

7. France Lynch and Chalford Hill

Where

Chalford Sports and Social Club – Upper Lynch Road - Coppice Hill – Randalls Green – Commercial Road – Silver Street – Midway – Middle Hill Burcombe Way – Chalford Sports and Social Club

Length

About 2 miles

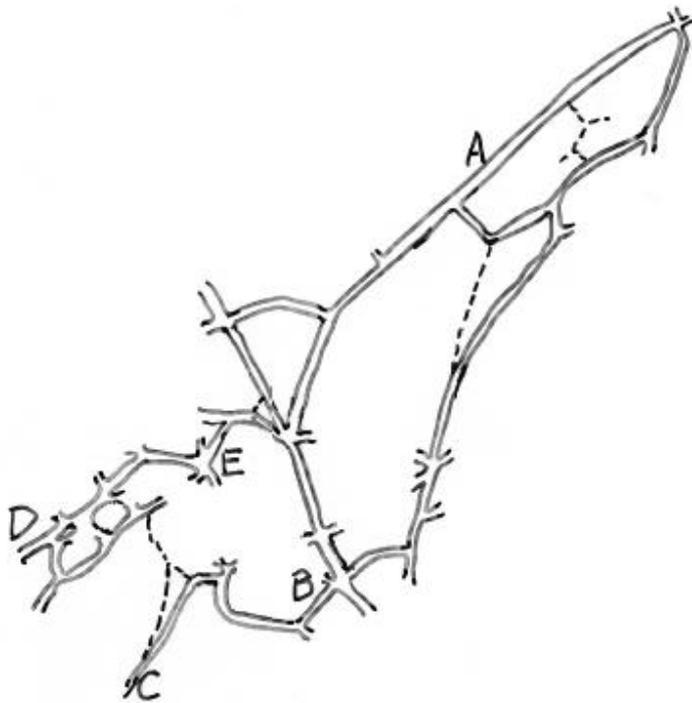
About the walk

This is a stile free walk of about 2 miles. It is fairly flat but with one steep descent and one steep ascent [on tarmac].

This walk avoids all mud and grass paths and keeps to tarmac and gravel surfaces. You may be surprised how, in our villages, tarmac paths can take you into very natural surroundings. You will also be able to explore the fascinating world of Old Chalford Hill.

You may know Chalford Hill very well but I must say that I would have been very pleased to have a guide the first few times I explored it so that I could emerge safely at the end.

The route



A. The walk begins at the Chalford Sports and Social Club. With your back to the club, go left. Just after 'The Parish Folly' [there must be a tale to tell there] go right down a tarmac footpath. Where the path forks, keep right. It becomes steep but there are handrails to help steady us.

You reach a lane and turn right. You pass 'Rose Cottage' on your right and later 'Hap Cottage' on your left.

Take the right fork into **Upper Lynch Road**. When you see the gate into the France Lynch allotments ahead, take the track

to the left. There are lovely views over the valley towards Aston Down. The Chalford Silver Band building will be on the right.

At the junction of tracks, fork left.

When you reach the lane, the Church Rooms are opposite you. Turn right.

At the crossroads, go straight ahead, into **Coppice Hill**.

Just after 'Greenacres' on the right, turn right. You might like to stop and read the war memorial on the wall of Puddelducks Nursery. This is just one of several war memorials in our villages and brings home the terrible loss of life during the First world War.

B. When you reach the main road **Randalls Green** cross over going down the left hand side of Chalford Hill Primary School.

At 'Woodview' bear right; do not go down Stony Riding.

'The Old Builders Arms' will be on the left [another former pub?] and 'The Old Stores' on your right. After 'Marle Hill Cottage' on the left, turn left down a narrow lane with a sign warning that it is 'unsuitable for motor vehicles'. This is the top of **Marle Hill**. Proceed down the hill.

If you want to avoid going all the way down and then back up, take a short cut by turning right along a narrow tarmac path at 'Dove Cottage'. At the T junction, turn right. You can rejoin the walk at *

The lane plunges downhill passing very wintry house names. 'Fir tree Cottage' and 'Christmas Cottage'. The valley you are walking into is the deep cleft which cuts into Chalford Hill between Marle Hill and Dark Lane, a very sheltered and little visited part of our village.

C. Reaching 'Brendon House' on your left, turn right almost through 360 degrees onto the narrower tarmac path. Ignore the gravel lane below. There is a seat to rest on before the climb uphill.

*After some steps and some effort, you reach a road – **Commercial Road**.

You are back in the heart of Chalford Hill. Turn left .

At a sign 'Unsuitable for HGVs' turn right.

D. You come up to a car park which will be on your right and reach a T junction. Turn right onto **Silver Street** and keep as straight ahead as you can, ignoring forks, turnings and donkey tracks.

E. You will reach a small triangular green with a community noticeboard. A good opportunity to catch up with events in the parish.

Bear left. 'France Corner' will be on your right. Will anyone ever definitively explain where the 'France' connection comes from?

When you reach a T junction, turn right and cross this road – **Midway** - carefully as you are near a corner. Take the tarmac path alongside the wall which skirts the green, passing behind the Millennium bus shelter.

Cross the main road, **Middle Hill**, and turn left along it.

At the first crossroads, turn right into **Burcombe Road**.

At the end of the road turn left along **Highfield Way** to return to **Chalford Sports and Social Club**.

Route description by Tessa Wood, Stroud Rambling Club

