

# Step Out at SWFC

## The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



### 86 – Ecclesfield Common – 2.9 miles

After a hilly walk last week, this one is almost flat (by Sheffield standards). Starting in the car park at Ecclesfield Park (opposite Morrisons), we visit the pigs and walk past Butterthwaite along the old railway line, before circling back past Ecclesfield Common (industrial estate).

#### Anticlockwise

From the car park, head straight across the park to emerge into Scholes View. Turn left and follow round to Minster Road, turn left again, then third right into Floodgate Drive. Take first left onto Town Fields Avenue. Just past the end of Anvil Crescent, turn left along the footpath which takes you out onto Cross Hill.

Cross Cross Hill carefully and take the track just on the left; bear right along the footpath and see if the pigs are still there!

Past the pigs and over the bridge, turn left along the path and straight on to Green Lane. Cross the road carefully and find the footpath which drops down and follows the stream – this is Blackburn Brook. After a hundred metres or so, cross the footbridge and the field, then another footbridge (with steps) over the railway line.

Turn left on the Blackburn Valley Trail (part of the Sheffield Country Walk and the Trans Pennine Trail, so watch out for cyclists) and follow it – bear left after a hundred metres to go under the road bridge (if you go up and over the bridge, you'll be home very quickly). And now, just follow the trail.

The next road you come to, Loicher Lane, you go over the bridge – or for a shorter walk, drop down to the road and turn left to come out beside Morrisons.

Follow the trail till you reach a T junction, with the trail dropping to the left or rising to the right. If you get here, you have gone too far, so turn round and find the muddy footpath dropping down and crossing the fence about ten metres



away on your right. (Slower walkers will see the leaders dropping down on the left, so you can save that extra 20 metres!)

Follow this footpath round the outside of the industrial estate, back across the Brook and eventually across the railway line (with care), before coming out on Johnson Lane. Follow this, then turn left at Washington Road, down to the Common and turn left. When you get an opportunity, cross over and carry on till you can turn right into Linden Rd, follow round into the park and back to the car park.

**Risks:**

- Several busy roads to cross – please be careful.
- Quieter side streets to cross / walk along; watch out for cyclists and cars.
- Railway crossing – look and listen for trains and cross straight over.
- Footpaths – dogs, tree roots, etc. Mud, wet leaves, slippery if wet.
- Steps on the footbridge over the railway, may be icy in bad weather