



## Circular Walk 5: Around Sedgwick

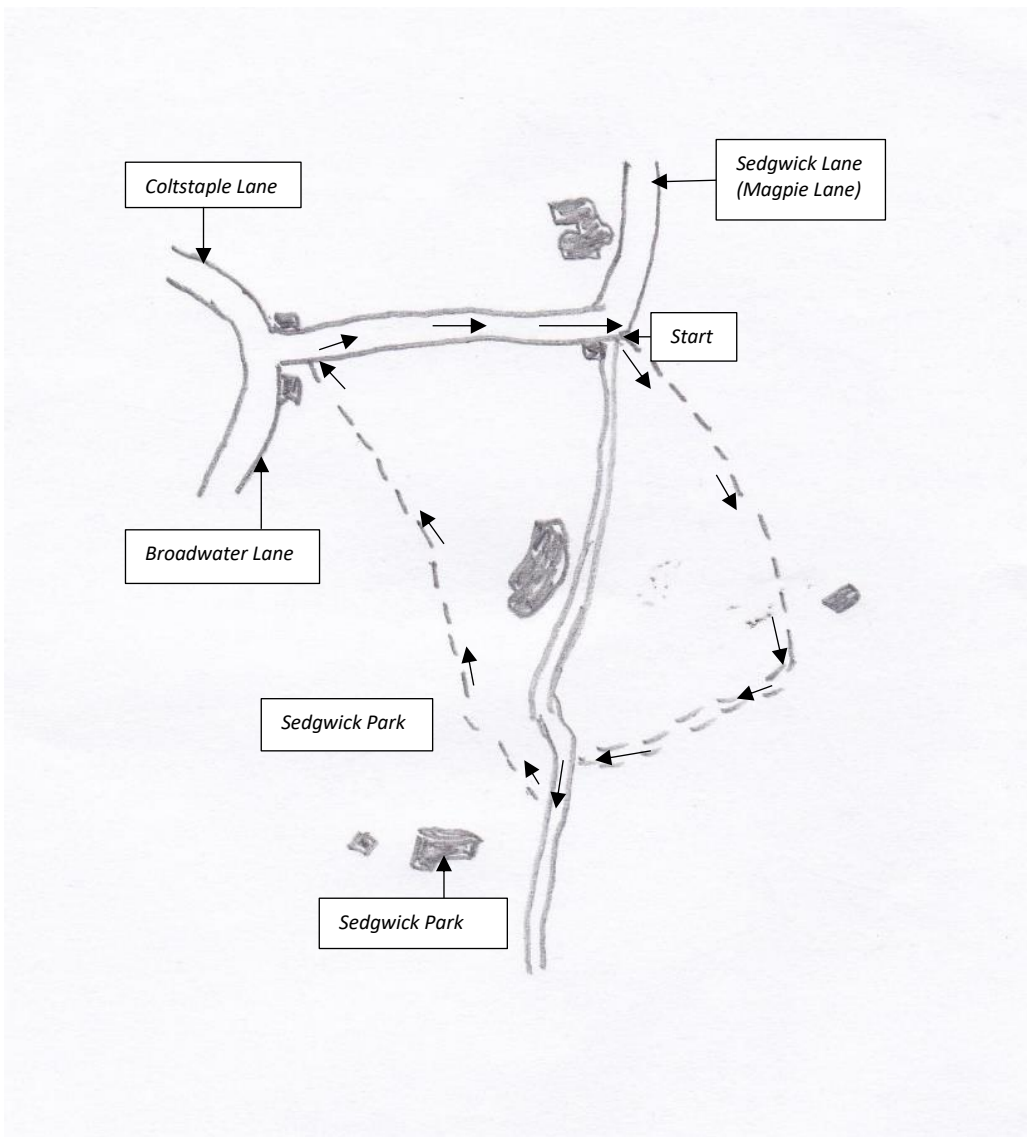
Distance: about 1.5 miles

Time: about 1 hour

Map: OS Explorer Map OL 34

Starting Point: Entrance Gate to Sedgwick House and Park

Grid Reference: 275 187



A fairly easy walk through woods and fields with some gentle slopes with a number of stiles and kissing gates

- 1) Park just outside the main entrance gate to Sedgwick House and Park by a sharp bend in Sedgwick Lane. The footpath sign is hidden in the blackthorn on the left hand side before the gate. Walk along the path to the stile. Here you will see the Heritage Trail 2000 sign about Alice in Wonderland at Sedgwick Park.
- 2) Cross the stile and walk along the mixed hedge (mainly hawthorn) on the left with large field to right with some dominant oak trees. Enter wood and be careful of exposed tree roots. Here you will see bluebells in the Spring. Notice the coppiced hazel which provides nuts in the Autumn for the squirrels and possibly dormice.
- 3) Cross another stile and follow path between two fences. Come out of the wood with a small triangular field on right. Go over another stile, through a row of conifers, cross a small open field and follow path to right of a metal gate to enter another wood. There are mainly beech and oak trees at the start of the wood and then mainly conifers. Listen for birdsong.
- 4) Keep straight on ignoring paths on the right until you reach a wider stony track by a four way footpath sign. Turn right down the stony track. (Straight ahead leads down to Nuthurst village and left leads to Monks Gate and Mannings Heath). This track is part of the Downs Link. It was a wide ridgeway used in the past as the route was drier than those in the hamlets down in the valley. Note the wide variety of vegetation before the conifer wood on the right and the line of deciduous trees on the left. This supports a wide variety of wildlife such as small mammals, birds, butterflies and dragonflies. As you walk along the track on the left through the trees, you may catch a glimpse of the spire of St Andrew's Church and the South Downs.
- 5) Carry on down the track until you reach the tarmac drive leading to Sedgwick House. Turn left towards the house and after a short distance, turn right through a kissing gate and enter Sedgwick Park. Walk through the parkland with its oak and horse chestnut trees through a kissing gate at the end of a line of conifers. Walk through the field which in summer is full of ragwort. Look for butterflies and possibly a charm of goldfinches eating the seeds.
- 6) Go through a metal kissing gate at the end of the field left of a large oak tree. Walk straight ahead, ignoring paths right and left. You will cross a grass aircraft landing strip which was used in World War 2 and is still used today. Notice the wind sock on the right. Cross a stile and then through another kissing gate to enter a wood with mainly coppiced hazel and ash trees.
- 7) Come out of the wood into a large field and go straight ahead heading just to the right of a pair of cottages in the distance. Here you may see a buzzard or two soaring on the thermals or hear them mewing. If you're lucky you may see a kestrel or sparrowhawk or in late Spring you may hear a cuckoo.
- 8) At the end of the field, go through a metal kissing gate onto Sedgwick Lane. Turn right and continue along the lane until you reach your parked car. Be very careful walking along the lane as it is very narrow and quite busy.