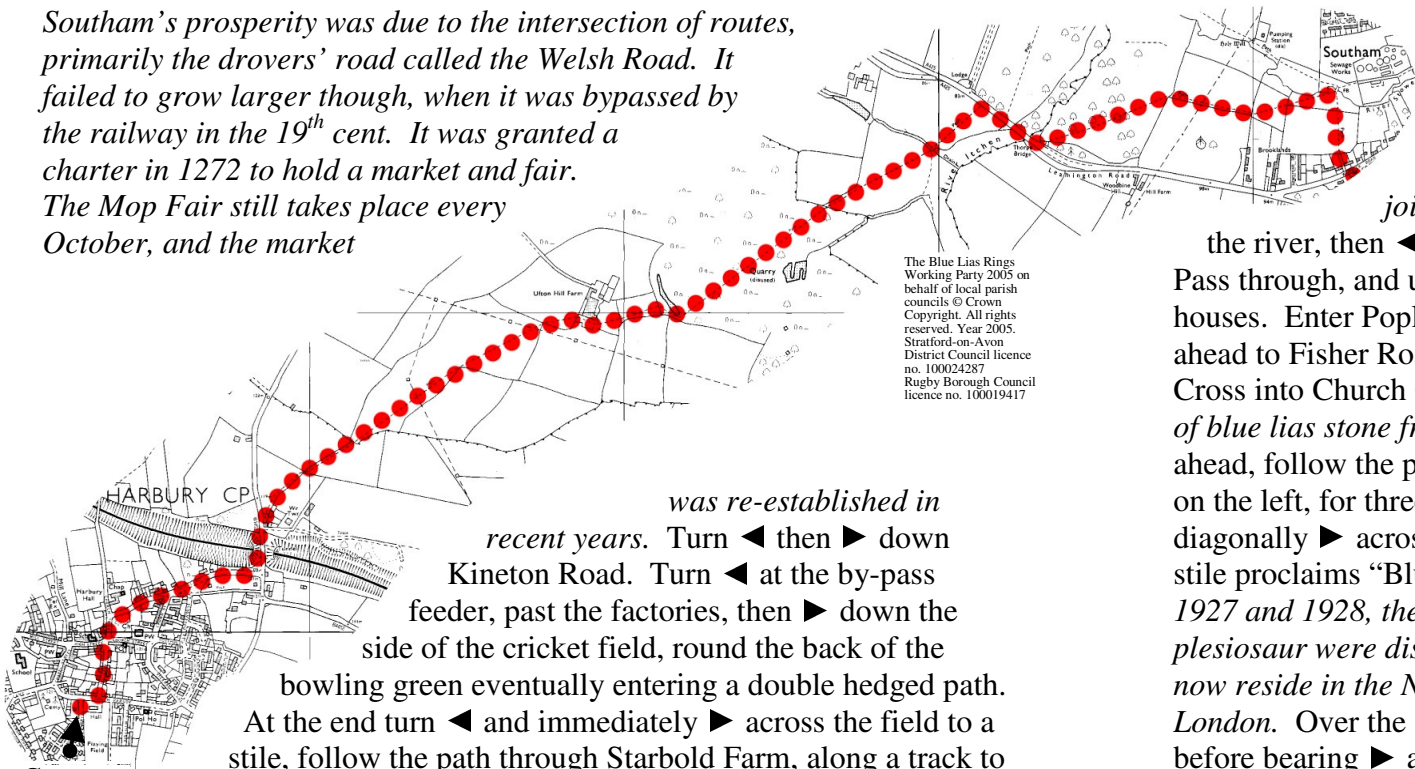


*Southam's prosperity was due to the intersection of routes, primarily the drovers' road called the Welsh Road. It failed to grow larger though, when it was bypassed by the railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> cent. It was granted a charter in 1272 to hold a market and fair. The Mop Fair still takes place every October, and the market*



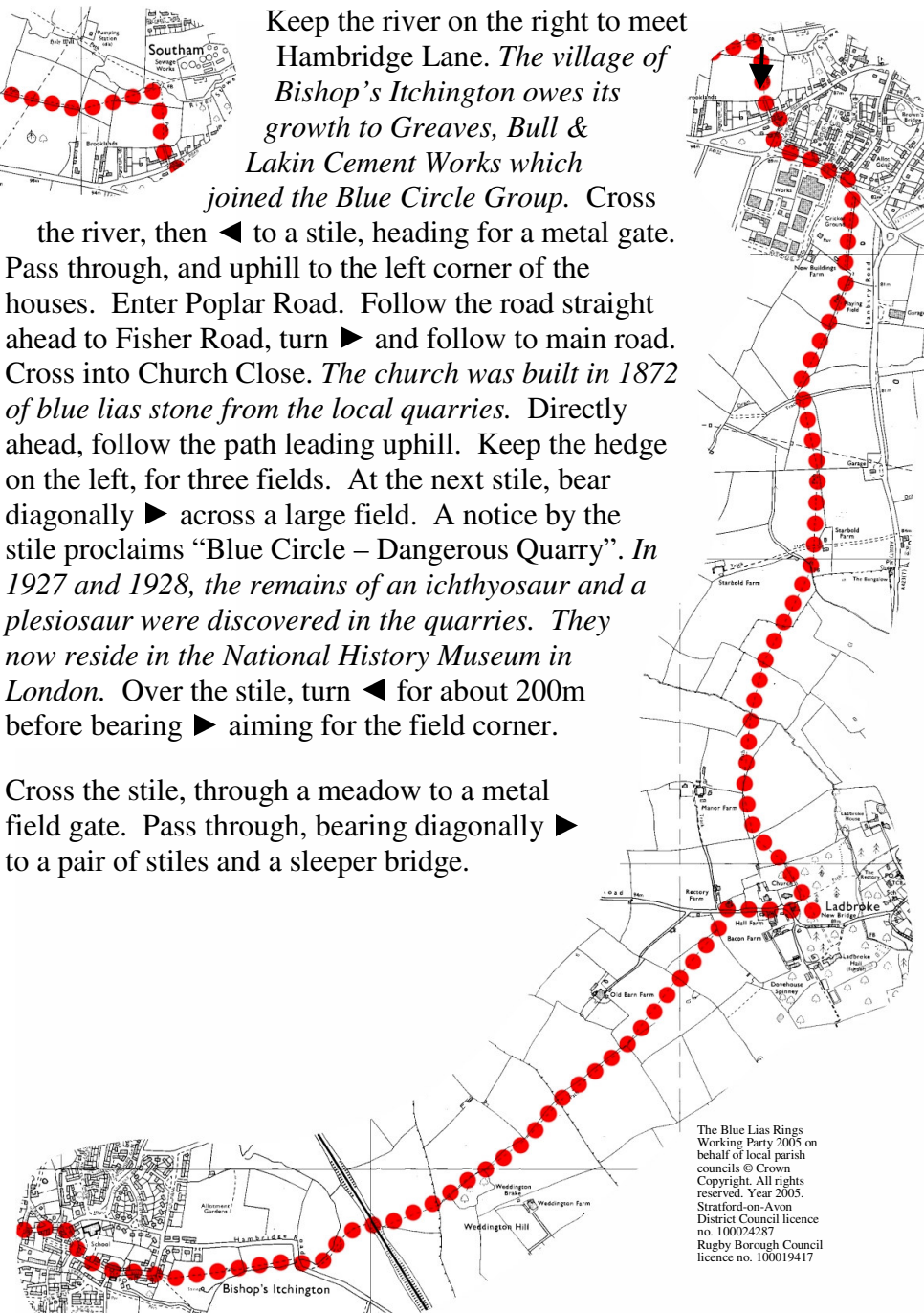
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*was re-established in recent years. Turn ◀ then ▶ down Kington Road. Turn ◀ at the by-pass feeder, past the factories, then ▶ down the side of the cricket field, round the back of the bowling green eventually entering a double hedged path. At the end turn ◀ and immediately ▶ across the field to a stile, follow the path through Starbold Farm, along a track to a stile ◀. Go straight across the next two fields to a stile and*

**Start**

*bridge over a brook. Head slightly diagonally ◀ to follow the hedge on your left. Head towards Ladbroke Church spire, then pass the church on your right. The 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Ladbroke Church was renovated in 1876 by Sir Gilbert Scott. Ladbroke House was the home of W. H. Schwind in the early 1990's, the founder of Ladbroke's the bookmakers and pools. Ladbroke Hall was at one time the home of Lord Rootes, the motor manufacturer. It later became a girls' school, and has now been converted into a block of flats. At the lane turn ▶ to a stile on your left opposite drive to Rectory Farm. Cross into a small paddock, keeping hedge on your left. Cross a second stile, turn ▶ and head for stile in hedge directly ahead. Cross then head at 11 o'clock to a marker post. Go straight ahead, keeping the wood on your left. Pass through a bridle gate, then cut across the corner of the next field to a pair of stiles and a sleeper bridge. Cross and turn diagonally ▶ to the railway. The Railway was completed around 1850, and was engineered by Brunel. It forms one of the main lines from London to Birmingham. You may lawfully cross! Go up the embankment, over the stile, and turn ▶ downhill, then bear ◀ towards the willow trees.*

*Keep the river on the right to meet Hambridge Lane. The village of Bishop's Itchington owes its growth to Greaves, Bull & Lakin Cement Works which joined the Blue Circle Group. Cross the river, then ◀ to a stile, heading for a metal gate. Pass through, and uphill to the left corner of the houses. Enter Poplar Road. Follow the road straight ahead to Fisher Road, turn ▶ and follow to main road. Cross into Church Close. The church was built in 1872 of blue lias stone from the local quarries. Directly ahead, follow the path leading uphill. Keep the hedge on the left, for three fields. At the next stile, bear diagonally ▶ across a large field. A notice by the stile proclaims "Blue Circle – Dangerous Quarry". In 1927 and 1928, the remains of an ichthyosaur and a plesiosaur were discovered in the quarries. They now reside in the National History Museum in London. Over the stile, turn ◀ for about 200m before bearing ▶ aiming for the field corner.*



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*Cross the stile, through a meadow to a metal field gate. Pass through, bearing diagonally ▶ to a pair of stiles and a sleeper bridge.*