

Walk 1 – Footpath No 1, Pathfield, Coffinswell

Distance: About 1.2 miles (1.8km)

Time: About 30 minutes (circular route)

Terrain: Narrow roads without pavements - No 1 Footpath is level but can be muddy at times - one steep uphill road section

1 Start the walk from the Linny Inn in Coffinswell and walk down the lane opposite the Linny car park.

2 Look to your left after 50 yards and between two high beech hedges you will see the 12th century church and Devon manor house (formerly a court house) next to it, which was a farm house until fairly recently. Continue down the lane which bends to the left and goes behind the church field and on down a narrow winding lane to the valley of the Aller Brook.

3 At Aller Brook turn left through a kissing gate onto No.1 Footpath. This path follows the course of Aller Brook to an open area of coppiced trees.

4 A weir with a waterfall was built at some time in the past to create a small lake, but heavy rains and erosion have washed a large part of the weir away. There is a bench here on which you can rest and, if you are lucky, perhaps spot a Kingfisher, as they have been sighted here.

5 Continue along the path until you come to another kissing gate where you exit the footpath to the left. Take care, as the footpath emerges onto a blind bend in the lane. Turn left and walk up the lane.

6 Just before the road starts to rise quite steeply, there is Butts Lane on your left which is lined with wild garlic in springtime. Butts Lane gets its name from the Middle Ages when it was used for the obligatory archery practice on Sundays. This walk does not go up this lane though, as you will simply retrace earlier steps. Continue along the road, which rises fairly steeply for about 250 yards.

7 Just before the top of the hill you will pass a gap in the hedge on your left with a small metal gate at the entrance to a path that leads to the back of the church. If you fancy a longer walk why not go down this path and visit the church? You can then exit the church at the far end and join in at the beginning of Walk 5 – Big Wheaton Permissive Path, which will add about 30 minutes to the walk.

8 If you don't want to do the extra walk then carry on up the hill and you will shortly see the Coffinswell village sign and after 100 yards or so, you are back at the Linny Inn.

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1 The Linny Inn



2 Saint Bartholomew's Church



3 No 1 Footpath entrance





4 The old weir and seat



5 The gate at the end of Footpath No 1



6 Butts Lane



7 The path to the church



8 Back at The Linny