

Sandbach Footpath Group

BROOK WOOD short walk only

About 1 mile or 1.5km

Allow 1 hour.

(For a longer walk, please see the walk titled "Brook Wood and Houndings Lane").

As with all country walks, some paths are wet, muddy and uneven, so wear strong footwear and have clothing to suit the weather.

Start from Lower Waitrose Car Park

Cross the road to be on the same side as the Homebase Store.

Brook Wood is a fairly narrow strip and our path is a loop out and return. The path splits into two in places, an upper path and a lower path. Both are very pleasant and it does not matter which you follow, but if you do the walk another time you can try the alternative.

There are two entrances to Brook Wood from here.

- a)** The entrance to the upper path is through a gate near the small roundabout on Mill Pool Way. (Mill Pool Way leads to the group of houses near Homebase.)
- b)** To find the entrance to the lower path, follow the pavement round to the large roundabout on the main A534 and you should see some steps down into the woods.
- c)** Also, there are various other entrances into Brook Wood from Coronation Crescent, Town Fields and Fairfield Avenue, which you could try if you prefer. *The entrances are marked on the accompanying map.*

Brook Wood was opened in 2014, after superb restoration and a lot of hard work by teams of volunteers from, amongst others, Sandbach Woodland & Wildlife Group, Sandbach U3A Environmental Group and Care4CE.

It does not matter which path you walk [**a) or b)**], both are very pleasant, but on this occasion we will do the lower walk (b). Go down the steps from the main roundabout and keep going forward, keeping left where you have a choice of paths. After about 500m, when you reach an open green area, keep going in the same general direction and look for a path at the lower left hand end of the green. Continue in the same direction downhill and then after about 100m, look on your right for a long flight of steps up with a handrail to the left of the top few steps [part-way up the steps on the left, there is a low level manhole cover, about 150mm high]. This is the end of the loop and at the top of the steps you can then turn right and return by the upper path [**a)**].

If you miss the steps up, and come to a substantial brick structure about 1m high and 1m square with a manhole cover on top, turn back about 10m, and look for the steps up.

Return path

From the top of the steps and the handrail, take the upper path and where you have a choice, take the left hand fork, unless it leads out onto a road. At the open green area, look for a path almost opposite, but slight down hill and to the right of the back gardens to the houses on Town Fields. Follow the path, again taking the left alternative unless it leads out of the woods, back to the gate [**a)**] near Homebase.

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