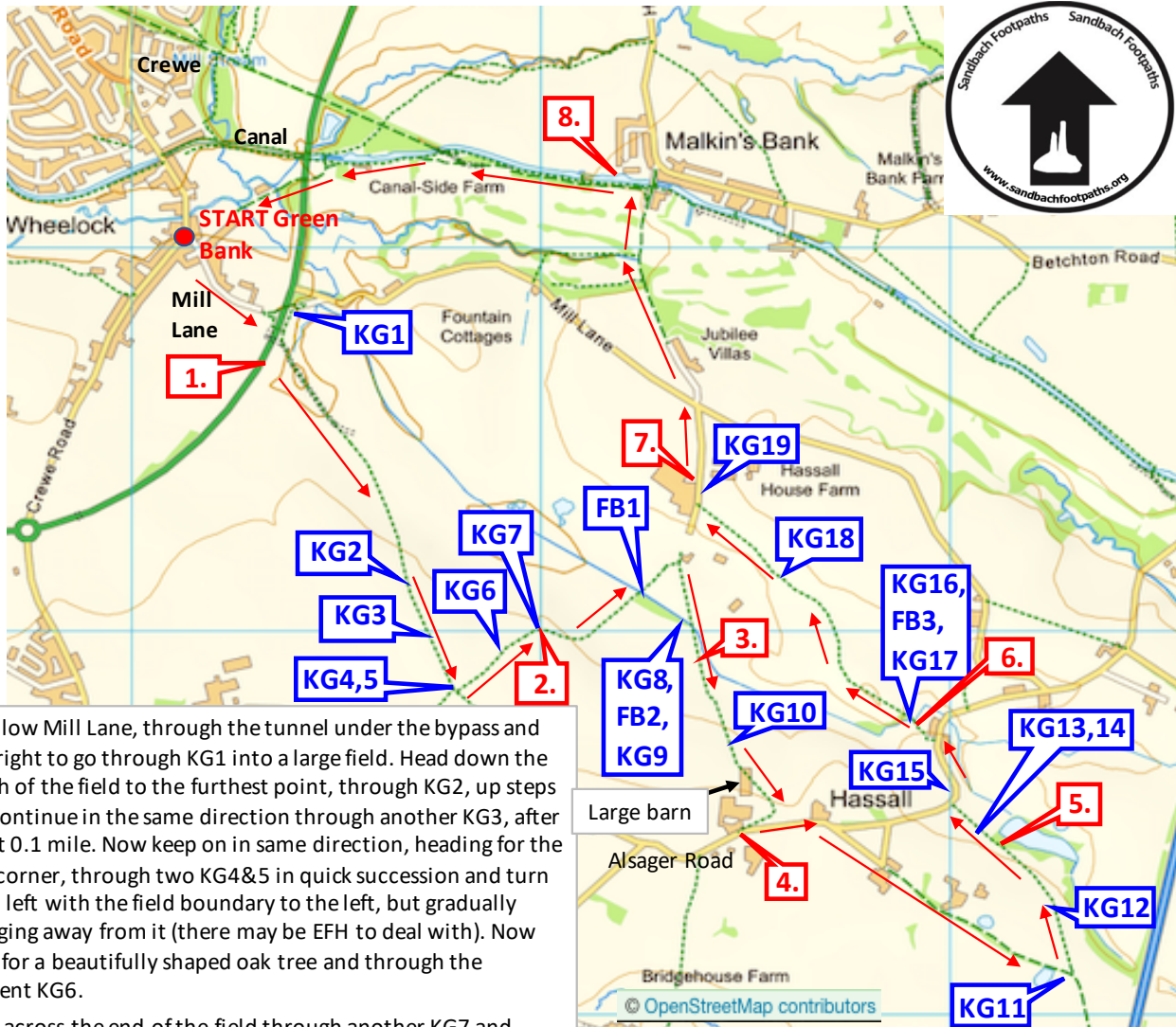


SANDBACH FOOTPATH GOUP - Hassall Pool from Wheelock Green Bank, 4.5 miles, 1 stile.

To find Green Bank follow Crewe Road from Sandbach to Wheelock, over the canal bridge and turn left into Mill Lane, then immediately on the right is a small car park.

The walk is 4.5 miles, 1 stile, mostly fields with a little lane walking. **KG** = Kissing Gate, **EFH** = Electric Fence Handles.



1. Follow Mill Lane, through the tunnel under the bypass and turn right to go through KG1 into a large field. Head down the length of the field to the furthest point, through KG2, up steps and continue in the same direction through another KG3, after about 0.1 mile. Now keep on in same direction, heading for the field corner, through two KG4&5 in quick succession and turn sharp left with the field boundary to the left, but gradually diverging away from it (there may be EFH to deal with). Now head for a beautifully shaped oak tree and through the adjacent KG6.

2. Go across the end of the field through another KG7 and keeping the field boundary to the right, go up and then follow round to the left going downhill and over a footbridge, FB1 with two gates. Go uphill in same direction as the footbridge, then down towards a KG by a utility pole and stop there. The steps beyond the KG are called Jacobs Ladder, but turn sharply back from the KG bearing slightly left of the line from the steps. Go uphill then diagonally down to the KG8 at the bottom left corner, across a footbridge, FB2, over a wooded stream and then through another KG9.

3. Now go slightly uphill (you may have to unhook and replace some EFH along the way) and at a rough track go left and then through KG10 at the field corner. Now head diagonally across the field uphill to the left of a large barn, then across a track and gradually round to the right with the farm yard and buildings a little to the right, unhooking and replacing some EFH along the way. Go through a gate to emerge onto Alsager Road.

4. Now turn sharp left to follow the road, taking care with traffic, and soon bear right down a lane. The lane becomes a track and after about 0.25 mile, passing a fishing pool on the right, turn off left through KG11 on a footpath, with the field boundary over to the right. Head across the field towards large trees, then through KG12 and keep on in the same direction.

5. Hassall Pool, surrounded by trees comes into view on the right, then at the end of the pool go through two KG13&14, crossing a farm track in between, then across a field, through KG15 to emerge onto Alsager Road and turn right. Take care with traffic and after 0.1 mile just before some old buildings (Lodley Smithy and Daisy Bank), go over a stile on the left.

6. Follow the boundary to the right through KG16, over a footbridge FB3, then through another KG17 and up steps into a field. Go in the same direction uphill and gradually work towards the field boundary on the right. Go through a gate, then the boundary becomes on the left and through KG18 by a small pool. Then with the boundary a little way to the left proceed to the next KG19, down a couple of steps to a lane.

7. Turn right along the lane, going uphill, passing Bank Farm on the left and up to a cross road. Cross straight over with care and continue passing the white painted Jubilee Villas to the right. Stay on the lane going down to the golf course (look out for golfers teeing off on the right). Go over the stream at the bottom then uphill on the lane to the canal.

8. Turn left to follow the towpath with the canal to the right. Stay on the towpath to the lock cottages on the opposite bank and then fork left from the canal downhill on Cotton Lane and under the bypass on the lane back to Wheelock Green Bank.