

Hixon Doorstep Walk

The third in a series of walk leaflets produced Hixon Parish Council for walks in Hixon parish.

Distance: 4 miles

Time: 2 hours.

Start: Hixon Millennium Green.

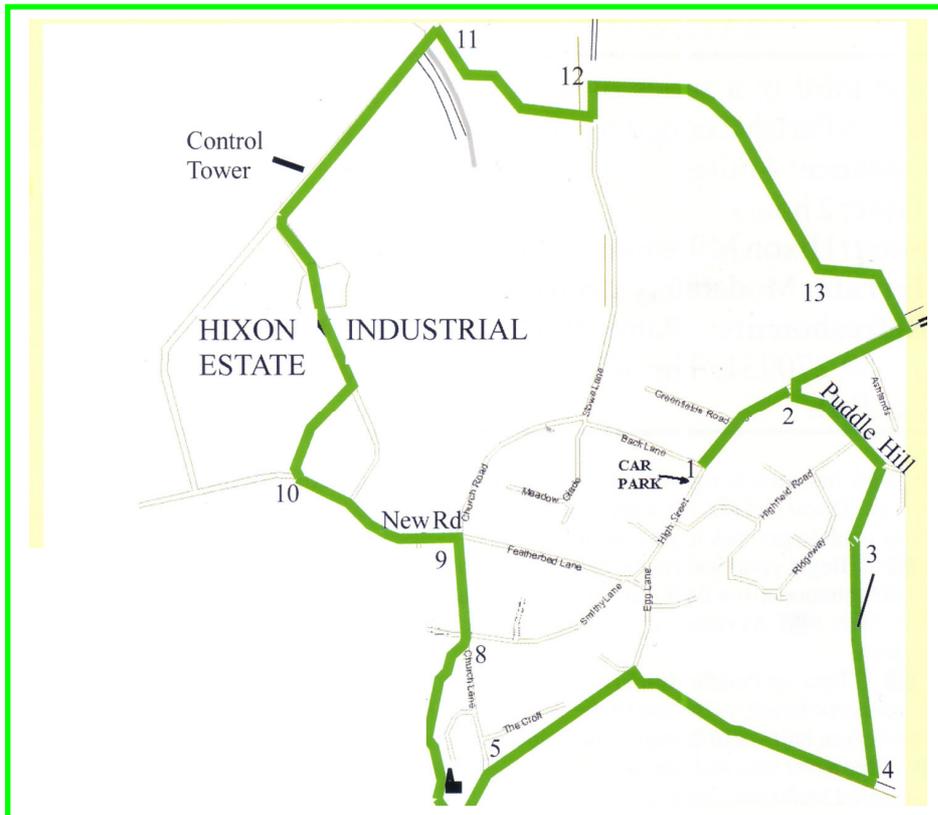
Terrain: Moderately steep in places and can be muddy.

Refreshments: Bank House Inn opposite Millennium Green 01889 271091.

Green Man 01889 270931.

This walk has been designed to give a pleasant walk around Hixon village for reasonably fit walkers. If you feel that the walk is too long to do in one day then split it into segments using village roads to get back to your starting point.

- ◆ Begin your walk at the car park next to the Millennium Green. Leave the car park by the side entrance, cross Back Lane to the brick bus shelter and walk up Legge Lane towards the Green Man. As you set off look at the Bank House, an ancient half timbered inn, opposite the green.
- ◆ Turn up Puddle Hill. There is no footway so take care to avoid cars. Walk on, past the half timbered house, to the end of the tarmac lane. Turn right following the finger post. At the 2nd stile bear half left to the top of the field and a gate on the skyline.
- ◆ Take a rest here and gaze out over the Trent valley to Cannock Chase and beyond. Try to identify the landmarks in the distance. (The Wrekin can be seen on a clear day).
- ◆ Cross the stile to the left of the gate and continue the same line diagonally across the field to a stile in the far hedge. Take care as you step down into Egg Lane. Turn right.
- ◆ Look out for the remains of a wartime hospital on your left. It is down this lane that Mary Queen of Scots is said to have travelled on her way from Chartley Hall to Tixall.
- ◆ Walk on down the lane, noting the Hixon (Wellington Field) allotments on the right, until you reach a sharp right hand bend. Turn left between the bungalow and the new houses. Walk down the field to Church Lane. Turn left.
- ◆ The church opposite was built in 1848 on a site once occupied by a windmill. Here you can use the picnic tables on the playing field for a break or continue on and pickup a snack later at a village shop or pub.
- ◆ Cross over the road and walk past the old church school to the modern St. Peter's school. At the school boundary pause to look at the old vicarage across the road. St. Peter's school started life here in the loft over the stables in the year the church was built.
- ◆ Cross over the stile and into the school grounds. Walk along the hedge line onto the drive. Follow the chain link fence around to the right, cross the church field and then onto a gravel path called Orchard Walk. Follow the hedge line. The remnants of the old orchard can still be seen.
- ◆ Follow Orchard Walk. The boundaries slowly narrow until you step out into Bath Lane. The name derives from brine baths that were here in the early 19th century. People came here for treatment just as they visited Droitwich and other spas.



- ◆ Walk into Church Lane, cross by the island and then cross Smithy Lane and walk along the footway on Martins Way. The name commemorates the entertainer Wilmot Martin known as the 'Staffordshire Harry Lauder'.
- ◆ Turn left into Lauder Grove (New Road) and walk down the footway, past the entrance to the industrial estate, to the brow of the hill.
- ◆ A tunnel in the trees on the verge leads steeply up to a stile. Cross this and follow the hedge line to the right. Take care as this area is uneven. Cross another stile onto the airfield industrial estate. Turn left, walking on the right side of the road to avoid oncoming vehicles. At the mini-island turn right past the old control tower.
- ◆ Go past the metal barrier and turn right at the finger post. Follow the field boundary to the next finger post and cross the field towards the right of the cottage. Cross the stile taking extra care as you step into Stowe Lane. Turn left. You are now in Stowe by Chartley parish.
- ◆ After a short distance follow the fingerpost to the right between two houses. Cross the stile and walk diagonally up the field to the stile in the far corner. Rest awhile and enjoy views across the airfield to Ingestre and Weston as you cross back into Hixon parish. Walk diagonally down the next field, cross the little bridge and cross the field corner to another stile.
- ◆ Cross the stile and follow the hedge line to another stile. Take care as you step over this into Lea Road. Turn right and walk down the road back to the car park.

