



Follow the river downstream from Pill, across the salt marsh, and under the M5 bridge and find yourself in a landscape with a character quite different from any other position on the River Avon. You're definitely somewhere else.

Here are wide open spaces. The bridge, warehouses, pylons, wind turbines and cranes are all on a massive scale. Beyond the mouth of the river you can see across the Bristol Channel to the hills of Wales.

Beyond the bridge the footpath runs on top of the Old Sea Bank. From the path you might hear wrens, reed warblers or whitethroats singing in the blackthorn hedges or reed beds. The mud banks and muddy shore uncovered by the outgoing tide are important feeding grounds for wading birds – there's a resident flock of redshank and the piping calls of oystercatchers and curlew can be heard.

**Follow the river downstream ...**

The Longshore and the meadows on which the docks and motorway were built also played a large role in the lives of the local community. It is remembered as a favoured place for play, courting and foraging – a good place to find mushrooms and excellent blackberries.

Older people in the villages have memories and stories about this area before it became a part of the port – but the docks, on both sides of the river, are places where many local people work and are also a part of the unfolding history of the area.

Local landmarks - we should know more about them!



The unmistakable sign of spring - delicate white blossom on blackthorn. Before the development of the Portbury Docks the path continued inland to Sheephouse Farm and joined Marsh Lane. But now the path is curtailed by the perimeter fence of the port.

The Pill Longshore is a part of the village and should not be forgotten.

In the winter of 2008 the footpath on top of the Old Sea Bank was cleared and could be used again.

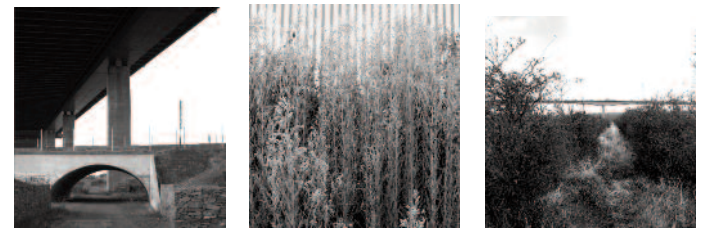
The path has been renovated and is maintained by the Pill & Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council Footpaths Group.

In 2010 funding was granted by Yansec and the Bristol Port Company to install a seat and an interpretation board at the end of the path to create a destination and a place to rest.

The board stand and seat were designed by Peter Milner and Steve Joyce and constructed by Steve Joyce.

This leaflet funded by the Community Forum.

If you take a walk along the Old Sea Bank please be aware that the ground is uneven and it is best done on a day when the grass is dry or boots and trousers can get soaked.



## the PILL LONGSHORE and the old Sea Bank





The estuary mud and sand is full of life - worms and molluscs - food for hungry birds.

Birds such as Oystercatchers, Shelduck, Redshank and Curlew are regular feeders on the mud banks at the mouth of the River Avon.

The Bristol Channel has the second highest tides in the world - lots of exposed mud and sand at low water.

Noisy Peregrine use the tall dock buildings as look out posts - they can sound like a yowling cat.

Winter spectacle - thousands of blackheaded gulls commuting down river to their evening roost.

Kestrel hunting voles and mice in the grassland along the river's edge.

Resident flock of Redshank here

Shelduck

Curlew

Jackdaws and pigeons roost beneath the M5 bridge

RIVER AVON

Roebuck seen eating hawthorn berries here, August 2008

Very fine blackberries to be found along here.

but look out along here for smaller birds - Reed warblers and Sedge warblers in the reedbeds and Whitethroats (summer) and Stonechats (autumn) in the bushes.

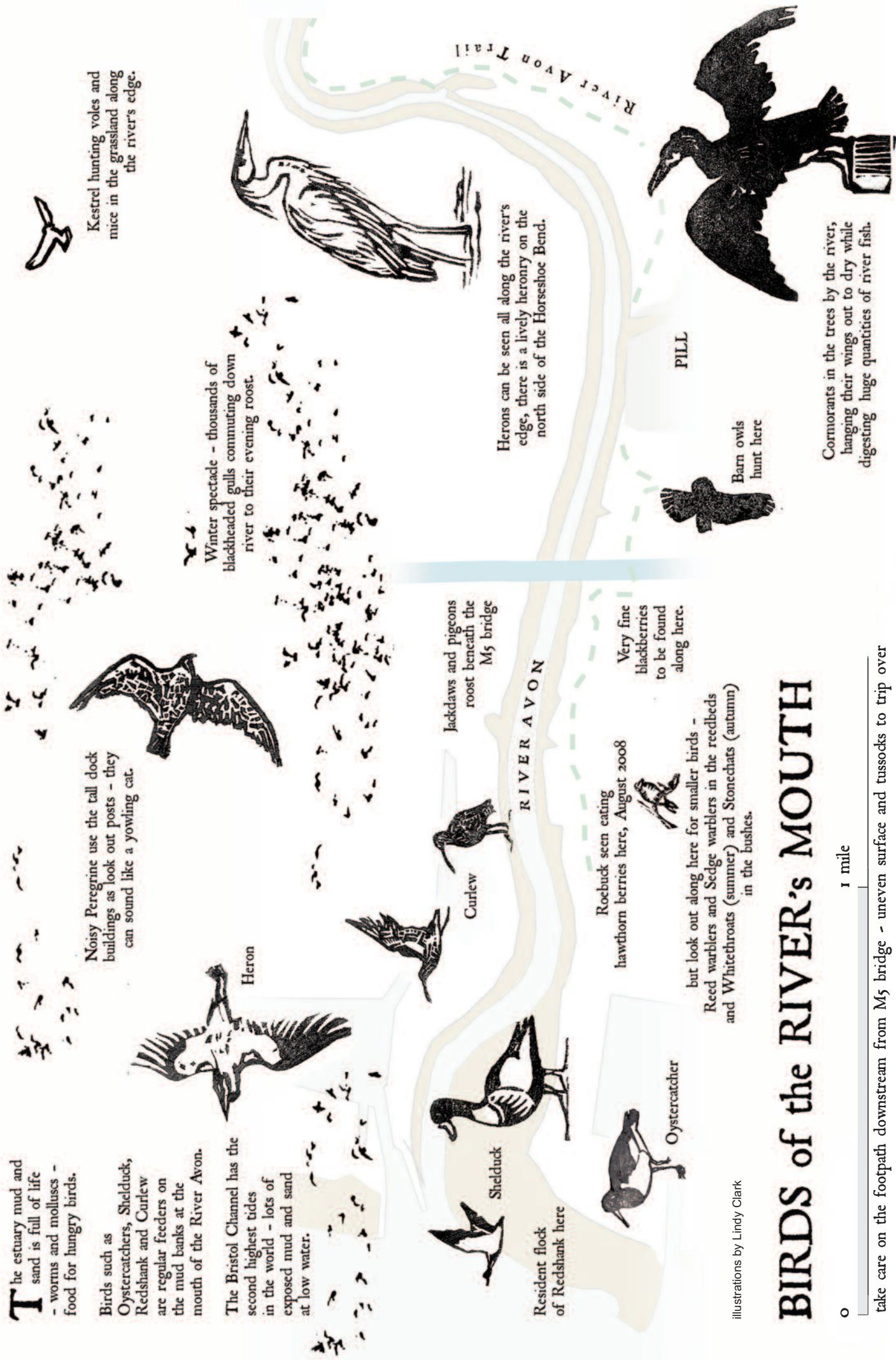
Oystercatcher

illustrations by Lindy Clark

# BIRDS of the RIVER'S MOUTH

0 1 mile

take care on the footpath downstream from M5 bridge - uneven surface and tussocks to trip over



Heron can be seen all along the river's edge, there is a lively heronry on the north side of the Horseshoe Bend.

Barn owls hunt here

Cormorants in the trees by the river, hanging their wings out to dry while digesting huge quantities of river fish.

PILL

RIVER AVON TRAIL