

Walk No. 1 Lott Meadow and Leckhampton Glebe (1 mile)

A short walk (1.6 km) starting from the car park at the east entrance to Burrow's Field off Moorend Grove

Walk along the left side of the field with a hedge and a line of trees to your left to the stile between Burrow's Field and Lott Meadow

The Mayor of Cheltenham opened Burrow's Sports Ground in 1930. It was provided for the staff of the publishing firm of Ed. J. Burrow and Co. The original pavilion was rebuilt in recent years and now houses Broadlands Nursery School which moved from Broadlands House in The Park.

Burrow's Field, as it is now known, was later taken over by Cheltenham Borough Council. It is popular for strolling and watching the local cricket or football. Moorend Stream runs between Burrow's Field and Lott Meadow, and beside it, an old hedge, now becoming mostly willow.

Cross the stile and bridge into Lott Meadow.

Lott Meadow was formerly part of a larger field, 'The Common Meadow', and known as 'The Lotts'. Lott Meadow was the field on which the houses beyond Merlin Way were built.

Ahead to the left you see the spire of Leckhampton Church and behind it, Leckhampton Hill. A depression in Lott Meadow often forms a pond that attracts the occasional gull and mallard in winter and house martins in the spring.

Go straight across Lott Meadow to the gateway by Kidnappers Lane.

Kidnappers Lane was once the road from Leckhampton to Gloucester. The derivation of Kidnappers Lane remains a mystery. Researchers have dismissed references to goats and leatherwork, and to knapping - the breaking of flints. There is no record of kidnapping, but it has been suggested that it refers to the activities of Press Gangs.



Turn right inside Lott Meadow, walk around the west side of the meadow following the hedge on your left all the way round to the stile and bridge at north corner of Lott Meadow



In the corner by the road, is the curious brick tower of the old pump house. In the field are the residual traces of ridge and furrow cultivation, and three great ancient oaks in the middle. These trees are protected.

As you come to the narrow north end of Lott Meadow, you join the path along the right side of the field, which follows Moorend Stream and the old hedge. Look back to admire the long view to Leckhampton Hill. The hill rises to 950ft - traces of old quarries can be seen - try to spot Leckhampton's symbol, The Devil's Chimney! The Devil's Chimney is just to the right of the main quarry in line with a lower ridge. Also in view is Leckhampton Court (now a Sue Ryder Home) and the spire of St. Peter's, Leckhampton, the Parish Church.

Cross the stile and bridge. Follow the path with Moorend Stream on your right.

To your left is one of the smallholdings of the glebe, described below. To the right, across the stream, you see the long narrow copse, which is the (not too unhappy) result of years of neglect of the boundary fence of the glebe lands. See how many different types of tree and bush you can find. This is a good area for observing a variety of birds and listening to birdsong in the spring - chiff-chaff, chaffinch, dunnoek, wren, blackcap, song thrush and even whitethroats.

Continue along the footpath for 150 m until you come to a bridge over the stream to your right opposite Allenfield Road.

Before crossing the stream, you can walk a short way into the glebe land.

Many years ago a Church of England parish frequently owned adjoining land (known as Glebe Land). The income from this land went towards paying the expenses of a minister. Often a Rector would be appointed and he received the income from the land. He could either carry out the duties of a parish priest himself or use some of the income to employ a "Vicar" to do it for him.

You will see pigs, goats, sheep, geese, ducks and hens and a similar variety of vegetables and fruit. The ramshackle sheds and the smells may not be to everyone's taste, but all the tenants are here because they enjoy working the land.

Cross the stream into Merlin Way and turn right. After 200 m, you will find a small wooden gate on your right. This is the north entrance to Burrow's Field
Enter the field and skirting the left side to return to the car park at the East entrance to Burrow's Field.