

GODSHILL, FRANKENBURY & SANDY BALLS

A 5km (3½ miles) walk through varied countryside taking about 1½ hours.

Park/Start at Godshill Cricket Pitch car park (Grid Ref. 183151) on the B3078,
about ½ km (⅓ mile) east of the *Fighting Cocks* (inn).

If it is possible to start at the inn (ask permission) the walk can be shortened by 1km.

Note: The section between A and B (see map) can be wet after heavy rain
and *wellies* may be preferable to walking boots.

Maps: Landranger 195, Explorer OL 22

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Turn left out of the car park and walk on the grass verge towards the Fighting Cocks, taking the road to the right just after it. In about 100m leave the road by a footpath (signposted) on the left. At the end of the first field go through the gap beside a kissing gate in the far left corner and, turning right, follow the hedge to another stile. This gives access to a track which brings you to a cottage. Bear left and continue along the gravel track until you reach farm buildings.

At the white painted building turn left onto what is part of the Avon Valley Path. After about 70m fork left onto a wide farm track (signposted). In another 180m, as the track rises steeply, look for a signpost on the right (A) and take the path through the wood. After about 400m pass through a kissing gate (B) and head diagonally left across a boggy field and head uphill through the edge of a wood reach a second kissing gate with a bench seat (C) visible ahead on a T junction.

At the seat bear left and continue upwards to the left on a good gravel track. At another junction swing round to the right by a second bench seat and go uphill. Then the track swings steadily left around the line of the ramparts of Frankenburg, an Iron Age hill fort, until it reaches the edge of Sandy Balls Holiday Village.

Carry on, passing a telecom mast and sewage treatment area on the right. On a short length of tarmac 20m after passing a vehicle barrier, ignore the stile and turn left on a grass path immediately before the first lodges. Follow this path for about 300m and leave the Lodge Village by a wooden gate.

Turn right into the wide path and after 100m turn left before an open gate. In another 100m follow the track right by a bungalow and carry on until reaching the road (B3078) at the old village school (now Lampton Lodge}. Turn left and walk along the pavement towards the Fighting Cocks and the car park.

Godshill, Frankenbury and Sandy Balls



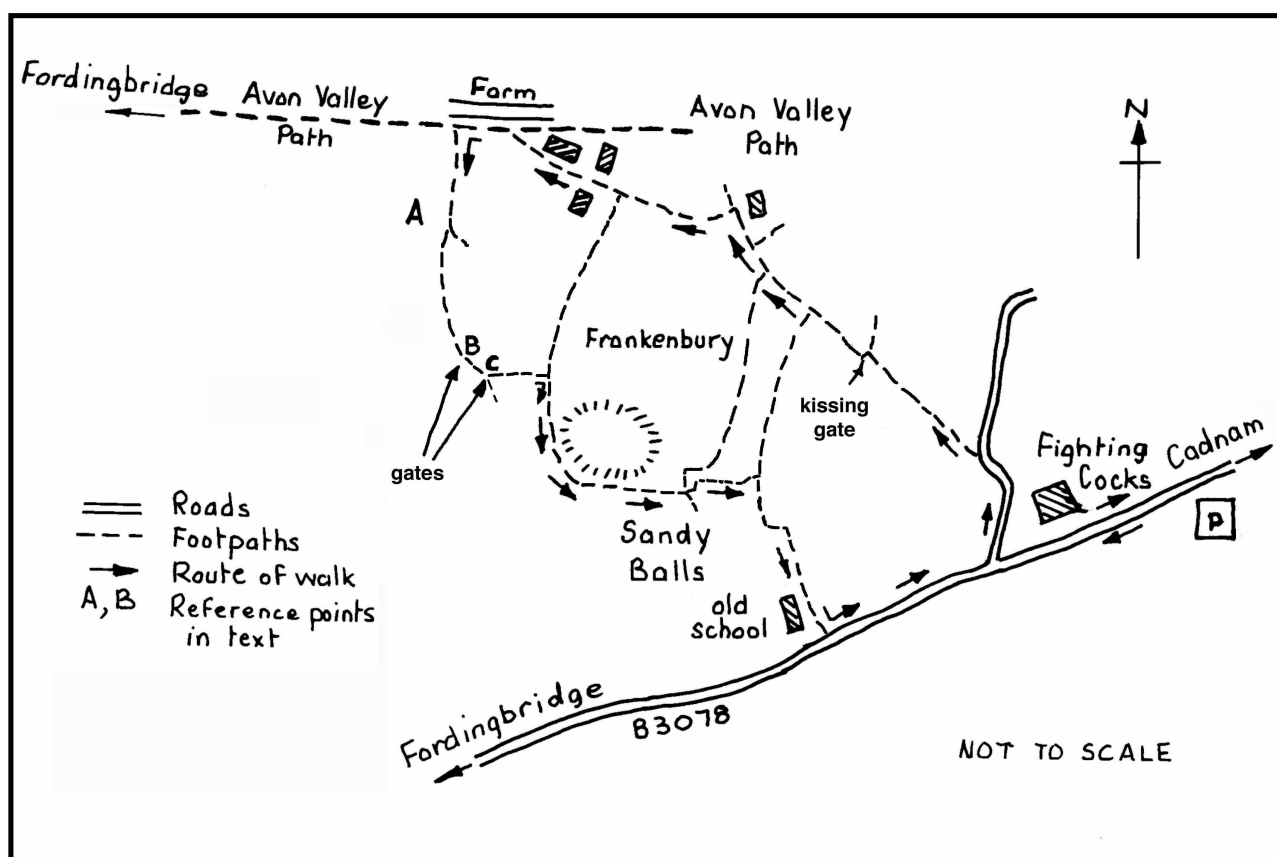
Coppiced woodland between A and B



Glorious beech wood by the bench at C



Glimpse of the Avon through the trees



Left: the southern rampart of Frankenbury hill fort.

Right: the Lidar scan of the 12 acre site shows the ground under the tree cover. There is no public access to the fort.

Image © Forest Research, created using Geomatics, Cambridge University Technical Service and NFNPA data

