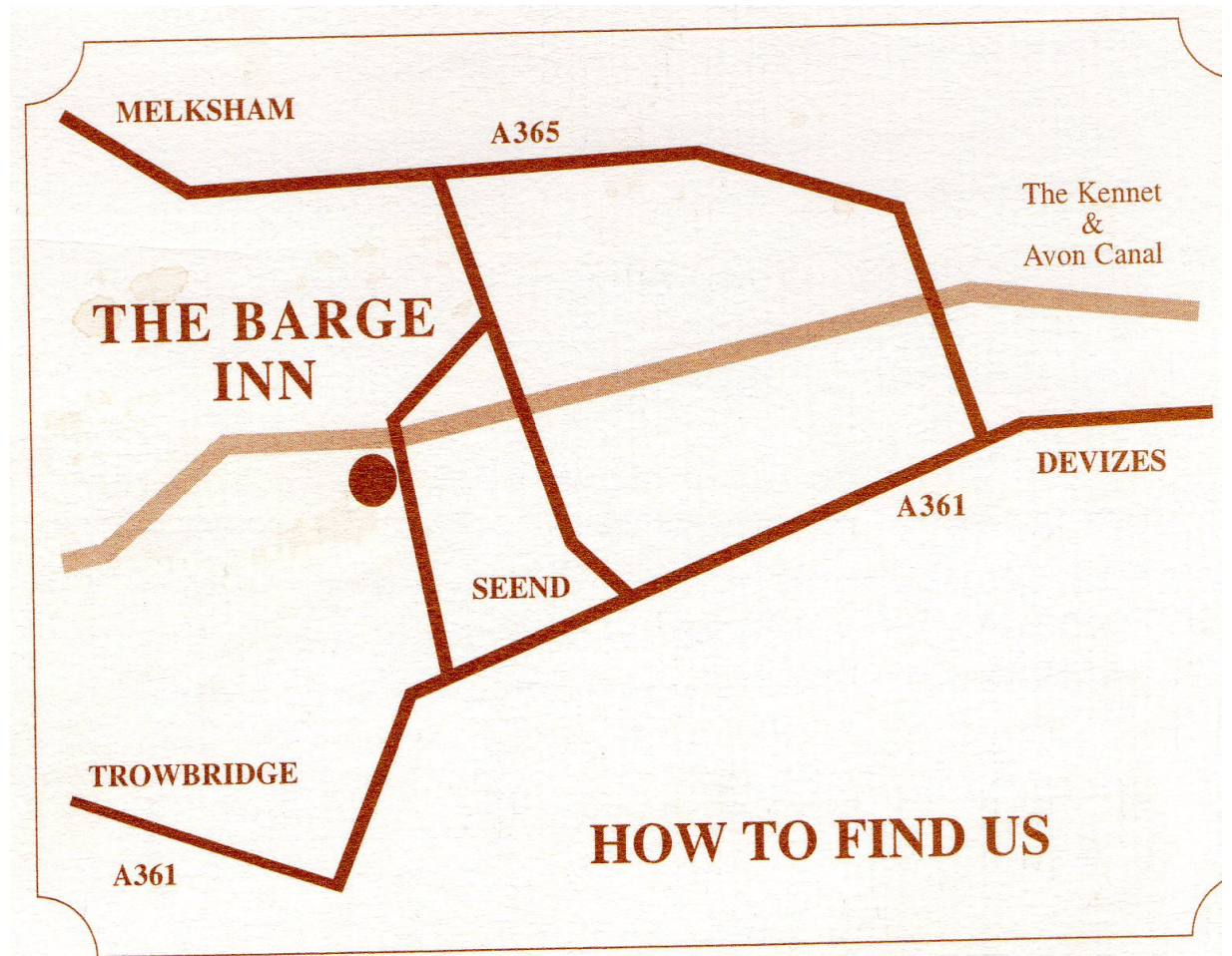




**The Barge Inn**

Seend, Cleeve  
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The Kennet & Avon Canal

**THE BARGE INN**

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# The Barge Inn

This delightful tiled and stone-built inn lies in the chapelry of Seend Cleeve next to the beautiful Kennet and Avon Canal.

The Inn is a converted wharf house and stables, which once included a bakery and small tap room, and dates back to 1805.

The wharf house and stables were formerly owned by the Duke of Somerset's family who leased it to Peter Humbly, a brewer, in 1857. The property was bought by George Florence in 1870 and leased to Henry Alfred Wadworth in 1884 who then bought it in 1905.

In 1916 Fred Kempster, "the Wiltshire Giant" (8' 2"), moved to The Barge where his brother-in-law Jim Rayner was landlord.

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The move presented many problems for Fred - for instance two bedsteads had to be converted and made to fit into a bedroom.

Fred the Giant was a sociable fellow, who would sit with the sightseers in the clubroom chatting about his life and the problems it caused.

The Barge with Fred the Giant became one of the best known inns in the county. It is still enjoyed for its Victorian bargee decoration and views of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The Inn now consists of a bar and restaurant which can cater for wedding receptions, private parties and business meetings. The Barge has a large canal side garden and car park, and provides an excellent choice of meals from its lunch time and evening menus. There is also a tempting wine list, exciting real ales and continental beers.

