



Sandbach Partnership  
A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



**Sandbach Footpath Group**  
Aiming to protect, improve, extend  
and make accessible the network of  
footpaths in and around Sandbach.



Orange-tip butterfly  
Stella Stilwell  
Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group



## EXTENDING FOOTPATH ACCESSIBILITY - SANDBACH

This paper states the case for the development of more, fully accessible, paths in Sandbach. Its purpose is to highlight locations where new paths, fully accessible to all, can be created. This will involve vision, advanced planning and a financial commitment. Sandbach voluntary organisations, The Sandbach Footpath Group (SFG), Sandbach Grassroots Disability, Sandbach Partnership and Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group (SWWG), can provide the vision. They wish to work with Cheshire East Council and Sandbach Town Council to ensure advance planning. The financial commitment should be provided by developers as a consequence of local planning applications and should be achieved by CEC planning department. **WE WOULD ASK THAT EXTENSION OF FOOTPATH ACCESSIBILITY IS ALWAYS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN PLANNING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.**

Much work has been undertaken by the four voluntary organisations over the past few years to improve the existing footpaths and to extend the network of footpaths in Sandbach. The Sandbach Footpath Group (SFG), Sandbach Grassroots Disability, Sandbach Partnership and Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group (SWWG) have jointly developed a Footpath Master Plan for Sandbach, which includes existing and proposed new paths for Sandbach, particularly those "Aspirational paths to be discussed with developers". The SWWG has also opened new woodland trails in Brook Wood, St Mary's Dell and Dingle Wood.

Everyone needs to experience the outdoors, and to meet like-minded people. This is particularly important for those living alone or with disabilities, otherwise people are in danger of becoming reclusive and possibly prone to dementia. To try and avoid this, every opportunity should be taken to provide outdoor facilities and accessible paths.

The intended beneficiaries of these proposed Fully Accessible footpaths include:

1. Wheelchair users, including motorised wheelchairs,
2. Users of mobility scooters,
3. People, of all ages, often with a balance problem, who have a need to walk on good quality footpaths,
4. Families with buggies for young children,
5. And, of course, the general public.

Existing fully accessible paths within Sandbach include the Wheelock Rail Trail, and most of the paths within Sandbach Park, including the link to Adlington Drive and the housing on The Tatton Drive estate. The one remaining non-accessible path in Sandbach Park is scheduled for an upgrade in 2018.

The Footpath Master Plan aims to increase the number of fully accessible paths within Sandbach. This paper identifies specific paths where full accessibility should be achieved within the next 3-5 years.

### **Footpaths to be Targeted for Full Accessibility**

**1. Brook Wood East.** Path to the east of Brook Wood on the far side of Arclid Brook. This would go between the roundabout at the junction of Old Mill Road and the Wheelock By-Pass (Waitrose roundabout) and Mill Hill Lane. This is shown as an Aspirational path (in blue) on the Footpath Master Plan. This would be a good route from the roundabout near Waitrose through to Mill Hill Lane and on to Houndings Lane.

**2. Congleton Road to Church Lane.** Path to the east of Old Mill Road on the Capricorn Phase 2A Site. This would be from Congleton Road near to the M6 J17 and adjacent to the Co-op Service Station and shop, through to Church Lane.

**3. Sandbach Heath to Church Lane.** Another path on the Capricorn Phase 2A site from either Hawthorne Drive or Wrights Lane to connect to the garage to Church Lane path, principally following the route of Sandbach Public Right of Way Footpath 14. This path makes a link from the existing Sandbach Heath area through to Church Lane, without negotiating the narrow, busy and possibly dangerous Heath Road.

**4. Filter Bed Wood.** A path passing centrally through the Capricorn Phase 2A site from the spine road, linking just south-east of the proposed new road bridge crossing the Wildlife Corridor and Arclid Brook. The path would go in a south-westerly direction, passing near, and to the south east of the fishing lakes, then via the north edge of Filter Bed Wood and through to Old Mill Road. This would require a new accessible footbridge across Arclid Brook in Filter Bed Wood, and a fence installing between this path and the rest of Filter Bed Wood to prevent access to the remainder of the wood. With the aid of traffic islands, this would create a link across the A534, Old Mill Road, from the Adlington Drive or Waterworks House area through to the Spine Road, and Church Lane

**5. Abbey fields to Wheelock Rail Trail.** Paths off Middlewich Road from the new Moorland Road, and from the entrance to Abbeyfields opposite Grange Way to join together and proceed south to link with the (already accessible) Wheelock Rail Trail to the south-east of the football pitches. This would be a useful route for new residents of Abbeyfields to reach the football pitches for recreation or spectating and for extended outing further along the Wheelock Rail Trail.

**6. Wheelock Rail Trail to Malkins Bank.** Traffic islands (or better) on the A534 to enable safe crossing and continuing the route to Malkins Bank. The Wheelock Rail Trail is a superbly engineered accessible route, unfortunately cut by the A534. The present crossing is dangerous because of the speed of traffic, and people often turn back at this point. A great improvement would be to have traffic islands or better still a controlled crossing, if practical. Imagine the pleasure for someone in a wheelchair/buggy going from Ettiley Heath all the way to the Clubhouse at Malkins Bank for refreshments.

**7. Elworth to Cookesmere Lane.** Paths from either or both Blakemere Way and Boothsmere Close though the open ground north of the golf course and linking to Cookesmere Lane with a new pavement for a few metres to join the existing pavement on Cookesmere Lane, leading through, on pavements, to Bradwall Road. This would be a pollution-free and safe route from Elworth to Bradwall Road.

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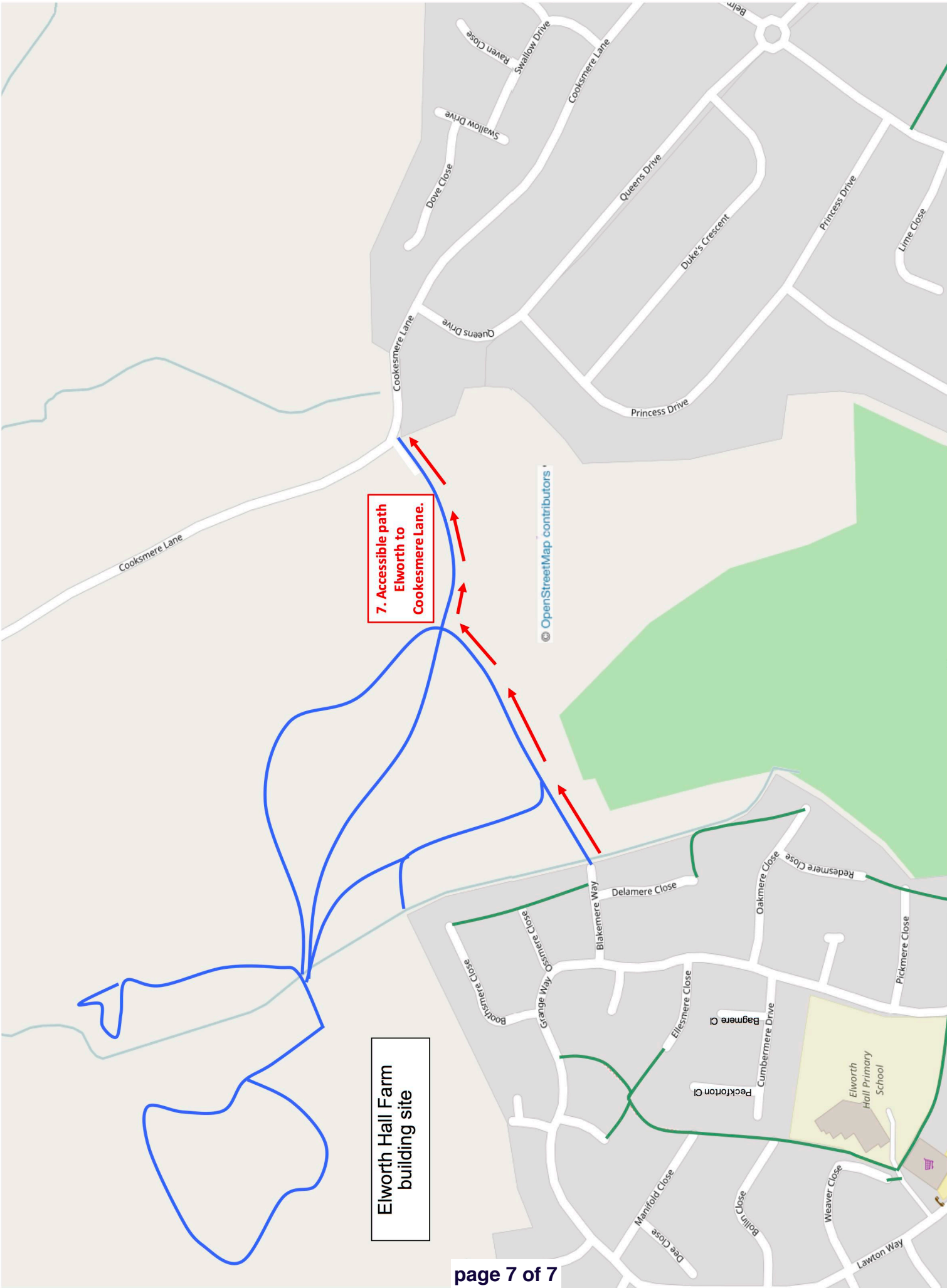












7. Accessible path  
Elworth to  
Cooksmere Lane.

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Elworth Hall Farm  
building site