

Footpath No.21 – Hammer Lane to Barford Upper Pond at County boundary with Surrey

Note: There are steep steps on this path

A finger post (fallen in Sept 2020) on Hammer Lane indicates a gap by Laurel Cottage (Pic 1).

The path descends by steps between wooden fences (Pic 2) then opens out with an unprotected drop on the right-hand side (Pic 3). The path is narrow and care is needed here.

An impressive wooden walkway has been built to take the path safely across a sheer fall (Pic 4). One hopes it will continue to be well maintained.

At the end of the walkway there are steep and uneven steps down to the road, with no handrail. It would be easy to fall here. (Pic 5 & Pic 6 reverse view)

Across the road (Pic 7, Whitmore Vale Road) the path continues downward to reach Barford Upper Pond (Pic 8).

The pond had been partly drained for maintenance to the dam wall on the day of our visit.

Technically FP21 ends at the sluice, which is the county boundary. The path continues as Surrey FP32a.

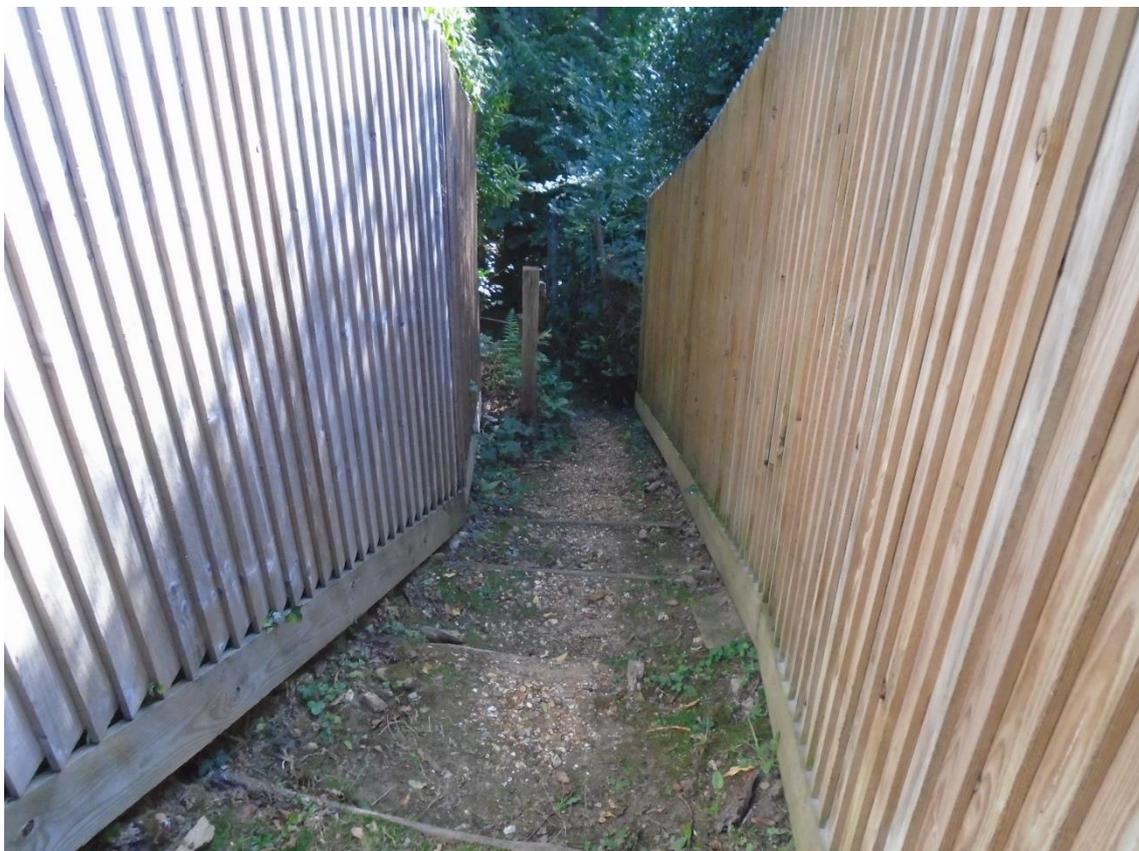
Go across the unprotected sluice (Pic 9) and along the dam (Pic 10, reverse view). The pond is a fine sight from here in all seasons (Pic 11).

The path becomes an accommodation road for the residents of The Barracks cottages, and meets the bridleway (Pic 12) which goes along the Surrey side of Whitmore Vale. Turn either right or left for circular walks back to Headley.

Pic 1: The entrance from Hammer Lane. Fallen finger post is behind the telegraph pole.



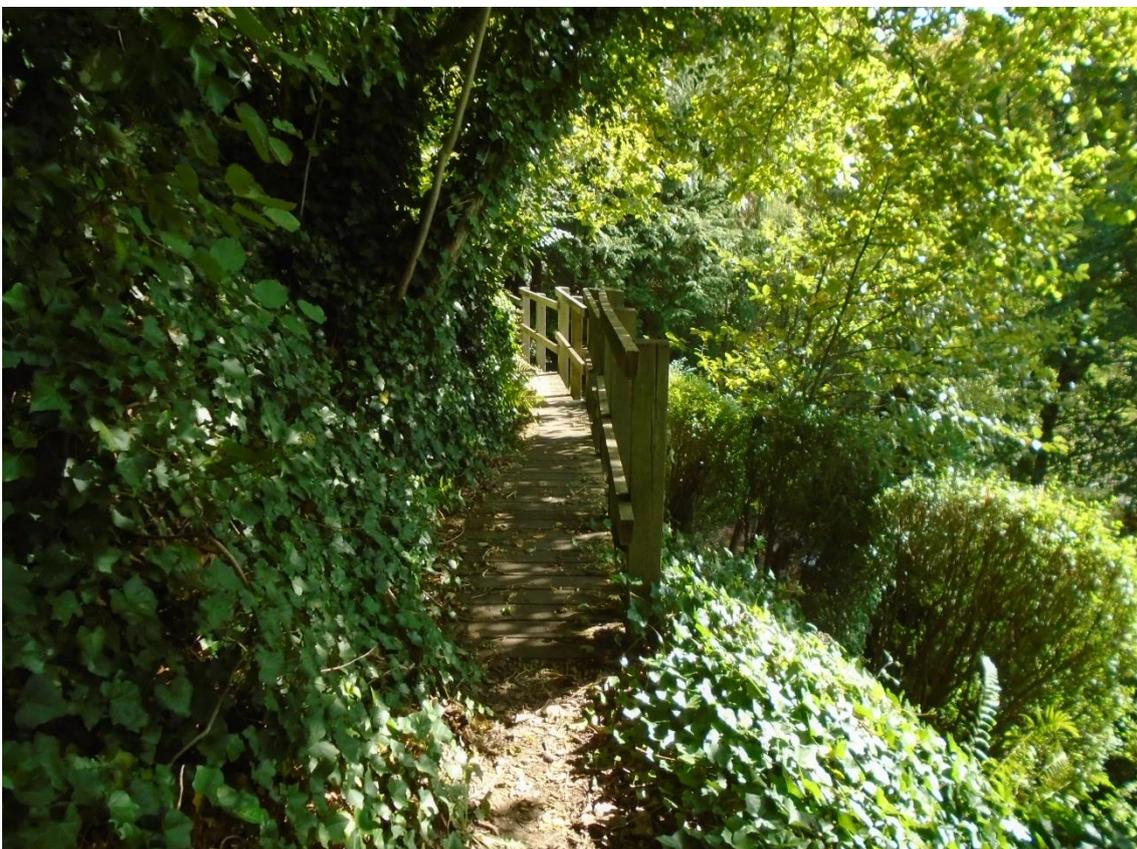
Pic 2: Steps down and slippery gravel.



Pic 3: Unprotected drop to the right.



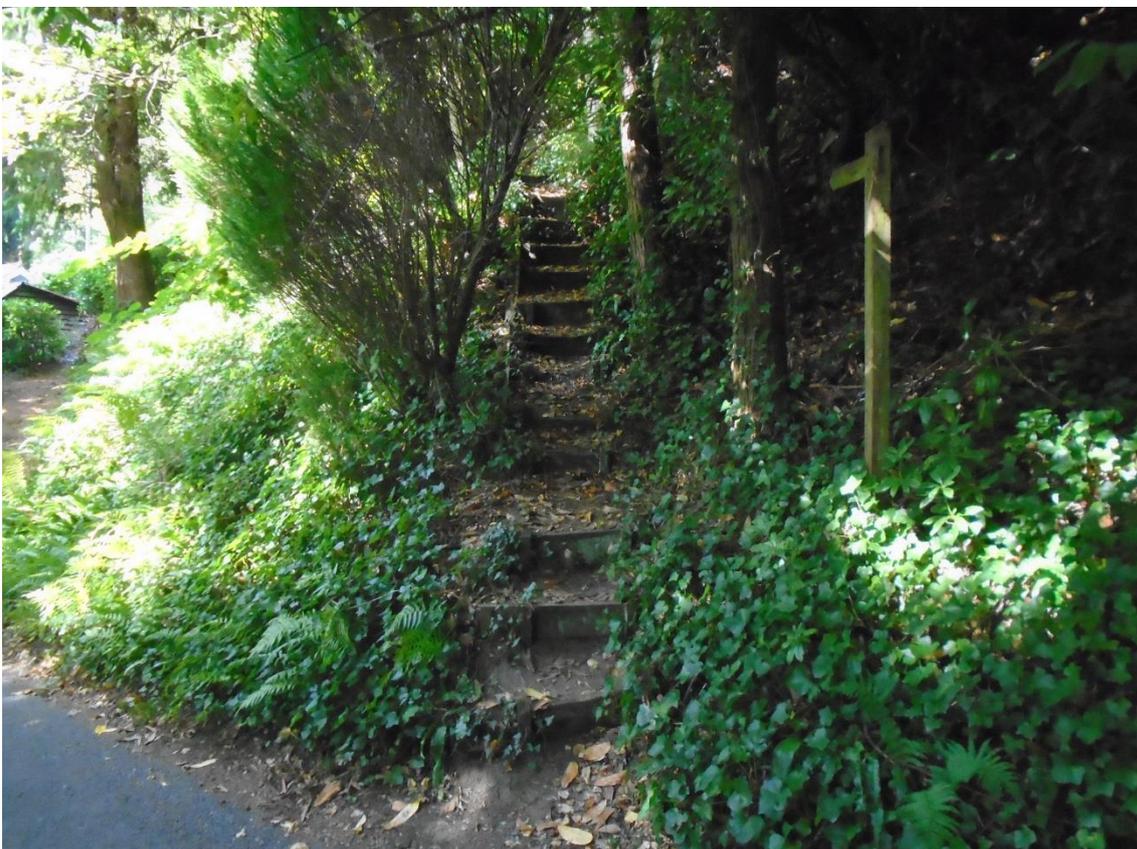
Pic 4: Almost a tree-walk!



Pic 5: Take care on these steps – no handrail.



Pic 6: Reverse view of the steps down to Whitmore Vale Road.



Pic 7: Over the road to proceed downwards.



Pic 8: First view of the pond.



Pic 9: The sluice – also the County boundary.



Pic 10: Reverse view of the dam.



Pic 11: The pond is a fine sight, even when partly drained.



Pic 12: Junction with Bridleway 32, reverse direction.

