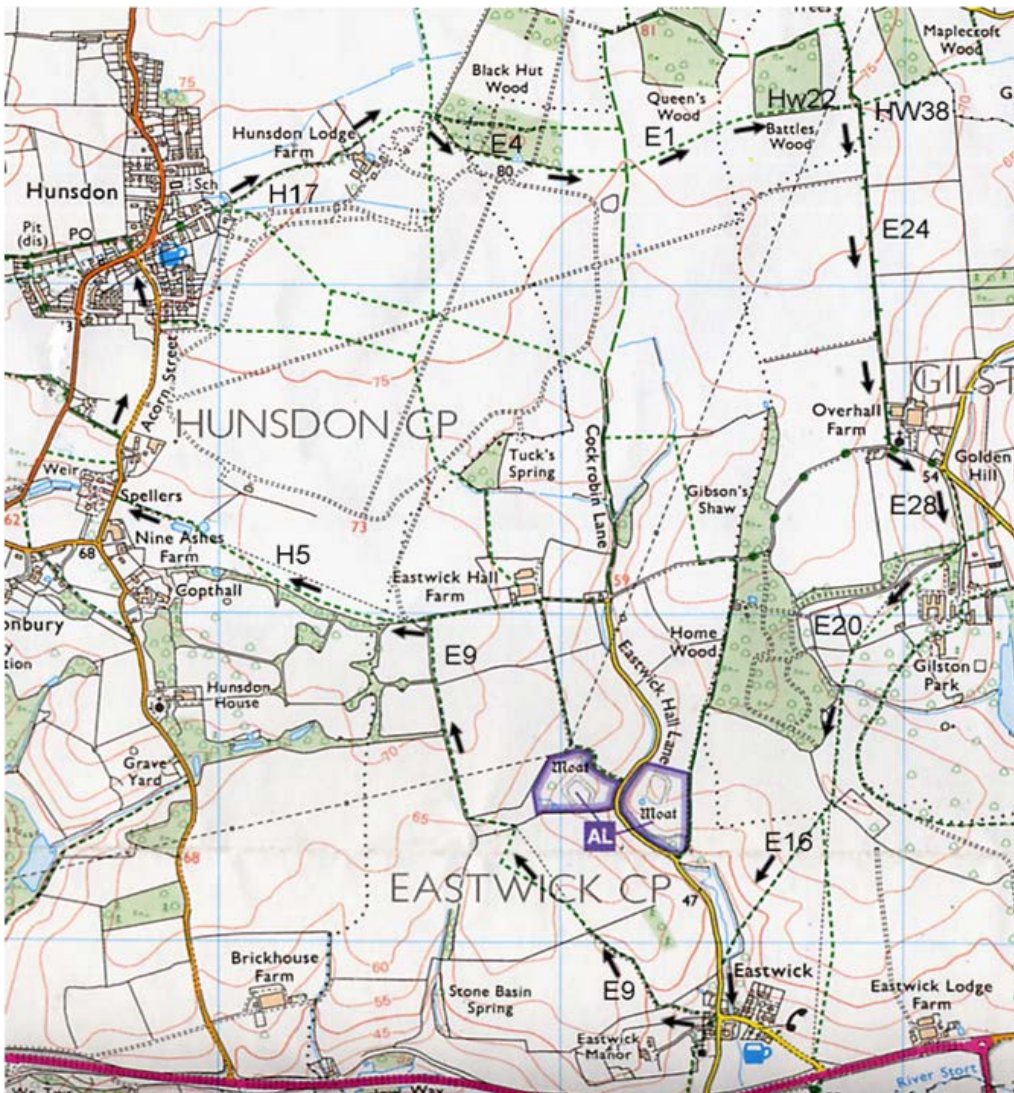


Gilston Park and Eastwick

The walk, which starts from and terminates at Hunsdon Village Hall, is just under 4 miles or 6 kilometres and at medium walking pace should take you 70-75 minutes. Much of this walk is over cultivated fields particularly in the vicinity of Eastwick. These can be heavy going in the winter or after heavy rain so stout footwear is recommended.

From the Village Hall turn left, cross the road by The Pump and proceed down Drury Lane. At the end of the lane continue ahead through the kissing gate. Carry on past the pond and along the farm track (Hunsdon FP 17), until just past a copse on your right, site of the original Hunsdon Lodge Farmhouse, the footpath continues ahead across the cultivated field. Cross Hunsdon FP 11 at the junction post and at the corner of Blackhut Wood turn right and follow the farm track, with the wood on the left. At the waymark post at the next corner of the wood turn left, now Eastwick FP 4. With the wood still on the left follow this along the grass path, across an old airfield roadway, finally emerging on to cultivated land.



Carry on ahead to the waymark post crossing Eastwick BR 2 (Cockrobin Lane), the path now becoming Eastwick FP 1. Aim for the waymark post at the corner of Battles Wood, where the path now passes into High Wych as FP 22.

Where the path meets an unmade road, turn right. This is initially High Wych RB 38 thence after a short distance is back into Eastwick as their RB 24. Follow this road for some distance, passing Overall Farm on the left and then turning to the left at the bottom past Gilston Church.

A short distance past the church a footpath sign on the right directs you along a tarmac road, one of the drives to Gilston Park (Eastwick FP 28). Follow this until you reach some small dwellings on the left and turn right at the waymark sign, (Eastwick FP 20) through some woodland thence alongside the perimeter fence of Gilston Park.

Now go forward left and diagonally across a pasture field to a bridge and the gap in the hedge in the far corner. Look to your left for views of Gilston Park. From the bridge cross a field bearing slightly left to another bridge in a gap in the hedge at the far corner.

Proceed straight ahead uphill across a cultivated field to a gap in the hedge at the far side where there is a marker post. From here the path divides and you take the right hand route aiming for the yellow mansion house on the opposite side of the valley, as you cannot see the post at the field bottom. Cross the cultivated field, Eastwick FP 16, going downhill to the gap in the hedge at the bottom where there is both a marker post and kissing gate. Pass through the gate and turn left across a small stretch of rough land to a bridge at the corner, thence left again to a further kissing gate finally joining Eastwick Hall Lane.

Turn left down the lane to the War Memorial opposite the Lion Public House, (where if you have timed your walk correctly you could avail yourself of some refreshment), and then turn right through a kissing gate into a grass field (Eastwick FP 9). If you have a dog with you please keep it on a lead as several horses graze the field. Continue ahead left, diagonally across it to a kissing gate in the hedge. Pass through this and bearing slightly to the left, cross the cultivated field to a hedge/ditch at the far side. From here, cross a further cultivated field bearing slightly left to a waymark post in a high hedge. Pass through this going forward, left and follow the path to a further hedge in the top left hand corner. Bear right at the marker post and keep this hedge on your left carry on through the plantation until reaching a farm track, Eastwick FP 8, west of Eastwick Hall Farm.

Turn left and ignoring the track off to the right, carry on forward into the plantation with the boundary hedge of Hunsdon House to your left. A short way along the path you pass back into Hunsdon Parish and it becomes Hunsdon FP 5. Along this stretch look to your left, where you might catch a glimpse of Hunsdon House, through gaps in the trees. The path eventually bears right to reach a cultivated field follow the path across this to the small clump of trees at the far corner surrounding Nine Ashes Ponds. Bear round the right side of the larger pond then along a grass path with the wire fence to your right finally reaching a gate opposite Spellars House on Acorn Street. Turn right and follow Acorn Street back to Hunsdon Village Hall.