

Downend & Bromley Heath Community Walks

Lincombe Barn to Frome Valley and Snuff Mills Circular Walk

Start/ Finish:

Lincombe Barn Park at Overndale Road/ Rockland Road **1**

Buses: 5 (also 4, 48, 318, 319)

Parking: Lincombe Barn car park

Toilets: Snuff Mills and Oldbury Court.

Refreshments:

White Lion pub, Frenchay Common; Snack bar at Snuff Mills.

The Walk: 5.6 Km (3.5 miles) or 6.5 Km (4.1 miles); 1.5 to 2 hours plus any time you

This is a varied and picturesque walk around and along the Frome Valley and Oldbury Court with a visit to the historic Snuff Mills waterwheel. It is fairly strenuous with hills up and down the valley; mostly hard surfaces, but some slightly muddy areas when wet. There are steps at Begbrook which cannot be avoided.



Children's play area at Lincombe Barn



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Halfpenny Bridge

1 From Lincombe Barn you immediately have a choice of route. For the easier route, walk up the path beside the playground, through the gap in the wall/ stile and turn right along the path between the hedge and the wall. Follow this path to the end, emerging on the estate road (Sidelands Road). Walk up the road and turn right at the T-junction. Go down the hill to the River Frome, then continue at 2 below.

Or, for a route which may be muddy and slippery when wet, walk down the grassy slope alongside the stream, turn right over a bridge near the end of the field, then left and continue through the woods to a wooden bridge on your left. Cross here and continue with the River Frome on your right; when you reach the road, turn right.

2 Cross Frenchay Bridge (built in 1788 to replace the ford across the River Frome) and turn left up the hill. Continue up the steep hill until the road levels out at Frenchay Common. The White Lion pub is to your right overlooking the common, but the walk continues straight ahead. Turn left at the T junction almost opposite

Frenchay hospital and then after about 250 metres turn left into Froomshaw Road. Just before this road bends to the right, turn left and then immediately right into Sterncourt Road. Where this road bends to the left, go straight ahead onto a footpath between the trees and undergrowth for about 50 metres where you turn right down steps to cross a bridge over a stream, then up steps on the other side to emerge in a grassy open space.

3 Follow the path straight ahead, up the slope and through Begbrook Green Park Play Area to reach a path junction with a circle of stones. Continue ahead and slightly right past the playground on your right and exit the park. Turn

left and continue past Wren Drive. Turn right into Begbrook Drive, continue past Begbrook school and at the end of the school railings turn left into the track signed as Ham Lane.

4 After 25 metres you have a choice:- for the **shorter route**, turn left and follow the track down to the bridge over the River Frome; then follow the route from 7 below.

5 For the **longer route and to visit Snuff Mills**, turn right. As you near the end of this lane, turn left through the gap between a fence and a gate and go downhill. After 25 metres you have a choice of route. To the right, the more difficult route, there are uneven steps with handrail descending steeply to Snuff Mills; to the left is an easier, longer route with a few shallow steps down to the tarmac path adjacent to the River Frome where you turn right to go to Snuff Mills.

6 Here you can have a look at the Water Wheel and find out about the history of the mill - there is a booklet and CD "All about Snuff Mills" for sale (£3) at the Snack Bar at the far end of the car park. A mill has existed at Snuff Mills since 1297. It was used for cutting stones with the raw materials coming from nearby quarries. The finished products were used for grave stones, building stones and kerb stones for the streets of Bristol.

There are public toilets here. Now retrace your route past the mill and back along the tarmac path alongside the River Frome. Where the path forks you can take either route and continue until you reach a bridge (known locally as Halfpenny Bridge).

7 Both Routes: Cross the river and turn immediately left into Oldbury Court Estate. Continue along the river-side path to where a stream joins the river from the right. Turn right and continue up the hill with the stream on your left, into Oldbury Court park. Half way up

the hill (opposite steps to the right) the walk continues to the left, but you may wish to visit the childrens' playground/public toilets further up the hill and to the right.

8 Having turned left opposite the steps, follow the path to a bridge where you cross a stream and continue up the slope to emerge into a large open grassy area. Turn right and continue until you reach a tarmac path. Turn left and follow this path down to the exit from the park just above Frenchay Bridge. Now retrace the route you walked earlier: either straight ahead through the woods back to Lincombe Barn; **Or** turn right up the hill and retrace the route you walked earlier, passing Oldbury Court School and turning left into Sidelands Road. At the end of the road follow the path between the wall and the hedge until you see the children's play area on your left. Turn left into Lincombe Barn open space and car park.



Weir on the River Frome near Oldbury Court



Bridge over the River Frome, junction of Frenchay Road and Pearces Hill

Lincombe Barn Woods and Britannia Woods

From Lincombe Barn you can walk for about half a mile down through the open space and woods to the river Frome. There is a board walk alongside the river but it can be wet, muddy and slippery in some parts.

You can also cross Overndale Road into Britannia Woods, so called because a Bristol Britannia aircraft G-ANCA crashed here on 6th November 1957. Wreckage tumbled through the trees and seriously damaged a row of ten homes in Overndale Road. All fifteen of G-ANCA's crew died instantly, but miraculously nobody on the ground was seriously hurt.

A memorial plaque at the crash site was unveiled on 3 November 2007 by the widow of the aircraft's pilot.



Gardens at Snuff Mills



Frenchay Village

The publication of these walks was funded by the Downend & Bromley Heath Community Plan Group and the Parish Council. The aim is to encourage people to know their local parks and open spaces better.

Download the walks from: www.downendbromleyheath.org or phone the Parish Clerk on 0117 956 7001 for further information.

A 3.4 mile walk around the footpaths of the Parish and walks starting from George V Playing Field can also be found on the website.

For regular, organised Walking to Health walks in this area, see www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth

