



Grey heron

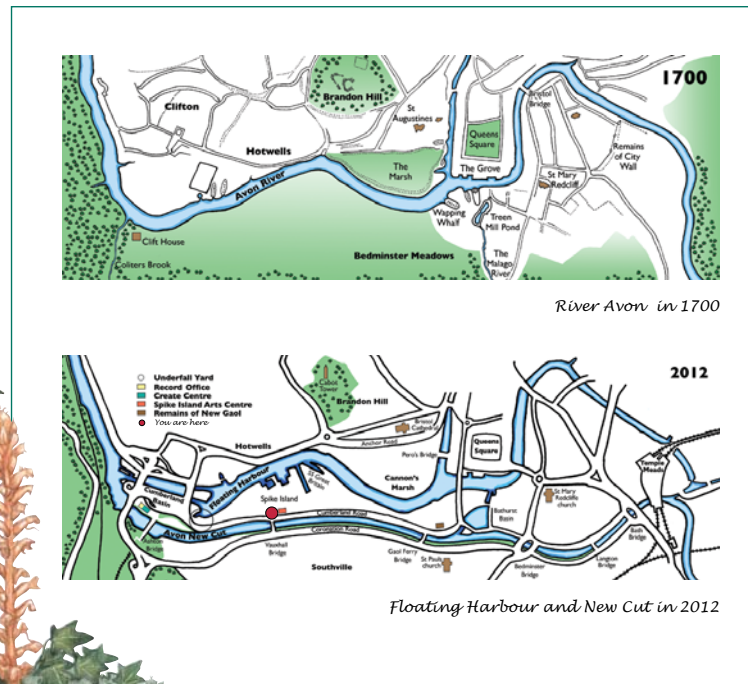


Cormorant



Welcome to Avon New Cut – a wildlife corridor.

The New Cut was dug out in the early 19th Century. The aim was to create a new river to divert the tides away from the floating harbour.



River Avon in 1700

Floating Harbour and New Cut in 1212

The river and its banks have since developed to form an important wildlife corridor.

Trees were first planted along the river in 1873. Today over thirty different types can be seen. They include everything from native hawthorns, with their beautiful spring blossom to exotic fig trees. These are thought to have grown from fruits discarded by sailors in days gone by.

The riverbanks are also home to a rich variety of wildflowers and garden escapes. One unusual plant is ivy broomrape, which feeds off the roots of ivy. Look for its purplish stem and cream flowers amongst the ivy in early summer.

Many different types of birds can be seen along the Cut. Regular visitors include the grey heron and cormorant, which come here to feed.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FRANC) is working to improve the Cut and its wildlife. If you would like to find out more, or to get involved, please visit our website at www.franc.org.uk, or contact us via email at contact@franc.org.uk

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Illustrations kindly supplied by the Avon Wildlife Trust – heron and ivybroomrape

Fig tree, hawthorn blossom and ivy broomrape

