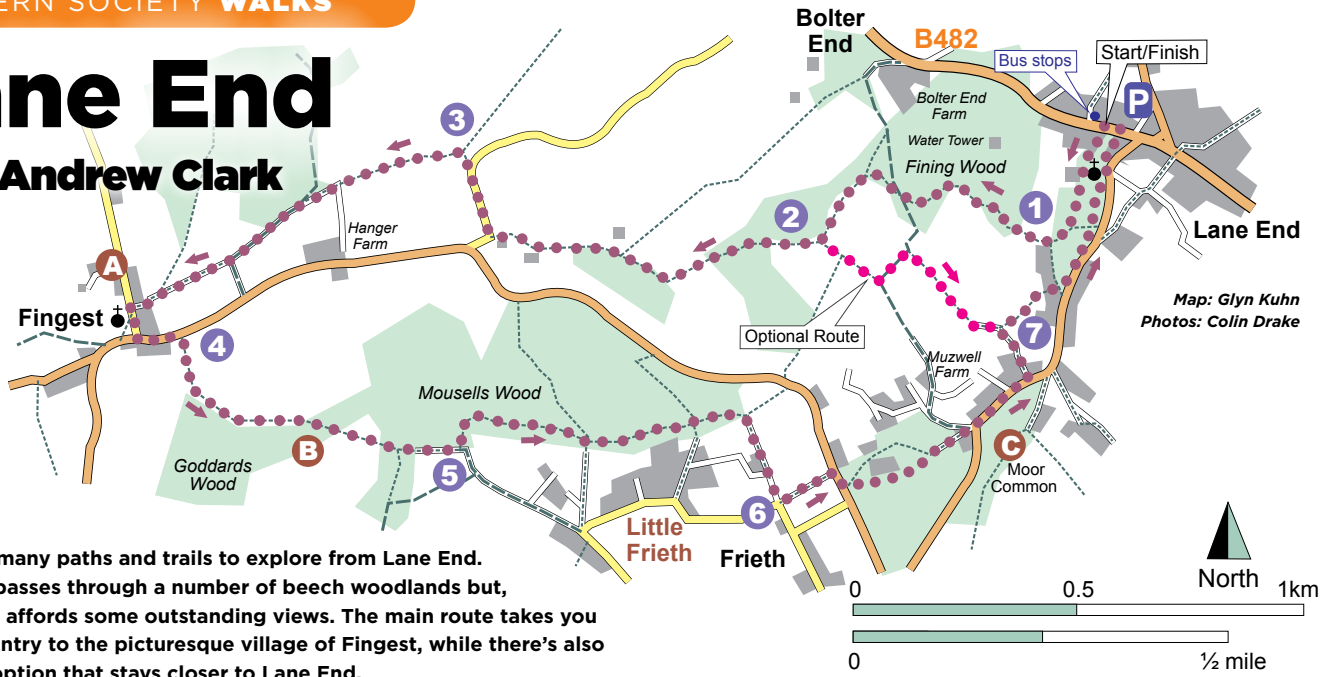


Lane End

With **Andrew Clark**



There are many paths and trails to explore from Lane End. This walk passes through a number of beech woodlands but, best of all, affords some outstanding views. The main route takes you across country to the picturesque village of Fingest, while there's also a shorter option that stays closer to Lane End.

START: Lane End car park, High Street, Lane End HP14 3ER. Grid ref: SU 806 918

DISTANCE: 5.9 miles/9.5km, with a shorter 1.9 mile/3km option. One steep and one long easy climb with a total ascent of 590ft/180m

TERRAIN: A moderate walk on good surfaces, which can be muddy. Care is needed when the chalk is wet or frosty. There are a couple of stiles and numerous gates

MAPS: OS Explorer 171, Chiltern Society 11

REFRESHMENTS: Grouse & Ale pub, High Street, Lane End HP14 3JG and Lacey's Farm Shop, Bolter End Farm, Lane End HP14 3LP. On the route is The Chequers Inn in Fingest and The Prince Albert pub in Frieth

LOCAL TRANSPORT: Bus 48 runs between High Wycombe & Stokenchurch Mon-Sat, and Bus 28 between High Wycombe & Booker, Mon-Fri. Full details can be found on www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Route

From the car park entrance, cross over Finings Road to Church Path and continue past the houses to a green. Turn right, follow the rough lane to the right of the church and, where it ends, continue ahead, then left through two gates and a cemetery to a wide track. Proceed directly ahead and bear right past the works of E&R Meakes.

1. Take the first right to a path between Blacksmith Cottage and Spindleberry. Pass through the gate and stay straight ahead on a path along the edge of the wood. After crossing two footbridges, continue for a further 520m to a junction and keep straight on down the hill. At the bottom, ignore the path that turns sharp left, continue along the bridleway for a further 30m and turn left. Just before a T-junction, turn left and go through a gate into a field. Walk along the right-hand edge and through a gate into the next field. **The optional shorter route starts here, see below for details.*
2. Turn right uphill as the route passes through two gates and a wood into a field. Stay in the same direction along the field edge, go through a gate onto a wide and sometimes slippery stony track, and onwards to descend to a surfaced lane. Turn right along the lane and, at the right-hand bend, turn left down the steps and through a gate into a field.
3. Follow the hedgerow round to the left and stay straight ahead. Cross a stile, pass two field gates and continue to where the track turns left downhill. Do not descend – stay directly ahead along a path overlooking Hanger Farm. The path joins a wide stony track and, where that bears left downhill, go straight ahead through a gate in the hedgerow, following the line of the overhead cables. Go through the next gate and ahead down to a lane in Fingest village. Turn left past the church to a road junction – The Chequers Inn is directly opposite. Turn left along the lane and, a few metres after Fingest Farm, turn right through a gate to join The Chiltern Way.
4. Follow the path up the right-hand side of the field, pass through a gate and continue to climb to cross 'Fieldfare' stile into a wood. At the top of the wood, go through a gap in the treeline and bear left across the field. Go past a field gate to a wide track. Bear left away

from The Chiltern Way, walk along the track for 200m and turn sharp left through a gate.

5. Follow the path and wall round to the right and stay on the path for 830m as it drops down to a gate on the left at the bottom. Ignore the gate, follow the path round to the right, go through a gate to join a concrete driveway and continue ahead towards a road junction.
6. Just before the junction, turn left through a gate, walk down the field and through the next gate into a lane. Turn right along it towards The Prince Albert pub and take the first left onto a wide unsurfaced track. Stay on the track as it turns right uphill and go straight ahead on a narrower track just after The Old Cottage. Turn right along the gravel driveway to a road. Turn left up the pavement and verge, and left again on a path just after Rose Cottage. Keep straight ahead to a path junction from which there are wonderful views over the valley below.
7. Turn right through a barrier and walk past the allotments to an unsurfaced lane. Cross to the grass opposite, bear left and take the path up into the wood. After a few metres, fork left up to the common and cross the access road. Walk alongside the church, turn left past its entrance, then right along the rough lane (Church Path) to return to the car park.

***Optional shorter route – turn left along the field edge and up through a gate. Continue for 150m, turn left along the edge of the field for 150m and turn right. Follow the path to the right of the hedgerow as it descends then climbs up through a gate. Stay on the path to meet a major path junction at point 7 of the walk. Turn left to rejoin the main route.**

Continued overleaf



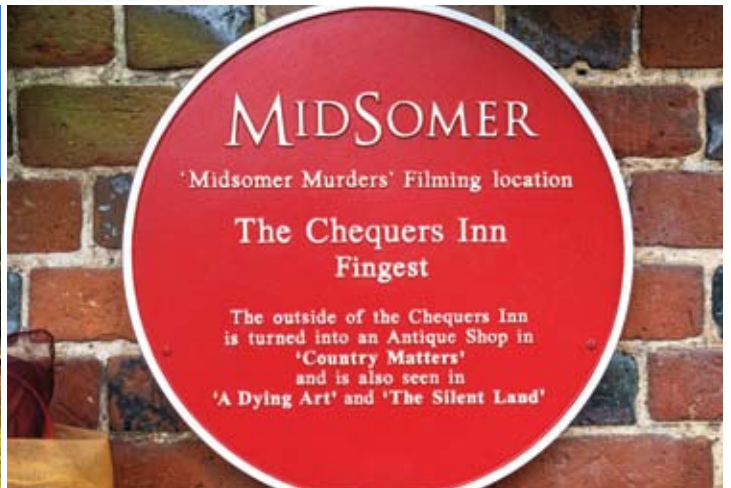
Leaving Fining Wood



St Bartholomew's Church



Holy Trinity Church, Lane End



The Chequers Inn



View of Fingest

Points of interest

Lane End: The parish is made up of five 'Ends': Bolter End, Cadmore End, Lane End, Moor End and Wheeler End. The meaning could come from places at the end of a road or track. Over the centuries the main activities in the area have been agriculture, brick making and woodwork. The village has a number of Grade II listed buildings dating from the 18th century onwards. The route includes Holy Trinity, built in 1878 by the architect John Oldrid Scott, son of Sir George Gilbert Scott, and the business of E & R Meakes who have been metal workers in Lane End for generations.

Common Land dates from the manorial system of medieval times, when poor quality land was allowed to be used by local people for activities such as grazing livestock and collecting wood. This was known as 'Commons Rights', but many areas were lost when they were enclosed by landowners. Within Lane End parish there are seven commons, each with their own unique characteristics. This walk touches on three of them, Handleton Common located behind the car park, Ditchfield Common which surrounds Holy Trinity Church and Moor Common at Frieth.

A. Fingest: The unusual name comes from the Danish *Thinghurst*, meaning a wooded hill where there were public assemblies. The most notable building is Grade I listed St Bartholomew's Church, with its fine 12th century Norman tower and unusual twin gables. In the grounds of Fingest Manor are the remains of a bishop's palace, and it's said to be haunted by the ghost of Henry Burghersh, a 14th century Bishop of Lincoln. He enclosed common land for a deer park, causing the poor locals much hardship. His ghost haunts the area as penance for his misdeed.

B. Fieldfare Stile is dedicated to the memory of Henry Bridges Fearon, who, from the 1920s onwards, wrote a weekly column on rural walks in the Home Counties in the *Evening News*, under the pen-name 'Fieldfare'.

C. Moor Common was once part of the lost village of Ackhampstead. It was mostly used for the extraction of clay and gravel for brick making. Further south is the larger Moorend Common, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).