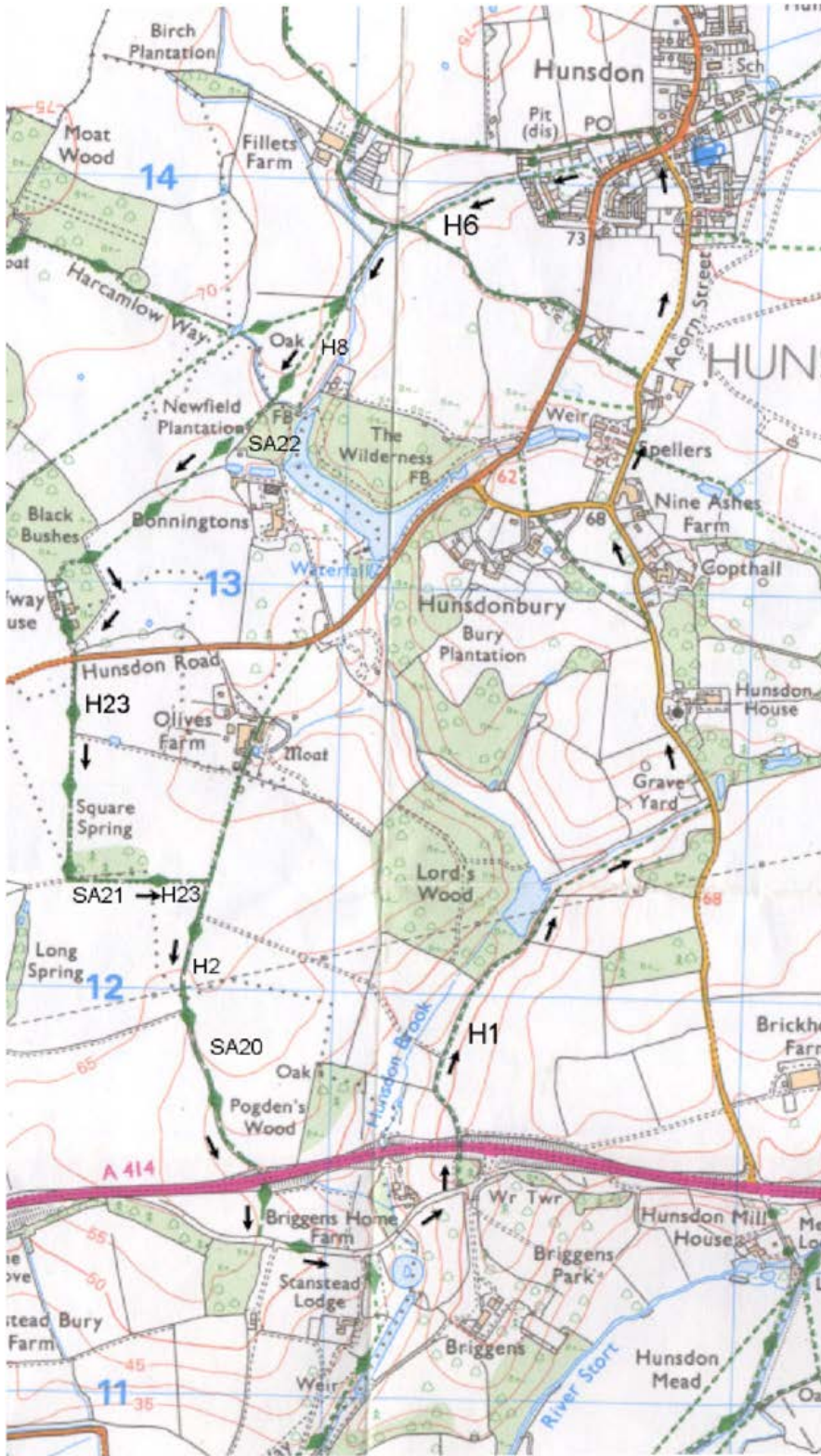


## Olives Farm, Briggens and St Dunstan's Church.

The walk is just less than 6 Miles (9.5 km) and at normal walking pace should take about 2 hours. Several sections of the walk prior to Newgate House involve crossing cultivated fields; otherwise it is over hard tracks or field edges.



From the Village Hall turn right along the High Street to the entrance to The Dell play area just beyond the Post Office by No.1 High St. Follow the path (Hunsdon FP 6) diagonally across the play area to the far corner, through the kissing gate and forward ahead across Tanners Way to the path to the left of the bridge and thence alongside the brook. At the end of the field the path meets Hunsdon RB 3. Turn right for a short distance along this and then turn left at the next waymark post, along a farm track, the continuation of Hunsdon FP 6. Where the track ends at a cultivated field the path divides. Take the left hand path of the two across the field (Hunsdon FP 8), aiming for the right hand one of two electricity poles.

At the hedge the path passes into Stanstead Abbots and numbered as their No. 22. Go through the gap in the fence and proceed across the paddock exiting at a gap in the opposite fence. Then turn immediately left to follow the paddock fence line until you meet a hedge ahead of you. Turn right and continue with the hedge on your left until you reach a farm track. Turn left past Newgate House at the edge of Black Bushes Wood. Follow this path to the B180.

Cross the road and follow the field edge path (Hunsdon Bridleway 23) with the hedge on your left. Ignore the first path to the left and carry on to the group of trees, Square Spring.

At the far corner of this wood turn sharp left on what now becomes Stanstead Abbots Bridleway 21. This carries on to approximately the end of the wood and then comes back in to Hunsdon as No. 23 again. The parish boundaries to the west of Hunsdon with Stanstead Abbots are quite bewildering, twisting and turning for what now appears to be no apparent logical reason although no doubt there was one at the time. Back to the walk! Continue ahead until reaching the junction with Hunsdon Bridleway No. 2.

Olives Farm can be seen on the left but you turn right along the bridleway which is a well-defined farm track. Ignore the branch off to the left, and further on where the track turns off to the right, carry on ahead on the lesser-used grass track, again passing into Stanstead Abbots (Bridleway No. 20). Follow this downhill and through an under-pass below the A414 ultimately reaching what was the original A414, now just a minor service road to the local properties. Looking back at the stream of traffic going over the bridge it is hard to imagine that only a few years ago this was the main east-west road.

Turn left along the road passing across the bridge over Hunsdon Brook, fed by the very stream encountered at the start of the walk after flowing through Bonningtons Lake and Lords Wood. Pass what was Briggens Home Farm on your left and just before reaching the road to Briggens itself you will see a post mounted footpath sign on the left at the corner of a clump of trees. Follow the path (Hunsdon FP 1) up a slope and you then find yourself on the purpose built concrete footbridge over the dual carriageway of the A414. You may wish to pause for the view or if you find the noise overpowering then press on to the path on the other side. This now follows the field edge past Lords Wood and its accompanying lake, unfortunately now silted up. Look out for the views of St Dunstons Church and Hunsdon House before approaching St Dunstons Lower Churchyard which is reached after passing through a kissing gate on to Church Lane. Turn left and follow the road, initially with no pavement, back to the start of the walk at Hunsdon Village Hall.