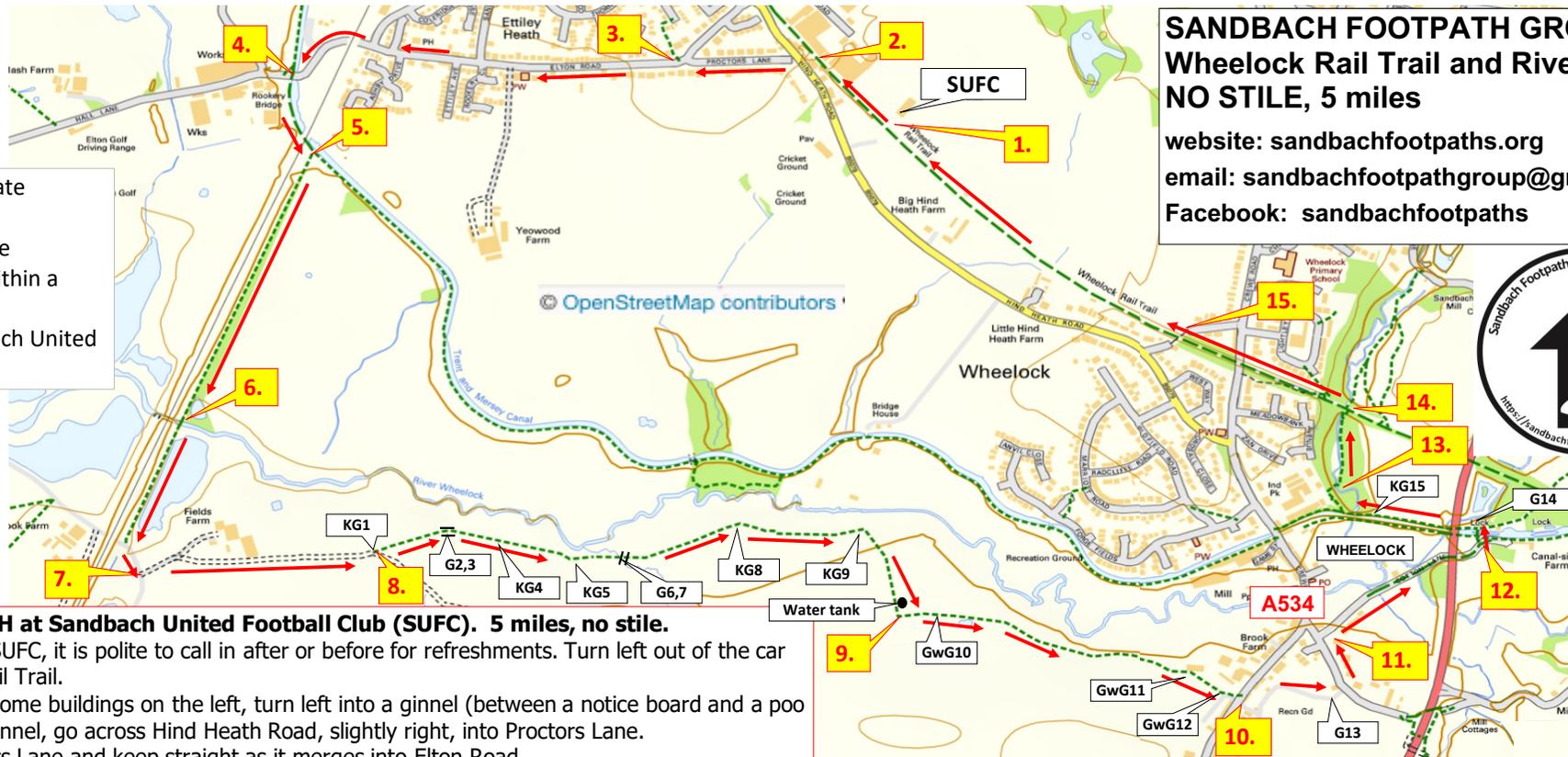


SANDBACH FOOTPATH GROUP
Wheelock Rail Trail and River
NO STILE, 5 miles

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KG = Kissing Gate
G = Gate
FB = Footbridge
GwG = Gate within a Gate
SUFC = Sandbach United Football Club



START / FINISH at Sandbach United Football Club (SUFC). 5 miles, no stile.

- 1.** If parking at SUFC, it is polite to call in after or before for refreshments. Turn left out of the car park onto the Rail Trail.
- 2.** Approaching some buildings on the left, turn left into a ginnel (between a notice board and a poo bin). At end of ginnel, go across Hind Heath Road, slightly right, into Proctors Lane.
- 3.** Follow Proctors Lane and keep straight as it merges into Elton Road.
- 4.** Go under railway bridge, over the canal and then down to join the canal to walk the towpath with the canal to the left for a short distance.
- 5.** Just after going under the railway bridge, take the footpath right, downhill, railway up on the right.
- 6.** After about 1/2 mile, go over the River Wheelock; notice the railway support pipes for river flood. Note. This may flood after heavy rain. If so, turn back and try another time.
- 7.** The path continues for another 1/4 mile to emerge at a little car park. Follow a track bearing left, then soon go left on a lane towards a farm but fork right through the yard. Take care, there may be heavy machinery moving composting materials.
- 8.** Soon after the yard, proceed on a track, then bear slightly left through **KG1** and across the field, over the little rise, and go through **G2,3/FB** by a black poplar tree, deep cut bark. Keep the edge of the field to the left and then through **KG4** into the next field. Keep the River to the left and go through **KG5**. A brook appears to the left then go through **G6,7/FB** and turn right. The River will now be a little way to the left but aim for a field boundary corner ahead on higher ground. Keep this boundary to the right and after about 1/4 mile go through **KG8**, then another 1/4 mile and through **KG9**, soon turning right, keeping field boundary to the right, passing a water tank and, at a track, turn left.

Soon go through a little gate-within-a-gate (GwG), **GwG10** (rarely shut).

- 9.** Follow the track for about 1/2 mile to farm sheds and on the right through, **GwG11** (opposite a huge blue tank) then **GwG12** to follow the track ahead.
- 10.** Emerge onto Crewe Road, cross with care, and follow a track opposite to a recreation ground. Go left with a line of rowan trees to the left to join a winding path, through **G13**, to emerge onto Mill Lane and turn left.
- 11.** After about 1/4 mile go right onto Cotton Lane, and then under the bypass, A534.
- 12.** Go left over canal, left again through **G14** down to a field, keeping canal to the left. Through **KG15** and soon turn right with a fence to the left.
- 13.** Cross a footbridge and follow the path with the brook to the left.
- 14.** At a bridge ("The Dancing Bridge") go up steps to the Wheelock Rail Trail and turn left.
- 15.** Follow the Rail Trail for about 2 miles back to **SUFC**, calling in for refreshments at the "Cross Bar".

