



Photo: Wildstock

## A Living Landscape

In the area surrounding Chipping Sodbury there are many other nature rich areas to explore, including the Ridge Wood local nature reserve, (ridge-wood.org.uk), the open grasslands of Sodbury Common, Tylers Field with its fantastic views across to the Severn estuary and the extensive Frome Valley Walkway (fromewalkway.org.uk).

The Frome Valley creates an important green corridor through rural South Gloucestershire and the dense housing of northeast Bristol. The parks, woodlands, meadows and waterways provide a valuable environment for people and wildlife, connecting communities and open spaces. Notable wildlife to look out for includes kingfishers, grey wagtails, dippers, bats, and otters.



# Avon Wildlife Trust

**Avon Wildlife Trust is the largest local charity working to protect wildlife in the West of England area.**

The Trust is supported by a membership of 17,000 people, and takes an innovative approach to wildlife recovery on a landscape scale, to increase biodiversity in the wider environment.

With more than 800 volunteers, Avon Wildlife Trust manages 36 nature reserves, from nationally important salt marshes and wetlands to wildflower grasslands, ancient woodlands and Iron Age forts. It inspires lifelong learning through enjoyment and access to the natural environment, in both urban and rural areas, working in partnership with public authorities, landowners, schools and colleges, businesses, local people and the media.

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)



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@avonwt



Photo: Amy Lewis



## The Frances Blandford Nature Walk



Registered Charity No. 280422

Frances Mary Blandford was born in Bristol in 1922 and lived in this area for most of her life. She was a professional librarian and a woman of many talents. An international authority on the history of the Moravian Church, Frances also had a deep interest in astronomy, music and local history. However, throughout her life, one of her greatest interests was the countryside and its conservation. Frances was a founder committee member of Avon Wildlife Trust's local Southold Group and spent much of her leisure time out bird watching or just walking in the countryside. On her passing she kindly left a legacy to Avon Wildlife Trust, some of which has been used to create this leaflet so that the local community can continue to enjoy the wildlife she so loved.

## Frances Blandford



Photo: Oliver Smart

in bramble, burrows, claw marks on banks or trees, broken branches or chewed leaves. Most importantly, take time to stop and listen out for bird calls, rustling leaves, bees buzzing and water splashing, to help you spot those elusive species.

Many of our native species are shy, secretive, nocturnal or well camouflaged so it's not always easy to see the wealth of wildlife around us. Keep an eye out for tell tale signs such as footprints, droppings, trampled tracks through the undergrowth, fur caught



Photo: Oliver Smart

Birthplace of J.K. Rowling, the medieval market town of Chipping Sodbury was designated as a Conservation Area in November 1975 in recognition of its special architectural and historic character and appearance. The wide, bustling market street supports a thriving community with regular festivals, events and celebrations. The surrounding area provides a mosaic of habitats, creating homes for a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Hedges, trees, gardens, road verges, parks, railway lines, ponds and streams provide corridors across the landscape which many species use to feed, reproduce and shelter. Taken as a whole connected habitat, the urban and rural landscapes can combine to provide an integrated environment for our birds, mammals and invertebrates to travel through and thrive.

## Chipping Sodbury

Whilst you are on the walk please help us to maintain the area for the benefit of wildlife and people, take nothing but photos and leave nothing but footprints. Remember to wear appropriate clothing, some parts of the walk can get flooded and muddy.

**How to get there**  
 Bus: The X46, X47, 47 buses all travel from Bristol City centre to Chipping Sodbury  
 Car: There is free parking by the Waitrose off Wickwar Road. You can start the walk from here.



The Frances Blandford nature trail takes you on a journey through a variety of habitats; travelling along the river, across open grassland, past hedgerows, orchards and through Jubilee Park. There are optional extended routes through the Ridings and Ridge Woods Nature Reserve. Allow about 45 minutes to walk the circular route and look out for a variety of wildlife sculptures along the route, created by local sculptor Andy O'Neill...

## Practical information

South Gloucestershire Council provide a series of leaflets for walks around the area, which are available from their website - southglos.gov.uk