

8. France Lynch and Avenis Green

Where

France Lynch Pleasure Ground – Hillside Farm – Avenis Green - Ridings Farm – Oldhills Wood – Kings Head – France Lynch Pleasure Ground

Length

About 2½ miles

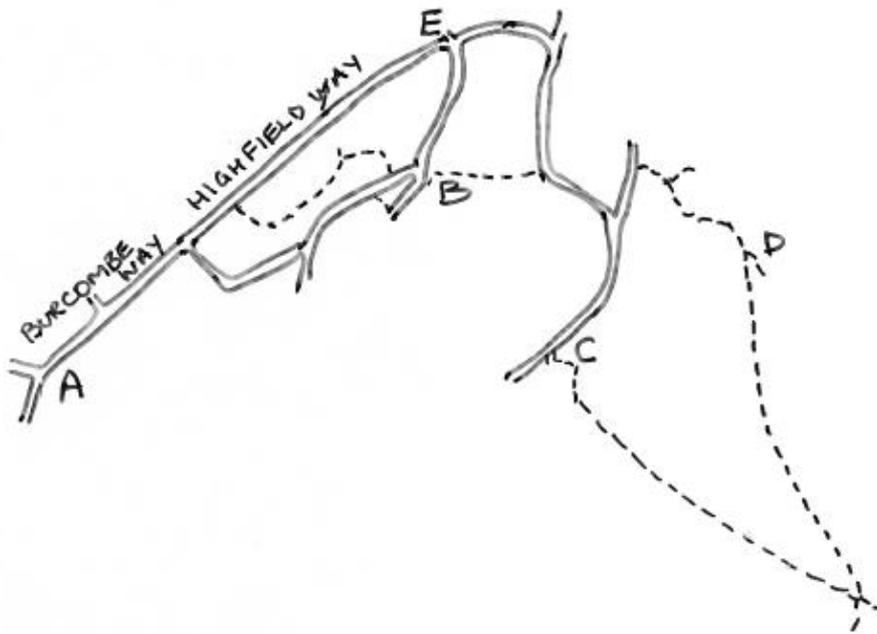
About the walk

A lovely walk of about 2½ miles, with some slopes and two stiles, and possibly some mud.

There are fields, woods and views to the surrounding villages to enjoy.

This walk goes from France Lynch to Avenis Green with views towards Oakridge but it also tantalises with hints of places much further afield.

The route



The walk starts and ends at France Lynch Pleasure Ground **A** by the notice board on Burcombe Way. Face the notice board [it's a good read] then walk to your left along Burcombe Way/Highfield Way towards the Chalford Sports and Social Club.

With the Club entrance on your left, turn right along a wide grassy path, following it as it turns left. There are great views here over France Lynch, Avenis Green and distant Oakridge.

You reach a T junction with a tarmac path, where turn right; it is quite steep but provided with a steady handrail. At the bottom you reach a tarmac drive which you cross to go down some steps onto a lane.

Turn left for a few yards and at 'Hope Cottage' turn right down a tarmac path. On reaching a lane turn left.

You will see a wooden footpath fingerpost on the right **B**; cross the slab stile then go through a gate, bearing left with the path to cross one plank bridge and then another.

The way goes slightly right and uphill and then bears left, going more uphill. You will go through a small copse (ignore the track to the right), and emerge to find a wall on your right. Follow this wall to a gate into a lane.

Go right, ignoring all left turnings until you see a postbox, and a footpath sign **C**. Go left for a few yards on a drive, then turn left again along a waymarked path between a wall and a fence to a stile.

Cross the stile and bear left across the field then through a gate into a second field, continuing past the signpost. You have probably wondered just how far it is to Paris or Sydney. Wonder no longer as the signpost here will tell you the exact mileage – and to many other far flung places besides.

When you reach the wood, go through the kissing gate and turn immediately left. The path follows the edge of the wood.

You come to a squeeze stile at a junction of paths **D**. Go straight ahead to an unusual step stile. Keep going ahead, ignoring a stile on the right.

Reaching a T junction with a wider track, step over a wood and concrete step. Here turn left alongside an interesting building project to reach a lane. Turn right along the lane, possibly recognising a short section from earlier in your walk, then turn left at road sign for FRANCE LYNCH.

You can stay on this road to return to the noticeboard you started from or you can take a diversion via 'The King's Head' pub. To do this, when you reach the pub sign **E**, turn left down Lynch Road and keep going to the pub and beyond. Ignore the left fork at Sturmyes Road. Eventually, Lynch Road becomes Upper Lynch Road, which delivers you to a gate into the allotments. Cross the allotments to return to the Pleasure Ground.

Route description by Tessa Wood, Stroud Rambling Club

