

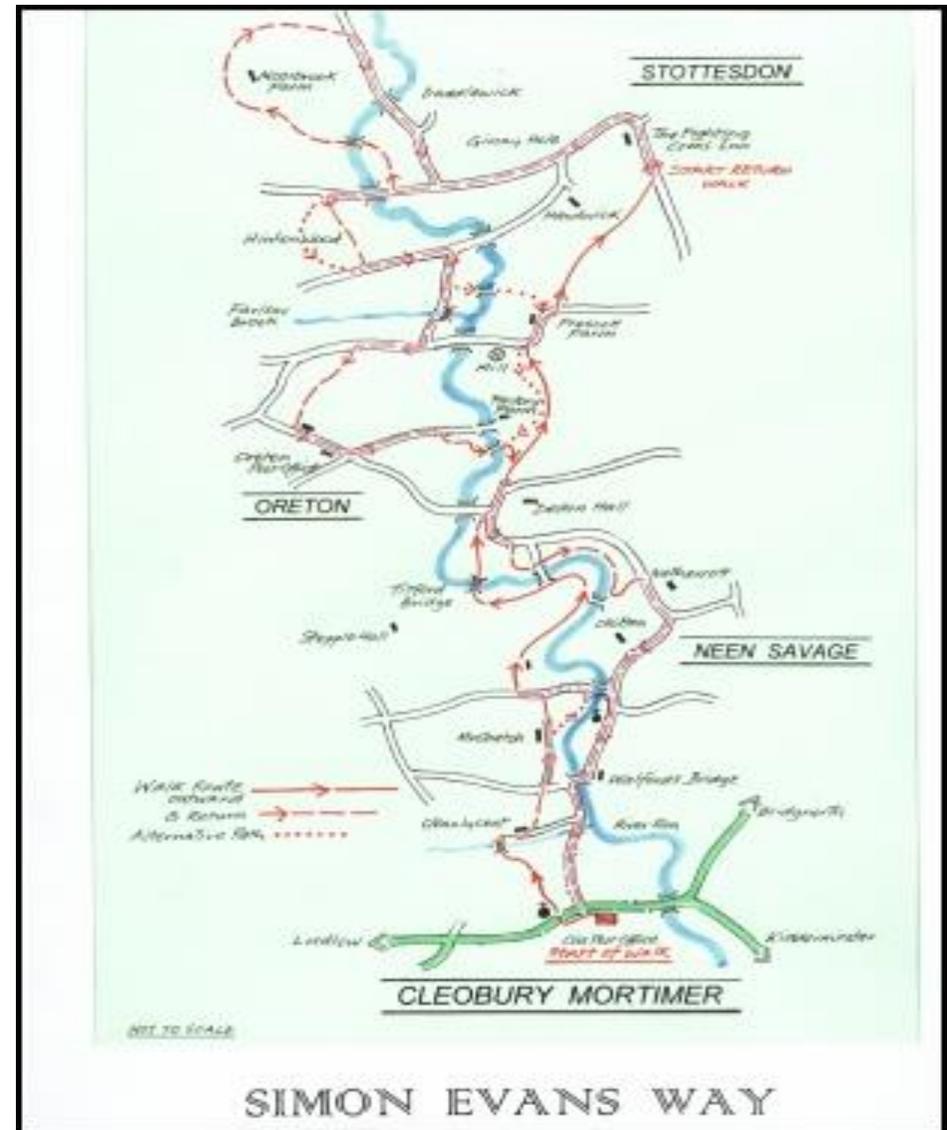
# The Simon Evans Way Southern Section Circular Walk

The full route of about 16 miles runs between Cleobury Mortimer and north of Stottesdon around a figure of eight pattern intersecting at **Detton Hall**. It was planned to reflect the way that Simon Evans, postman of Cleobury from 1926-1939, daily followed the valley of the river Rea.

The southern section is from Cleobury to Detton and back. The maps and routes below are an updated description of the route plus the original maps in the Simon Evans Way Guide published in 2006. The full guide, with original illustrations by John Tuck, is available for £2 inc. postage from CMFA by clicking Contact us on the website.

A Geological Guide by Prof. Brian Wilkinson is also available to download.

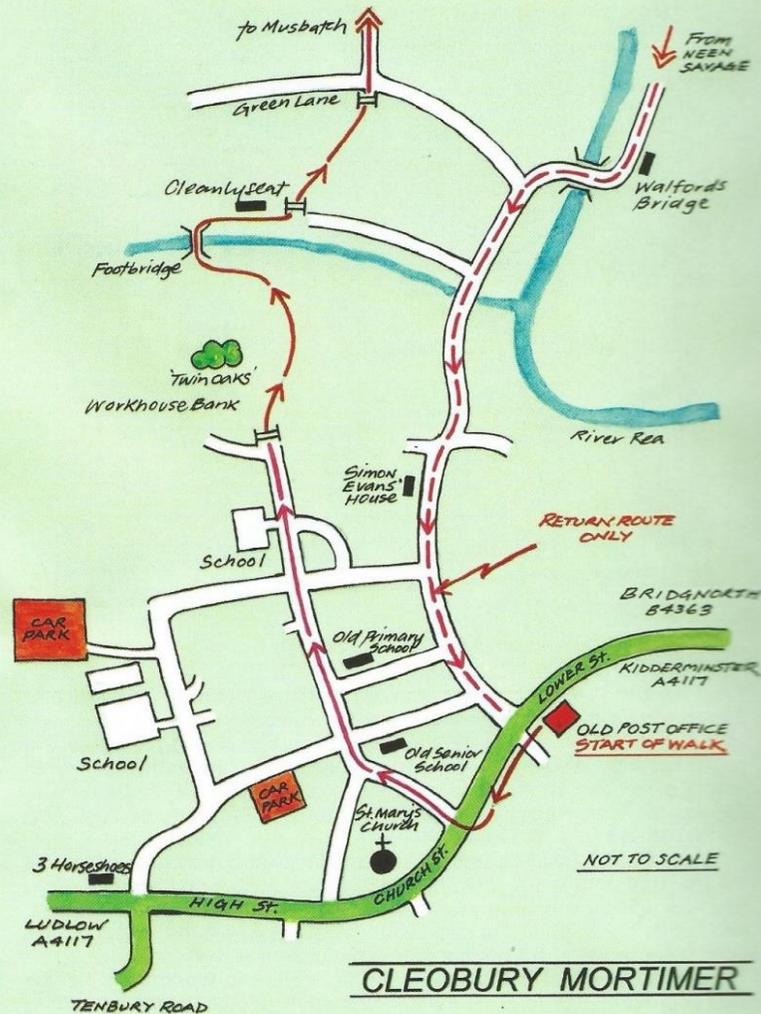
The full guide is dedicated to Adrian Pearce, founding member of the Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association, who shared Simon Evans' great love of the River Rea countryside.



Old Post Office

MAP 1

to Musbatch



## SIMON EVANS WAY

### OLD POST OFFICE TO MUSBATCH

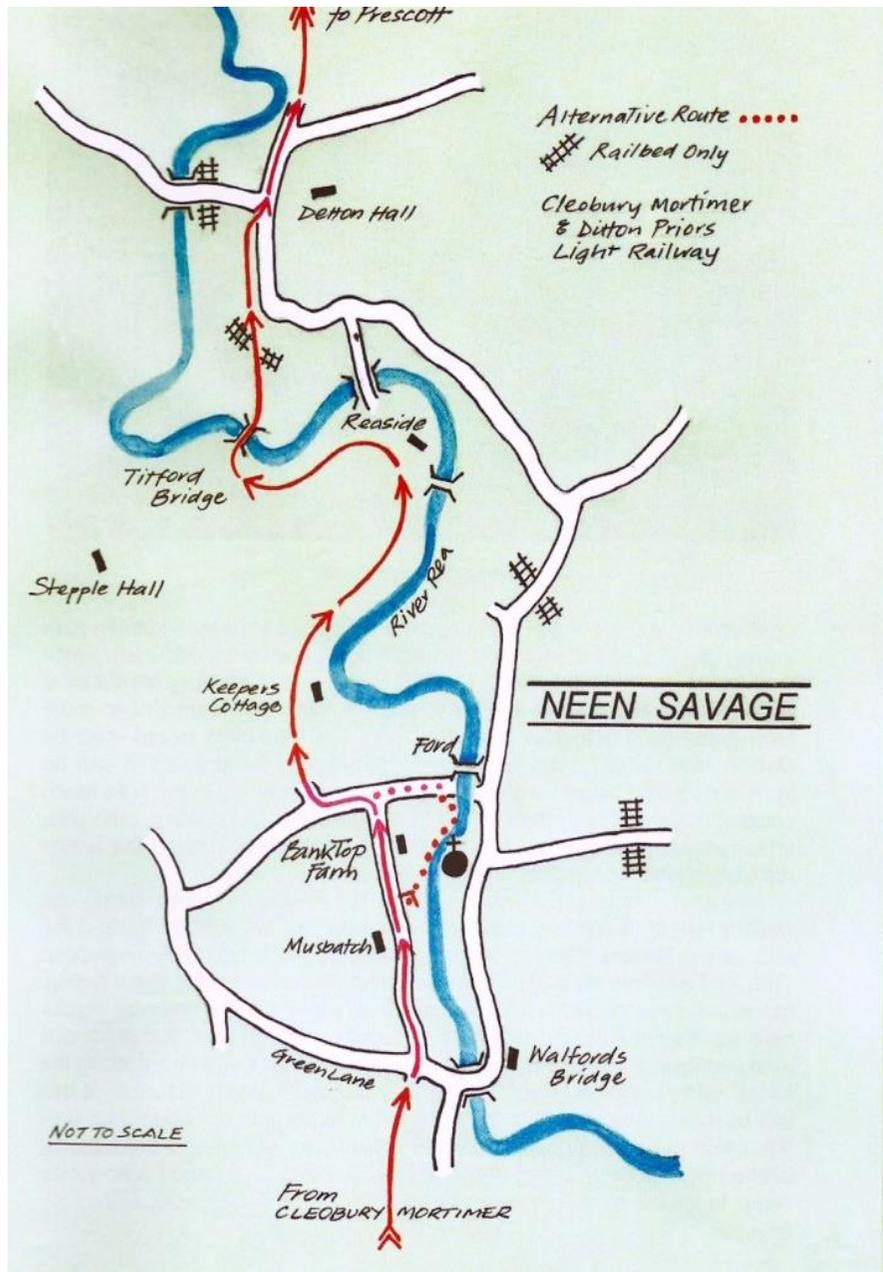
**START** at the Old Post Office<sup>1</sup> in Lower Street (note Simon Evans plaque). Walk up the road to **The Wells**. Then cross the road and go ahead through **St Mary's Church** churchyard with the church on your left to pass between the remains of the moat of **Cleobury Castle** on your left and the former **Lacon Childe School** (1742) on your right.

Keep straight ahead, passing the **old primary school** (note the inscription to a well-loved headmaster) and further on the playground of the new primary school on your left. Go straight on through a kissing gate. At this point there used to be a pub for many years which served the needs of the foreign workers as they journeyed between the town and the **Workhouse** located until after WWII at the base of the slope ahead. Now go forward and bear right just before the twin oaks<sup>2</sup>, down the field of **Workhouse Bank** gradually moving towards the hedge.

At bottom of the field, cross the footbridge<sup>3</sup> over a stream entering the parish of **Neen Savage**. Turn right and follow the track past **Cleanlyseat Farm** (pronounced 'Clanly seat') on your left. In the corner by the farm buildings go through kissing gate, turn left and follow the hedge through gate past house out onto **Green Lane**. Follow the sign posted track opposite for about 500m to pass **Musbatch Farm** on your left.

(Please note that superscript numbers refer to illustrations by **John Tuck** in the gallery section of the original printed guide)

## MUSBATCH TO DETTON HALL

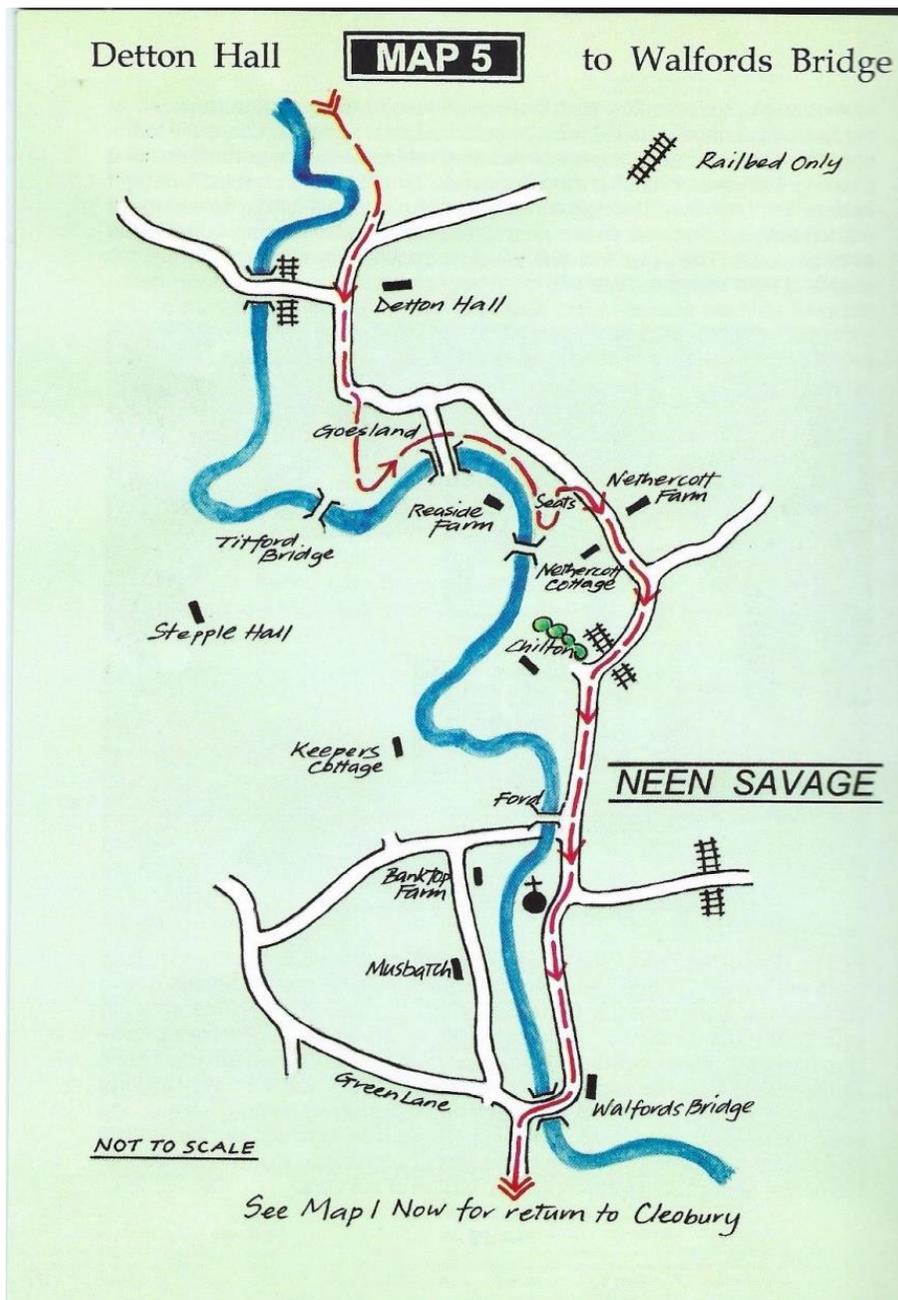


At **Musbatch Farm** go forward across a grassy path to gate onto bridleway\* uphill passing **Bank Top Farm** and ahead downhill to the road. \* Bridleway is **Jack Mytton Way** often muddy. Instead you can cross the stile on right down through the wood, cross further stile to river edge and across the fields to exit on road near **Neen Savage Ford**<sup>4</sup> Go back up the road to first left signposted **Bank Top farm**.

Walk left for about 200m, until the first track on your right. Follow this until you come to **Keeper's Cottage** on your right. Go through the gate then immediately right through a smaller gate onto *permissive* path alongside **Keeper's Cottage** and down to the river bank. Turn left to follow the bank until a stile ahead to your left. Soon after cross a small plank footbridge and follow the plank fence near the river's edge to an **iron footbridge** (which you pass again on the return walk).

Turn uphill left to follow the hedge and go through farm gate on right. to your right. Through next gate onto driveway of historic **Reaside Farm** and follow round the pond to further gate on left out onto muddy track. Follow hedge to go through first gate with fingerpost. Keep ahead across two fields to gate turning right to rejoin the **Jack Mytton** bridleway. (The **ancient cartway track** on right has almost been consumed by the hedge boundary).

Follow the well-trodden path to cross **Tittford Bridge** with dismount steps either side. Go forward uphill crossing the track bed of former **Cleobury Mortimer & Ditton Priors Light Railway**. Pass through three open gates to come out onto road near **Little Detton** with converted barns. The chimneys of **Detton Hall**<sup>5</sup> - a Grade II\* listed 16th-century farmhouse are just visible but a better view can be seen by going up the road around to the right.



From the **Detton** T junction, follow the road down to **iron kissing gate**<sup>6</sup> on blind right hand bend! Go through up well-marked path to emerge through a gate at **Goesland** cottage and outbuildings. Go left across private yard making for farm gate beside work shed. Follow the waymark posts through the orchard to cross the old **CMDPLR** line (note: old steam driven sawmill on left). Take gate into field, looking for fingerpost down to far left. Go directly ahead to follow river bank to your left crossing stream tributary to river Rea. Cross road to double-step stile beside a gate to follow the riverbank for some distance. Cross bridge beside a weir (look up to fine **CMDPLR** bridge). Continue to the **iron footbridge** (passed on outward route).

Two routes lead back to Cleobury: (i)**Via Chilton:** Go straight ahead through copse to cross small stream, with care. Go uphill to double stile across field to gate and path towards driveway bounded by mature Corsican pines with good views across to the Clee Hills and clear site of **Chilton** house.

**Via Nethercott:** left after the bridge track indentation of an old track, ford access to **Reaside Farm until 1902**. Follow *permissive path* for a short distance around hill edge. At the boundary of field ahead, across **CMDPLR**, head for line of trees off left, then up the field to the hedge corner to go through farm gate onto paved lane. Here is spectacular view across to **Stepple Hall Farm** framed by the **Clee Hills**. Go ahead past **Nethercott Farm** on left and **Nethercott Cottage** on right to a junction. Take right fork to walk gently downhill to **Chilton**.

Go out past driveway posts onto road downhill to **Neen Savage Ford**. Follow road uphill past **St Mary's Church and Village Hall** on left. At right fork follow dirt track to a footbridge to cottage beside **Walford's Bridge**<sup>7</sup>. Go across, left along road up steep **Ron Hill**. At top the house on the right with the lions on the gate posts, was built by **Simon Evans**. He lived here with his new wife from 1938-40, his last years in Cleobury Mortimer. Follow the road down **The Hurst** to the T-junction with **High Street** to the **Old Post Office** opposite, with **plaque**<sup>8</sup> over the door, where your walk started.