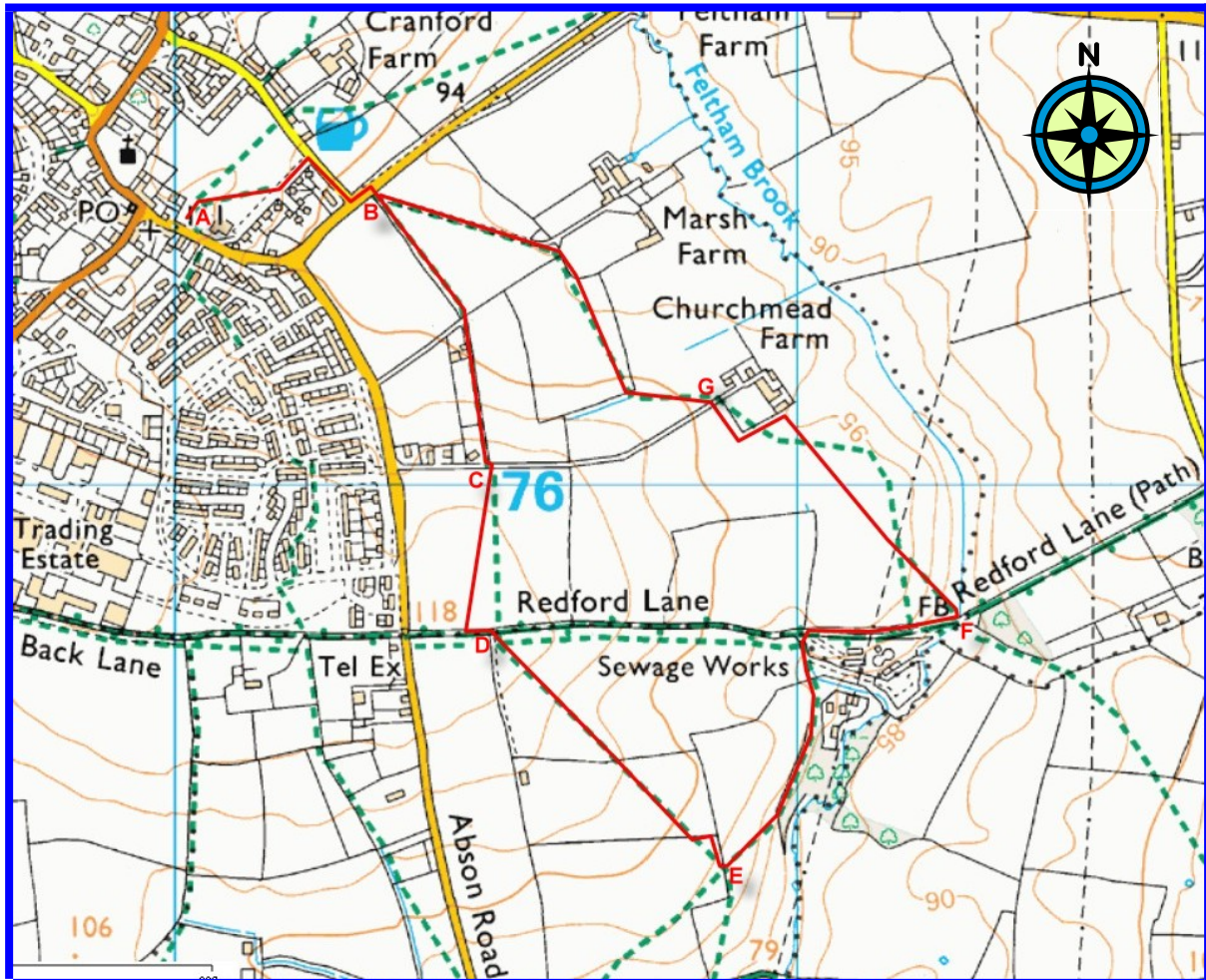




Walk #3: Community Centre to Locks Bottom

4.15km (2.6 miles), about an hour – a circular route that includes multiple stiles, some difficult

This short walk offers fine views toward the Cotswolds and Dyrham Park and takes you through the planted woodland around Feltham Brook at Lock's Bottom.



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From the Community Centre (A), cross the recreation ground diagonally, aiming for the gap though to Hill View Road on your right. Walk through the gap and proceed left to the end of Hill View. Turn right on Castle Road and walk down to Feltham Road. Turn left, cross the road, and head through the gate for Marsh Farm (B).

Go through the metal kissing gate on the right-hand side of the track and walk straight on, keeping close to the hedge on your right. This is a livestock field that may have cattle in it. At the other side of

the field, climb the high wooden stile, which brings you to a bend in a private drive. Follow the driveway left past Lower Hodden on your right. The path leads uphill into the next field and towards a low wooden stile. Continue over the stile and along a narrow path with a private garden on the right hand side until reaching Hodden Lane (C).

Cross the lane and go through the metal kissing gate into another livestock field. Walk straight across this field to the kissing gate in the hedge on the opposite side, where you'll come out on Redford

Countryside Access Walks

Walk #3: Community Centre to Locks Bottom (continued)



Lane. Turn left and walk approx 50 metres along the lane, where there's a metal kissing gate (D) on the right, next to a vehicle gate. Go through this kissing gate and head diagonally downhill (keeping left of the wooden fence) to the far corner of this horse field. From this field, you have a wonderful panoramic view of Tog Hill and the Cotswolds. To the left in the distance is the National Trust property Dyrham Park.

Pass through the metal kissing gate at the corner of this field and into the next field, also a horse field. Continue in the same direction diagonally across this field until you reach another kissing gate. Enter the arable field on the other side and turn left, keeping the hedge on your left. At the corner of the field, turn right, again keeping the hedge on your left. At a point about two-thirds of the way along this hedge, there's a wooden stile (E).

Cross the stile, and take the downhill path that bears left and heads towards the woods in the valley below. A high wooden stile takes you over the fence. Turn left after the stile, and take the path through this ferny woodland. The nettles can be waist high here in the summer. The path closely follows the edge of the woodland until it re-enters the field. (The area below this path and woodland is the site of a gas compression plant.) Climb the stile into the field and follow the path along the fence, across a seasonal creek, and to another stile. Just past the stile, the path joins the concrete drive for the gas plant.

Turn left on this drive and walk out to Redford Lane, a short distance ahead. (Redford Lane is reputed to be a pre-Roman route that led to what is now the Sea Mills area of Bristol.) Turn right on Redford Lane and go past the boulders that block vehicle access. Follow this pleasant, tree-lined track past the sewage treatment works until you reach the ford at Feltham Brook. This is the area known as Locks Bottom (F). Do not cross the brook, but turn left towards the footbridge, and cross the wooden stile on the near side of the bridge, going into the steep, grassy

field on your left. There are sometimes sheep in this field.

Head diagonally uphill in the direction of the tepee-style telegraph post. From the top, the path leads toward the left-hand corner of the farm buildings ahead. From this field, there is a clear view of the church tower at Pucklechurch. Go over the wooden stile next to the farm building. From here the path follows a fence around a small enclosure, turn right at the corner and continue along the line of the fence until you reach the next stile that will take you onto Churchmead Farm's driveway (G). Cross the driveway and climb the stile on the opposite side.

From here bear left and go diagonally uphill towards the corner of the hedge. This field may also have sheep in it. The next stile will be found a few yards to the left of the corner and is a difficult one for large dogs. The next field is a cow pasture. The path heads straight to the bottom of the next field in a line parallel to the hedge on your right. At the bottom, cross the stile next to the gate, and turn left to closely follow the hedge to the last stile, which leads onto to Marsh Farm's driveway. Turn left on the drive and walk out to the gate (B) onto Feltham Road. Turn left and cross over to Castle Road and then uphill to Hill View Road and back to the Community Centre (A).

Footnote: Lock's Bottom does not appear on any published maps. During the gathering of information it was called by different names, namely Locks Bottom, Logs Bottom and Lotts Bottom. In fact it is actually Locks Bottom and it is named after Mr. Lock who lived in a small cottage near the ford. The cottage still stands but is within the sewage works and not easy to spot. Thanks go to Lesley Broom for this little snippet.