposite. The Heritage Centre presents a fascinating account of the Battle of Upton, which preceded the end of the Civil War at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

### The Upton Town Trail is now completed

If you have any comments or suggestions, please inform the TIC.

*We do hope that you enjoyed the walk!*