

Avening Farms and Barns

This walk around Avening's farms and barns can be done as one walk or three. The full walk will take up to 3 hours but it returns to Avening twice and can be split into 3 more manageable loops, each taking about 50 minutes to an hour. All have very muddy stretches in wet weather when wellingtons are a must. Please keep dogs on a lead when you are on farm land.



From an idea by Gilian Bulmer-Davison and developed and illustrated by Beverley Rymer.

Loop 1. Start by Avening Social Club and turn up to the right into Woodstock Lane. At the old Calcutt pump take the right fork and again keep right at the next fork. Continue straight on as the lane narrows into a path and passes into fields. Straight ahead is Longman's Barn Farm. Note the magnificent barn.



Just after the farm turn left over a stile and head up the track and then over the hill along the side of the field. Cross the Ridgeway path and head diagonally across the field opposite, to the stile at Brandhouse Farm (150 acres in 1871).

The barn has some interesting features, for example note the unusual window near the barn door as you cross the lane and take the path up the slope at the far side of the yard. This footpath is well sign posted and will take you past Cold Harbour Barn and Westfield Barn, then down to West End across the field.



There are splendid views of West End and Avening as you descend the hill to the stream. Once on the lane at West End, take time to notice Vale Farm off to your left; the high walls against the lane look almost like ramparts.

Now turn right and walk back to Avening along West End, passing Avening Park. At the second grass triangle you come to 17th century Church Farm and its splendid barns, now converted to houses. This was the glebe farm which provided the stipend for the rector of Avening (having 570 acres in 1881). Note the barn openings for the pigeon lofts.



Loop 2. At Church Farm, you can go straight ahead, down New Inn Lane and back into the village by The Bell Inn, ending your walk. Or you can continue up the lane to your right, Greenway Head, to meet the Tetbury road. Cross the road and enter the field opposite, heading up the side of the field. Old field boundaries have long since been removed and



Rackley barn, which stood roughly in the centre of the field, has disappeared. Follow the path into the next field. Over to your right are Longtree Barns on the main Tetbury road.

You will pass the rather picturesque ruins of Linton Barn on your left.

The path now goes diagonally across the field to a lane, where you turn left and head towards Star Farm. This was once the Star and Garter Inn and had 310 acres in 1871. Note the remarkable curved barn end in the yard behind. There is a footpath which passes around the barns and takes you on to the site of Ridge's (or Rudges) Farm and eventually into Tetbury. Ridge's Farm only had 32 acres in 1851, 14 in 1871, 11 in 1881 and was still occupied in 1911; there is little sign of it now.



At the junction by Star Farm, turn to left to Avening, passing Star Farm Cottages and then the new buildings of Court Farm (down the track to your right).

Again, at this point you can end your walk. If you decide to enter the village you will pass the old farm buildings of Court Farm on your left.



Loop 3. In Star Lane, pass the old farm buildings of Court Farm on your right and continue up to the track to the new Court Farm and turn left there, following it past the farm and down the hill past Avening Court entrance. Cross the stream, taking a look through the window in the wall, then up the other side to Nag's Head lane. Climb over the unusual iron stile and follow the path up the field, over the stile and then across the golf course, following the yellow-topped posts and passing the club house, being careful if there are golfers playing. This land was part of *Hill Farm*; the farm house stands over to your left on the main road from Avening to Minchinhampton.



Leaving the golf course at the far end, follow the path along the side of the field, over a stile and diagonally across the second field, to the main Minchinhampton road. Turn left towards Avening and cross the road to take the track opposite, Steps Lane;

there are splendid views over the valley.

You will pass Woodhouse Barn, now on the Gatcombe estate but presumably once part of *Woodhouse Farm* which stands on the road to Nailsworth below (75 acres in 1881).



Continue along Steps Lane, passing Steps Barn and going down the hill back into Avening.

There were once many more farms in the old parish of Avening, which stretched into Nailsworth and included parts of Cherington parish. 19th century census records included Aston, Lowesmore, Summerwell and Warren farms in addition to those mentioned above. Some of these farms were large, up to 700 acres, whilst others must have been little more than small holdings; in 1881 the publican at The Cross Inn also farmed 2 acres. Large numbers of local men and boys were employed on these farms well into the early 20th century.