

SFG Walk - Houndings Lane, Dingle and Brook Woods

1. Starting from Third Avenue, junction with Crewe Road, follow Third Avenue, then go right onto Hungerford Place and continue via a ginnel to emerge onto Mill Hill Lane and turn left, going downhill.
2. In the valley, at the bridge over the Arclid Brook, ignore the footpath to the right and continue uphill, where it becomes Houndings Lane. Follow the road round a few bends over the bypass (A534) and pass the farm buildings, then follow the road round a bend to the right, ignoring a footpath off to the left.

3. Stay on Houndings Lane as it bends left, but at a bend to the right, there is a farm track on the left and just to the right of that go through a little metal gate and into a grassed area. Go straight across and make for a gap ahead into Laurel Close (ignoring a gap to the right) and at the end go right onto Palmer Road.

4. After a short distance head for a gap between metal railings and enter a green space with trees and go left to emerge into Lea Close. Continue in the same direction, through a gap into a football field and turn left, keeping the boundary to the left. At the corner, continue through a gap into a ginnel, leading out to Palmer Road and turn right.

5. After a short distance go left into Ormerod Close and then go second right on a footway between front gardens. This bends left and on emerging on Birch Gardens go right, continuing in that direction to reach the traffic lights and controlled crossing. Cross to the High Street, over the Town Bridge (over Arclid Brook) with its round-topped sandstone side walls and go down a slope on the right called Church Street. Then very soon turn right into Bath Street and immediately right to follow a path crossing a wooden footbridge and then go left on a path through Dingle Wood with the main road over to the right.
6. Continue on this path, Dingle Lake appearing on the left. After about 0.25 mile the path enters an open area near the road, but go through a wooden

gate up on the left and turn right on a grassy path leading to a wide green area and continue with trees to the right. Follow the green area and go round an old oak tree, turning back to walk down the opposite side of the green with back gardens to the right (you can make the walk a little longer by going further up the green, if desired, before turning back).

7. The green to the right opens into a wider space. Keep on slightly right to go between trees to the left and clumps of trees to the right. At a tarmac footpath go left, and stay on the footpath as it bends round to the right to emerge onto Gawsworth Drive and go left. Then cross over Adlington Drive and enter a ginnel opposite into the Town Park.

8. In the Park, go left and downhill to the bottom. (You can go through a gate to explore a wooden causeway running parallel to the path, to view the pond). At the bottom, go through a gap out of the Park proper, crossing straight over a track called Dingle Lane (Point A) and into woods. Follow the obvious path, ignoring the path going up on the right, but continue and eventually follow a path and old steps up to emerge onto Dingle Lane and go left with a view of St Mary's Church ahead (for a shorter route, you could have turned right at Point A to follow Dingle Lane to the end).
9. At the end of Dingle Lane continue in about the same direction (ignoring Dingle Bank to the right) then left onto Well Bank and left again on Church Street, with the high sandstone walls of

the churchyard to the right.

10. Soon, follow the sandstone wall round to the right (trying to avert your eyes from the wheelybins) and follow the road round a left bend passing the delightful cottages of Front Street on the left.
11. At the end of Front Street, go uphill to the High Street, and continue over the Town Bridge. Go right at the traffic lights, keeping the trees to the right, then look for a gap, down steps and into St Mary's Dell, Arclid Brook being to the right.
Ignore the grassy path almost immediately sloping up and continue with the Brook to the right. Follow the obvious path, and eventually go left up steps and at the top go right.

12. Cross Brookhouse Road carefully (this leads to Waitrose), and then cross the main road, with care, using the island halfway.
13. On the other side go left and almost immediately right to enter Brook Wood, going down steps. Stay on this path, keeping left where there is a choice of paths.
14. After about 0.25 mile there is an open green area, but keep on in about the same direction with the open area to the right to re-enter the woods. Follow the path downhill and then after about 0.1 mile go up two flights of steps, soon followed by a long flight up with handrail, to emerge onto Coronation Crescent and go left (look back at the wooden sign identifying the woods as Brook Wood, Coronation Wood).

Note, if you miss the the long flight of steps up and you come to a brick structure in the woods, with a manhole on top, turn back and find the steps, now up to the left).

15. Having turned left out of the woods, follow Coronation Crescent, left onto Town Fields, right on Hungerford Place and left to return on Third Avenue.

Our thanks go to Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group who created The Dingle Wood, Brook Wood and St Mary's Dell paths.