

# Woodlands Way

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**Distance:** 2½ kms (1½ miles)  
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**Time:** Allow 1½ hours  
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**Start:** From the Vernon Institute  
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**Terrain:** Mostly flat but with some steep earth slopes which can be slippery when wet. Several stiles and kissing gates, earth surfaces in woodland, otherwise over cattle pasture.

Dingle Wood, or as it is better known locally, Bluebell Wood, is lovely in the spring, with its carpet of bluebells, lesser celandine and wood anemone. Its varied birdlife includes all three British woodpeckers. Bamboo clumps and other exotic trees reveal its past as part of the pleasure gardens of Shotwick House.

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**Directions:** Cross the road and turn left down **Sea Hill Road**, past the **Greyhound Inn** and the lovely Bridge Farm (which is said to date from 1668 but may be older) to a narrow lane entrance on the right where an old cast iron finger post at Elderberry Cottage points to 'Welsh Road'.

Follow the short lane to its end, take a diagonal line left across the two fields, and then drop down the old River Dee bank. Turn right along **Marsh Lane**, following it for 80 metres. Then climb up to the right on the footpath into Bluebell/Dingle Wood. Inside the wood keep left along the top of the bank to a path junction. Turn right along the footpath leading towards Shotwick House. At the fingerpost and kissing gate, keep straight on alongside the hedgerow and over the bridge into Pigeon Wood. Carry on alongside the brook through the wood. On exit, aim for the footbridge a little further on your right and go over this, then straight through two meadows back to **Church Road**. A right turn along **Church Road** will return you to the Vernon Institute.

