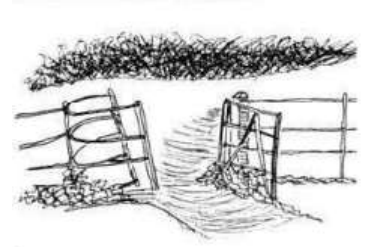


The Orchardleigh Walk

A walk of 7.5 km. or nearly 5 miles.

This is probably the most attractive of the Beckington walks and it can be combined with the Henham Bridge Walk to make a longer challenge of about 12 km. or 7.5 miles.

Leave the front door of the Woolpack and turn left into Frome Road. At the stone roundhouse opposite Springmead School, turn right into Stubbs Lane. The first fine view of the Frame Valley occurs as you arrive at a sign on your right for the Beckington Loop. However the public right of way continues down the drive. Just past the metal clad building on the left take the path to the left between two gnomes. The path now runs behind a high hedge of Leylandii. At the first field gate climb the stile alongside and then walk diagonally downhill to a kissing gate in the far right-hand field corner. Continue in the same direction to a gate and stile at the bottom of the slope. Here walk across the next field to the stile in the far left-hand corner which leads to a fine footbridge over the River Frame. Cross the river and then turn half right to reach a stile at the side of Lullington Lane.



Cross the road and the stile on the far side. Now follow the path over rough ground to the left and then walk along the side of the golf course with Lullington Lane on your left. Eventually, by a large oak tree, you reach a path coming from Lullington Lane. Here turn right and continue along the edge of the golf course until you are able to enter the woods on the left between two fence posts. The path soon crosses a footbridge and bears right to follow the stream. It quickly joins a path running along the top of an embankment and continues in a westerly direction until it reaches the path which crosses the dam that holds back the water of Orchardleigh Lake. To the right is a bridge over the outlet stream and a picturesque Greek temple, but our route goes to the left over the dam.

The next section of the walk has fine views over the lake as well as of the south front of Orchardleigh House which overlooks the lake from the north. At the end of the dam turn right and cross a gully to follow the path along the south side of the lake. The path is enclosed by a fence at both sides and can be very muddy. Walk on and go through an old iron kissing gate. To the right there is now a rather damp area with streams coming down from the upper lake. You soon reach the retaining dams which have been built either side of an "island". Turn right to cross the dams and exit via an iron kissing gate into the road to the church on your left. Sir Henry Newbolt, the Poet Laureate is buried here beside the graves of the Duckworth family, former owners of Orchardleigh Estate.



Exit the church and follow the road past converted stable blocks and bend right to continue through the golf course to meet the main Orchardleigh drive from Castle Lodge and Gloucester Lodge. Turn right across the front of the stable block. You will soon come to a waymark on the left-hand side of the road. Here, turn left and take the path across the golf course following the green warning signs. As you approach the edge of the golf

course pass between two bunkers to find a stile in the fence. Once over the stile the path is in the form of a grassy track and heads towards Lullington in the distance. Continue along the track

through the first gateway, and at the second gateway follow the track to the left around the outside of the hedge. A further farm gate brings you out on to the road into the village.

At the centre of Lullington is a very attractive open- space, with a pump and the old schoolhouse on the left. If you wish for a longer walk you can turn left and join the Henham Bridge Walk, which gives a total length of 12 km. or 7.5 miles. Otherwise continue directly back to Beckington by bearing right and then turning right by a telephone box. Descend the hill and then turn right through a gate, cross the footbridge. and then walk through a second gate. The path now turns left to follow a fence and heads once more for Orchardleigh Golf Course. After a short distance turn left down a bank and cross some rough ground. You will soon reach the main drive from Gloucester Lodge. Cross the drive and continue across the rough ground following the side of the stream. The path now bears left to reach a stile beside Lullington Lane.



Cross the lane and climb the stile on the other side. Next turn right and walk towards the footbridge over the River

Frome. On the far side climb the stile on the left and then turn right to cross the field towards the far left-hand corner, passing an old pill box on the river side. The gateway where the next stile is located leads to a path going diagonally uphill to the left towards Dairy House Farm. Now walk beside a line of fencing panels and a post and rail fence with Laurels, passing through two kissing gates. At the far end cross the access road to Dairy House Farm by means of two stiles and then follow a grassy ride between fences. Cross another farm track by means of more stiles and continue along the ride. At the end cross the corner of a field by means of yet more

stiles and then follow the right-hand fence uphill to join the access road to the sewage works. You soon join Mill Lane which takes you to Bath Road where you turn right to arrive back at the Woolpack.

