

Public Rights of Way through Woodford



Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

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CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Map of the Public Rights of Way in Woodford	3
1HGB from Old Hall Lane to the River Dean, leading to Woodford Lane	4
4HGB from Blossoms Lane to Church Lane	7
5HGB from Wilmslow Road to Church Lane (part of the Fred Perry Way)	9
7HGB from Church Lane to Chester Road	11
9HGB from Church Lane to Foden Lane	14
28CG from Hall Moss Lane to Blossoms Lane	18

INTRODUCTION

A residents' survey conducted by Woodford Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee in 2014 provided a clear message that a large proportion of you wanted to retain the green spaces and encourage walking and cycling in the village. Woodford Neighbourhood Forum and the Woodford Community Council are working in harmony to achieve these aspirations. Woodford Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee conducted a survey of all the Public Rights of Way through Woodford in 2017/2018 and the Woodford Community Council Management Committee have been highlighting walking routes through Woodford in a series of articles in their newsletter.

This guide has been produce to encourage walking and enjoyment of the environment in and around Woodford and focuses on the short public rights of way which pass through the neighbourhood area. These can be linked to each other and to public rights of way in the wider area to create longer routes.

Please note that the condition of the paths will vary over the year. Some can be very muddy or even flooded in wet weather, may become overgrown by vegetation, or be obstructed by fallen trees or broken fencing. We do our best to monitor their condition and report obstructions to the Stockport Council Public Rights of Way officer

Many of these rights of way cross agricultural fields where sheep and lambs may be grazing, grass may be grown for hay, or crops may be grown for harvest. Walkers should stick to the path, keep dogs under control and avoid trampling long grass or other crops, which are then more difficult to cut.

Please observe the countryside code: [Respect - Protect – Enjoy](#)

MAP OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN WOODFORD



1HGB FROM OLD HALL LANE TO THE RIVER DEAN, LEADING TO WOODFORD LANE

Old Hall Lane is a narrow lane that runs gently downhill from Woodford Church on Chester Road for 1 kilometre. The public right of way along the lane, 106HGB, ends at a private road to New Hall Farm and the Avro Golf Course club house. On a clear day, fine views of Alderley Edge and the Pennine Hills can be enjoyed from gateways through the hedgerows and the lower part of the lane.

Footpath 1HGB starts at a stile from the lane on the right around 100 m after Old Hall Farm. The stile leads to a track across a field towards the River Dean. You may spot a warren of rabbit burrows in the banks of sandy soil by the track. The footpath crosses a bridge over the River Dean, which marks the boundary between Woodford in the borough of Stockport and Newton in Cheshire East. The river here meanders in a series of elaborate bends through the low lying fields and is bounded by small willow trees. You may spot the invasive species, Himalayan Balsam, which is spreading along its banks. Looking back along the footpath gives a view of Old Hall Farm, which is currently being renovated.



Old Hall Lane leading to 1HGB



Footpath across the field to River Dean



Bridge over River Dean at boundary of Woodford



River Dean from the bridge

If you turn right after crossing the bridge, you can join footpath Prestbury FP40, which runs parallel to the river. The footpath follows the boundary of the field, turning left in the corner towards a stile on the far side. Here Prestbury FP41 continues around the boundary of the field, while FP40 crosses over the field boundary via a stile. On the other side of the stile, the footpath is narrow and bounded by tall hedges. This leads past Lumb Farm and out through a gate onto Woodford Lane in Newton, which in turn leads to a cross roads with Lees Lane and Mill Lane.



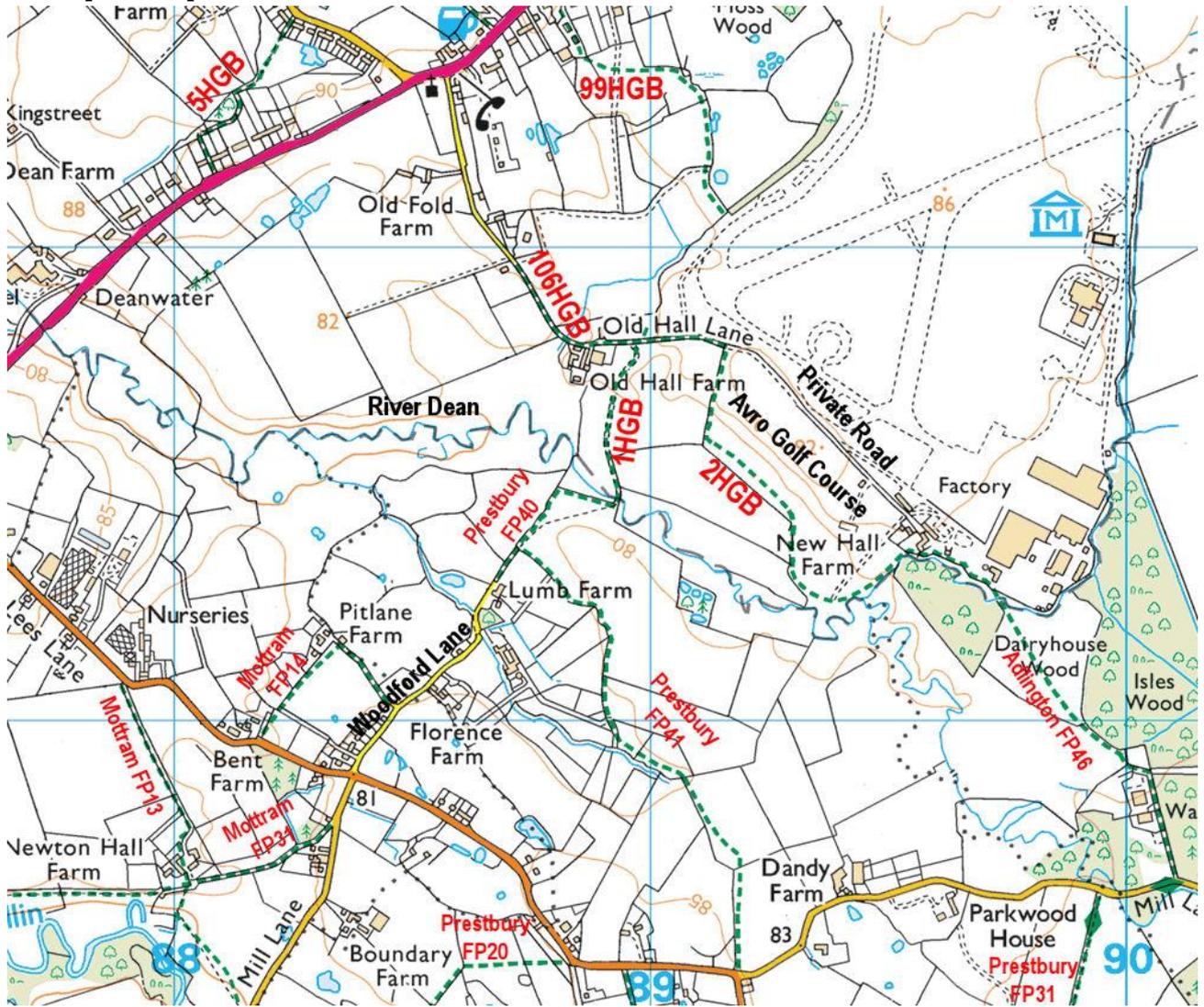
Stile from the field



Gate out to Woodford Lane

This footpath provides the opportunity for a longer walk by connecting with a variety of footpaths in Cheshire East, as shown on the map below. Beware of high speed traffic on Lees Lane and Bonis Hall Lane, which are narrow, winding and do not have pavements for walkers.

OS map of footpaths in south Woodford and Newton



4HGB FROM BLOSSOMS LANE TO CHURCH LANE

This short section provides connections to longer walks. Follow a public right of way (FP147) from Threeways Farm on Blossoms Lane in Woodford along the private, no-through-road section of the road, passing Blossoms Farm on the left. Note that this section of road can be used by walkers, but is not a right of way for cyclists or horse riders. Dogs should be kept on a lead.

As you walk down this lane you cross the border into Handforth, Cheshire East. Around 100 m or so beyond Blossoms Farm, turn left over a stile into a field belonging to Barr Green Farm and you are back over the border into Woodford, Stockport.

The path crosses a short open section of field, where there are views across farm fields and towards Lyme Park and Kinder Scout in the distance. It then runs beside a stream and tall hedge on the right in this same field. The stream is crossed via a footbridge leading to a fenced footpath, which exits on to Church Lane alongside Glyn Evans Nursery, near a sharp bend in the road.



Blossoms Lane, FP147



Stile into field, 4HGB



Stile to bridge across stream

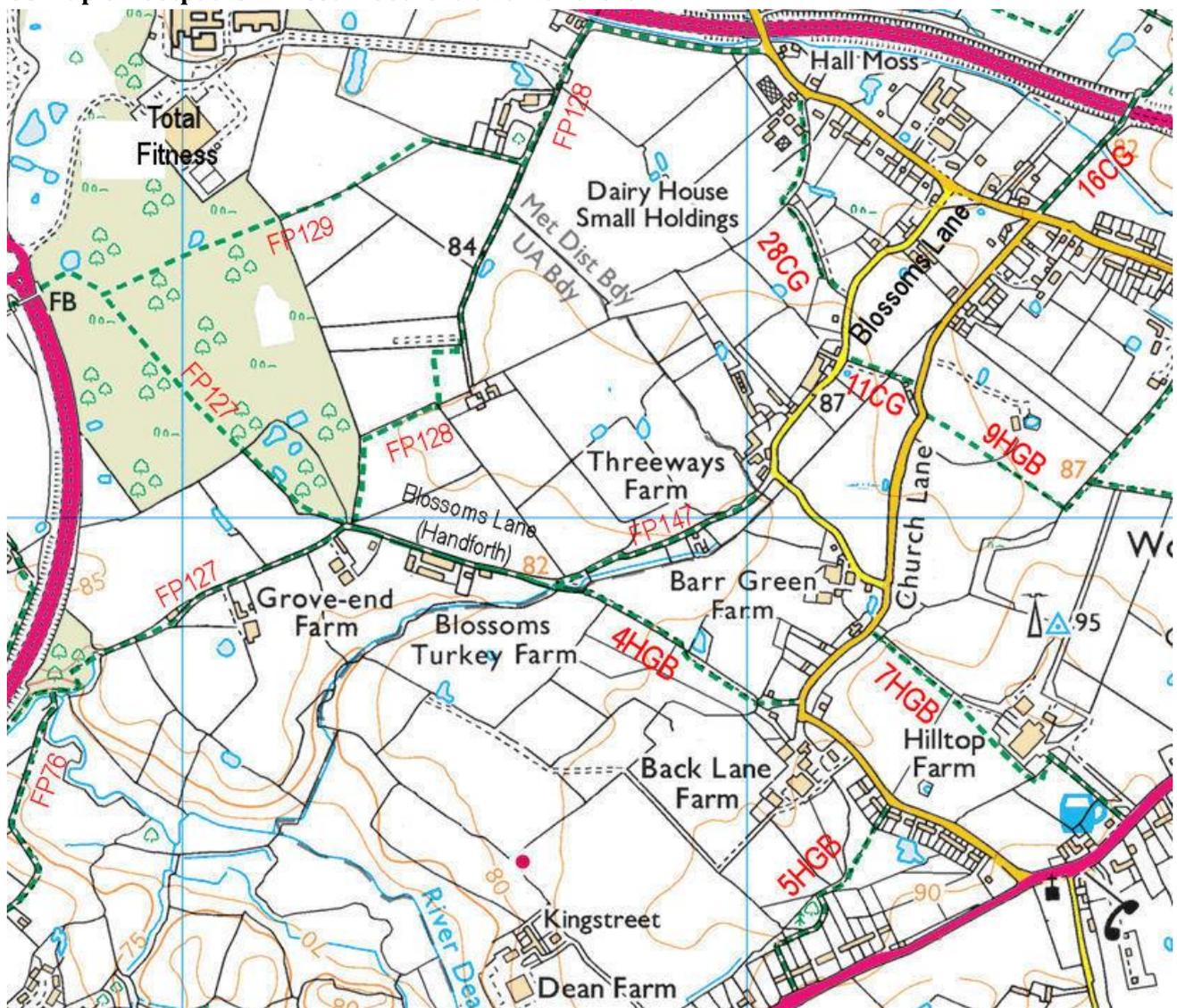


Exit onto Church Lane (Fred Perry Way)

Turning right at the exit onto Church Lane and walking 100 m leads to a footpath on the right, which is 5HGB, part of the Fred Perry Way. This path is very narrow in places and leads to Wilmslow Road. Alternatively, turning left at the exit of 4HGB onto Church Lane and walking 100 m leads to a footpath on the right (7HGB), which crosses fields belonging to Hill Top Farm and goes to Chester Road.

From the Blossoms Lane end of 4HGB, a walk can be linked with footpaths leading west into Handforth, including Wilmslow FP127, FP128, FP129, or south west across the River Dean to Dean Row.

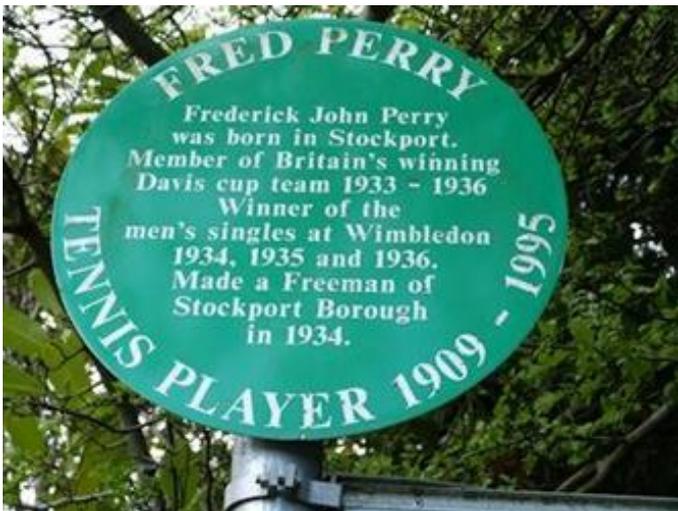
OS Map of footpaths in west Woodford and Handforth



5HGB FROM WILMSLOW ROAD TO CHURCH LANE (PART OF THE FRED PERRY WAY)

This path is part of the Fred Perry Way, which spans Stockport Borough, from Woodford in the south to Reddish in the north. Fred Perry was a tennis player who was born in Portwood in 1909. He won the men's singles in 1934 and 1935. The footpath was developed with NHS support to encourage walking.

From Wilmslow Road a sign points to the path adjacent to Quinta. Follow the path through a narrow space between the gardens of houses on Wilmslow Road and turn right alongside an area of woodland. Cross the stile into a field belonging to Deanvalley Farm, which is very boggy in wet weather and sometimes contains grazing horses.



Sign at Wilmslow Road



Narrow path between hedges



Woodland alongside the path



Stile into field at Deanvalley Farm

A stile on the other side of the field leads to a narrow pathway between houses and which leads on to Church Lane.



Stile from field



Narrow track between houses on Church Lane

7HGB FROM CHURCH LANE TO CHESTER ROAD

This footpath starts on Church Lane between the sharp bend at Weavers Corner and the junction with Blossoms Lane. A stile leads through the hedge on the south east side of road into a field. In a few yards another stile leads into a field on Hill Top Farm. Keep the hedge on your left and walk up the slope to another stile alongside a gateway. The path is very muddy here in wet weather.

At the top of the slope, Woodford Church can be seen across the fields and there are glimpses of Macclesfield Forest and Alderley Edge on a clear day. Bear slightly to the right and follow the fence around farm buildings to a narrow gate in the corner of the field. Pass through the small gate and the path leads to a metal gate leading on to Hill Top Farm drive.

Turn right down the drive and fork right on the track leading to Chester Road. A stile leads out on to Chester Road next to the former car show room site.

This route can be linked with other routes, such as 4HGB, which is nearby.



Start of 7HGB from Church Lane



Stile from Church Lane into field



Follow perimeter hedge



Stile between fields



Footpath passes around farm buildings



Small gate in corner of field



Footpath to gate on to Hill Top Farm drive



Follow farm drive



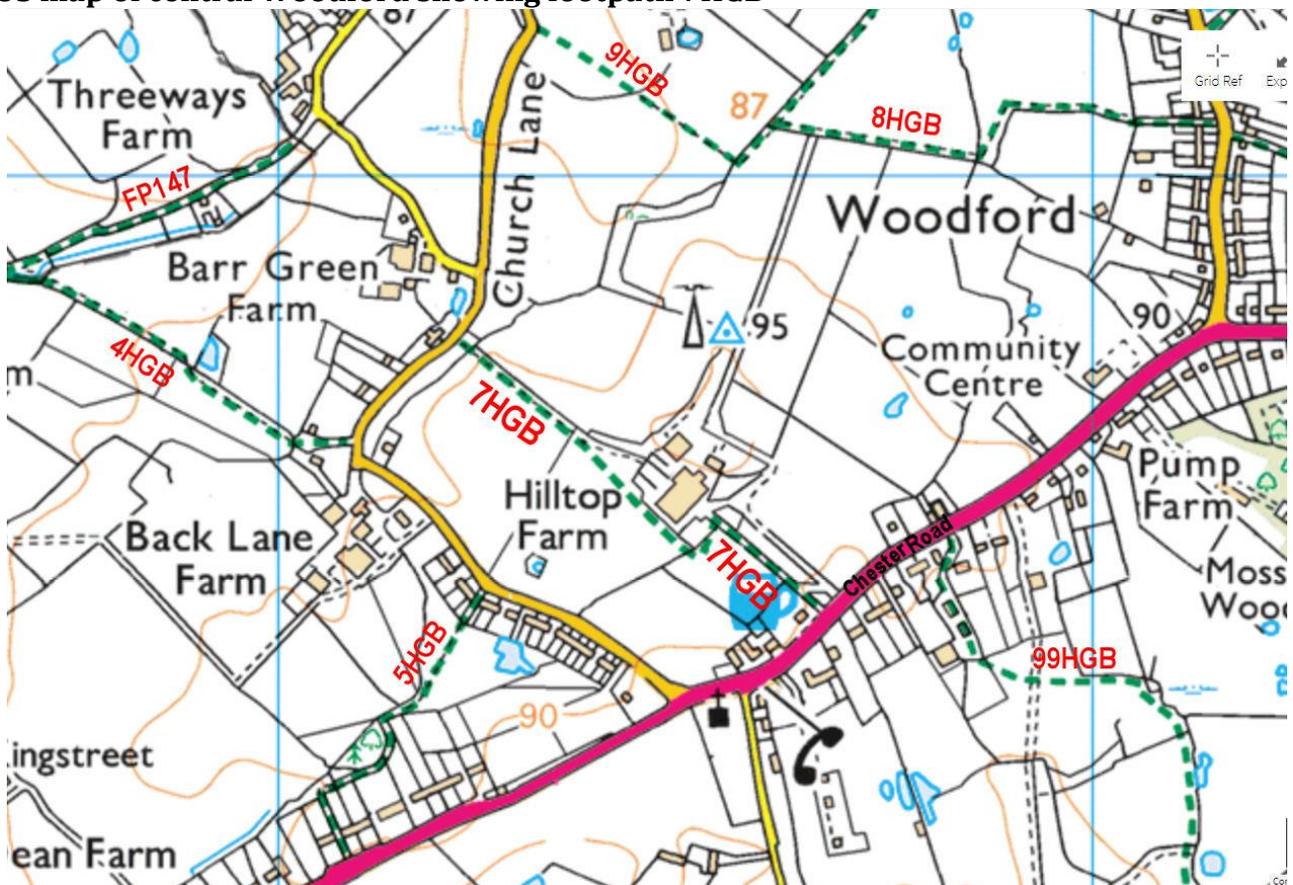
Take right hand track leading to Chester Road



Stile on to Chester Road

This footpath can be linked with other routes such as 5HGB, 4HGB and 9HGB as you can see from the map below.

OS map of central Woodford showing footpath 7HGB



9HGB FROM CHURCH LANE TO FODEN LANE

This footpath starts on Church Lane at the bend near Pear Tree Cottage. A stile beside a gate leads into the grounds of Bramhall Cricket Club. You will notice on the OS map that the route of the footpath runs straight across the wicket. In order to avoid damage to the grounds, walkers can follow the perimeter hedge to the right of the gate and then walk along a raised bank until you arrive at a gate in the fence on the right. Pass through the gate into the field, making sure to fasten the gate behind you to ensure that livestock cannot enter the cricket ground. The footpath runs across the field to a stile beside a tree in the fence on the opposite side. From autumn to spring, look out for a large seasonal pond on the right which attracts large numbers of geese, gulls, ducks and other birds of great interest to bird watchers.

Cross the stile under the tree and turn left. After a few yards, cross another stile by a gate into the next field. This spot is frequently flooded in winter and then only passable in wellington boots. Follow the path beside a tall hedge along the left hand perimeter of the field to arrive at a gate and a stile leading out on to Foden Lane. Turn right on Foden Lane, which leads to Moor Lane.

The seasonal pond in the field adjacent to Bramhall Cricket Club attracts a variety of birds, which are very much enjoyed by keen birdwatchers and casual observers alike. Please respect wildlife and those who enjoy seeing it and avoid letting dogs disturb the birds.



Start of 9HGB from Church Lane



Stile into Bramhall Cricket Ground



Follow perimeter fence



Gate out of cricket ground into field



Stile under tree between fields



Footpath follows fence



Stile between fields (flooded in wet weather weather)



Path by hedge to Foden Lane (in dry



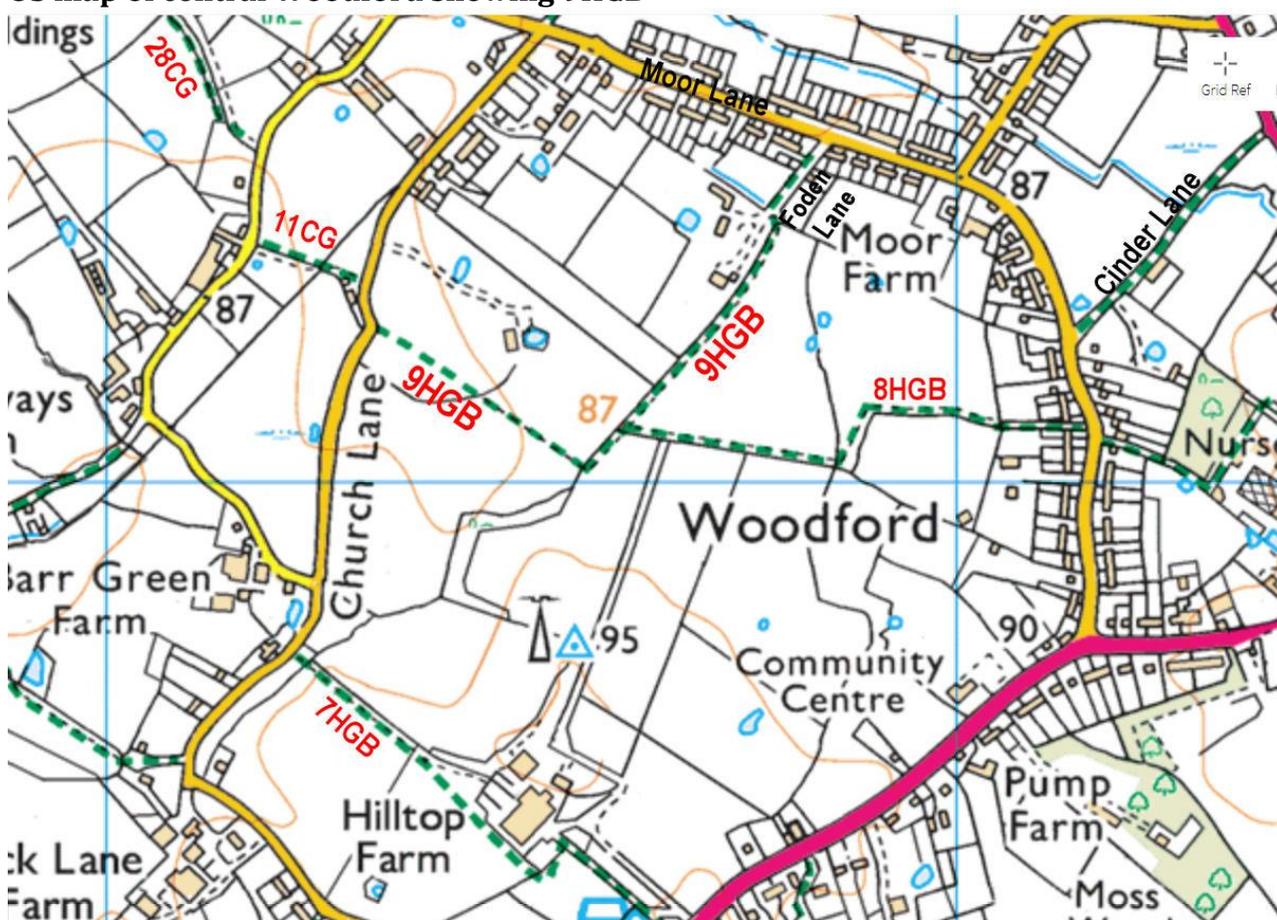
Stile out of field into Foden Lane



Foden Lane

As you will see from the map below, this path connects with 8HGB and can be linked with other footpaths in Woodford, from the Church Lane end or the Moor Lane end.

OS map of central Woodford showing 9HGB



A more up to date simple line map is below, with route of 9HGB around cricket ground added.



28CG FROM HALL MOSS LANE TO BLOSSOMS LANE

Signs proclaim that his footpath is maintained by Bramhall Rotary Club. Many thanks to them for the work done.

Starting from Hall Moss Lane, cross a stile adjacent near Andertons Nursery, then follow a narrow path between hedges to emerge into a field. Follow the perimeter of the field alongside a tall hedge. After 200 metres or so, you will find a stile on the left. Cross the stile into leading a narrow path between a hedge and a fence. This section was overgrown and impassable during the summer of 2016, but extensive pruning work opened it up again in 2017. After another stile the path leads to Blossoms Lane where it exits on to the road near to Laneside.



Stile on Hall Moss



Path through field



Stile from field

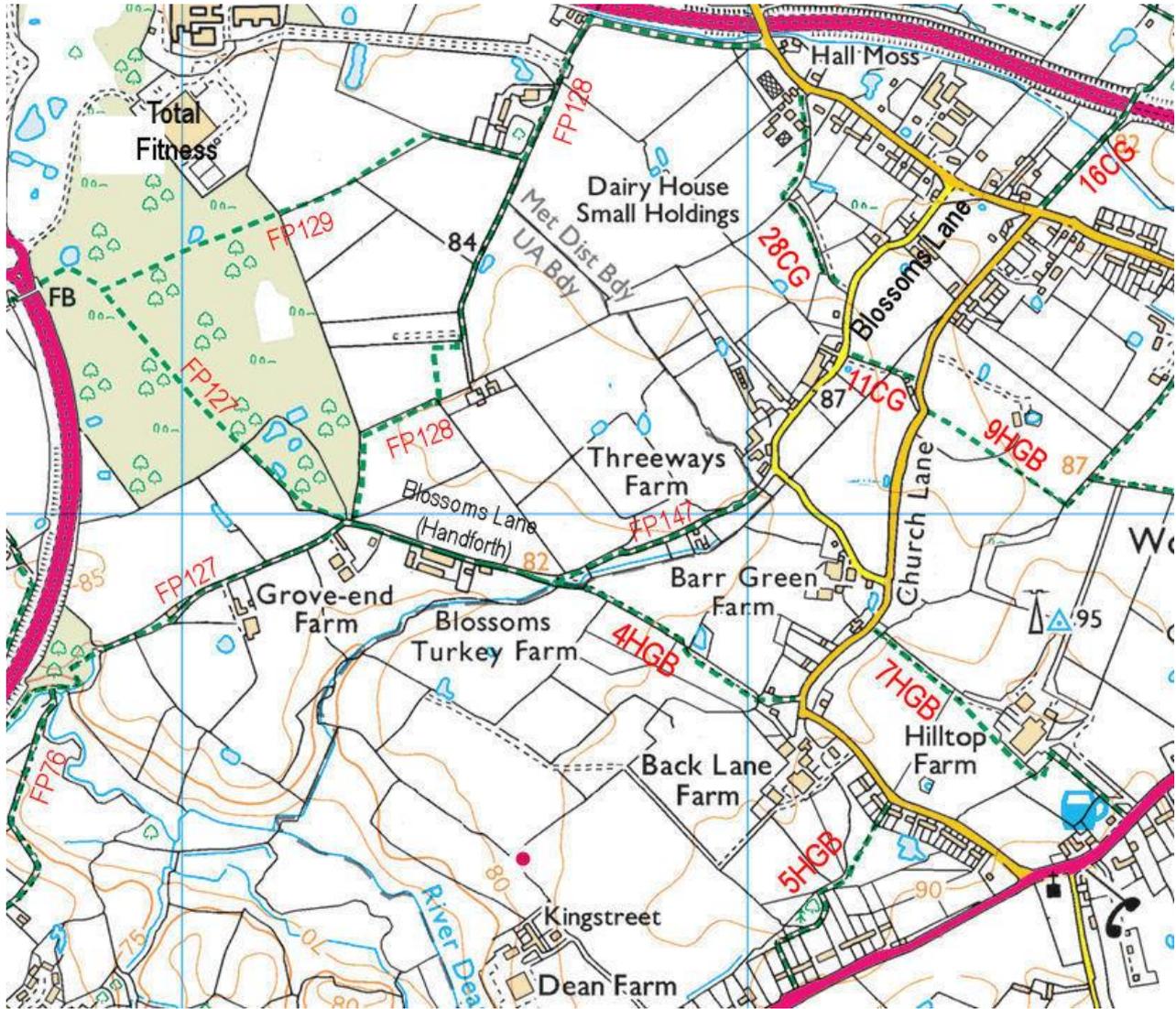


Narrow path between hedge and fence



Stile on Blossoms Lane

OS map showing 28CG



The exit from 28CG on to Blossoms Lane is close to 11CG leading Church Lane and the start of 9HGB. In addition, from the exit on to the Hall Moss Lane it is a short walk to the access road to Total Fitness and FP128 leading to the network of footpaths from there.

For further information:

The Stockport public rights of way map can be found [here](#).

The Cheshire East interactive footpath map can be found [here](#).