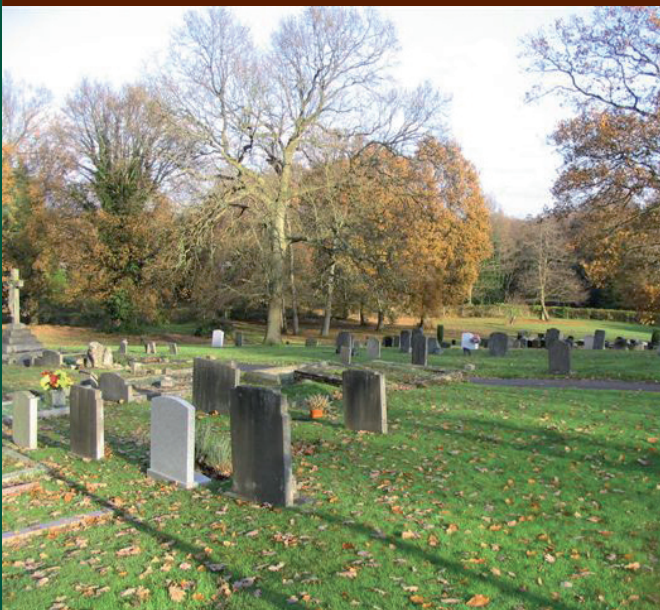


Franklands Village Circular

Distance: 1.5 miles (2.4 km)

Time :30 minutes

Starting point: Franklands Village Hall Car
Park, Franklands Village



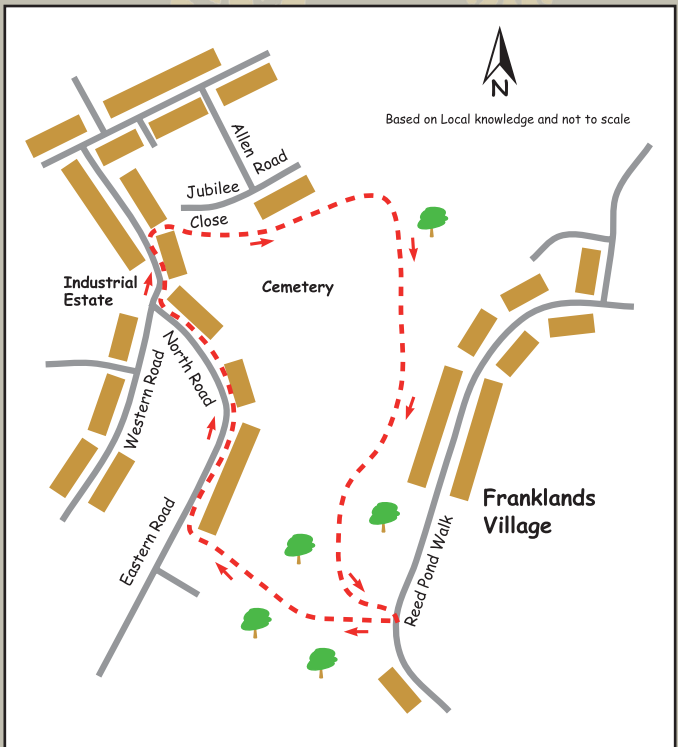
Take the tarmac footpath out of the far corner of the car park, round the edge of the playing field and down the hill. Cross the road and down the tarmac path and up the other side of the valley into North Road.

Turn right into North Road and follow the pavement round to the cemetery. Keep walking past the main gate and enter the cemetery through the next entrance. This is the nature walk and is fenced off from the burial area.

Turn right where the footpath forks and follow the path which brings you to the bottom of the valley. Turn left and retrace steps to car park. There is a very good playground next to the footpath. Ice creams and items of shopping can be obtained from the village shop which is about 92metres from the car park.

On the north side of the tranquil Western Road cemetery, which is owned by the Town Council, is a fenced-off footpath, referred to as the Nature Walk.

The cemetery is botanically interesting and is designated as a Site of Natural Conservation Importance (SNCI). This footpath is particularly worth a visit as a board walk has been installed along the more muddy sections and two illustrated information boards have been erected by the Town Council. The site as a whole has plants not otherwise found in urban Haywards Heath because this marshy area is a remnant of a habitat that is now scarce in Sussex.



A balance is required in the management of this habitat in order to safeguard the dignity of the cemetery while maintaining sufficient dampness to encourage the rare marshland plants. The Greater Tussock Sedge is a particular feature to look out for. It is uncommon in West Sussex as a result of habitat destruction (but may be seen at Amberley Wild Brooks owned by Sussex Wildlife Trust). Also look for the ivy leaved bellflower with its tiny blue flowers in July-August and many other kinds of sedge.

A partnership project between Haywards Heath Town Council, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council.