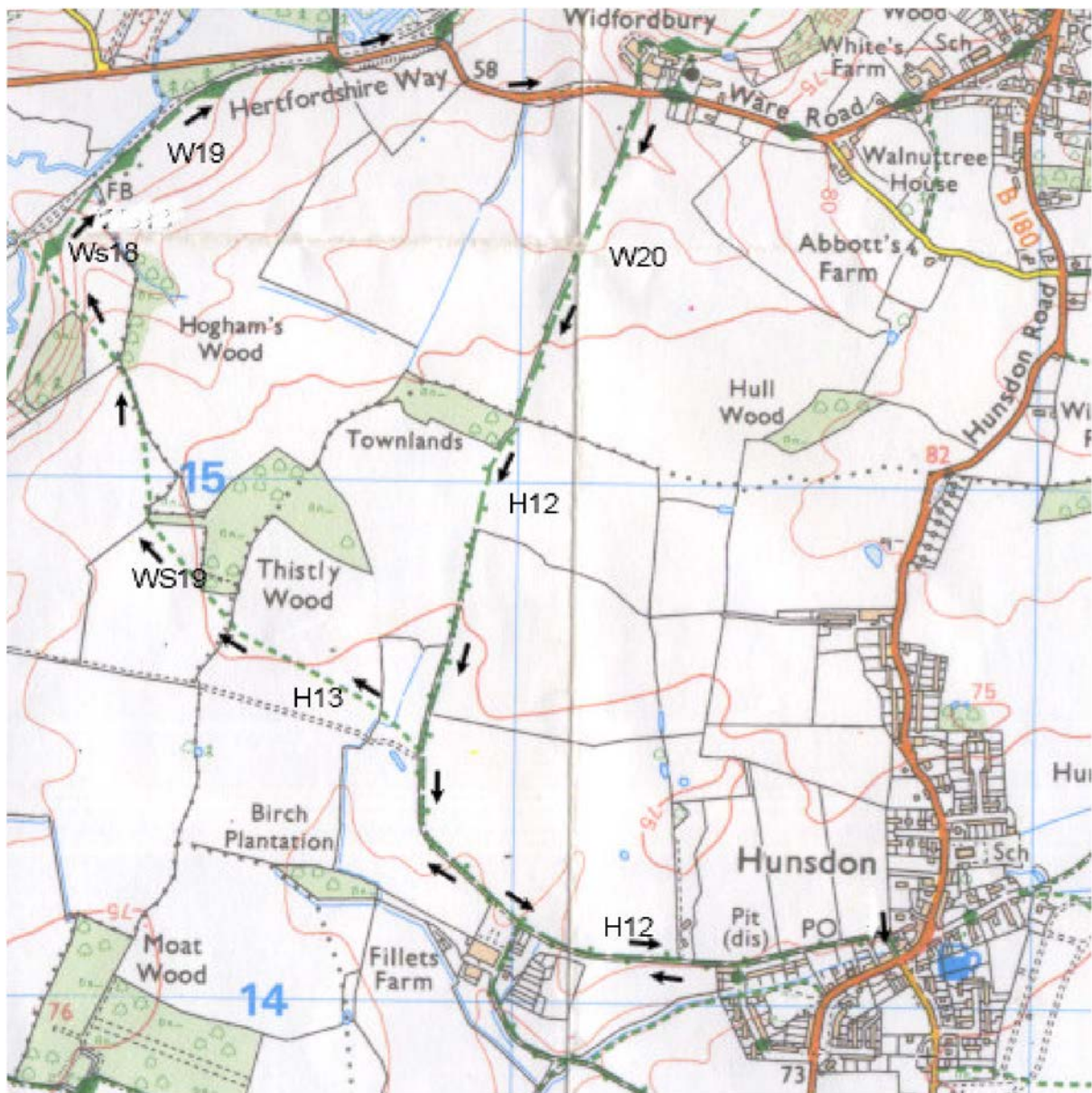


A walk with a view

The walk is just over 4 miles or just under 6.5 km and at a medium walking pace, should take you about 80 minutes. Paths Hunsdon FP 13 and Wareside FP 19 cross cultivated fields and stout footwear is recommended in autumn and winter.



From the Village Hall turn right and immediately right again on to Hunsdon RB 12 (Back Lane). Follow this route past Fillets Farm on your left climbing gently until you reach a waymark post directing you to the left (Hunsdon FP 13). Follow the path across a patch of rough land, over two footbridges thence across a cultivated field to a further footbridge and through a hedge. From here the path becomes Wareside FP 19. Proceed right to a waymark post at the corner of Thistly Wood, then slightly to the right to a gap in the hedge. Carry on forward right, across the cultivated field. The path, when it is marked on the ground, turns in the middle of the field to the left then ahead to the hedge and stile on the opposite side. Look out for the panoramic views to the left of Wareside and the Ash Valley.

Climb over the stile and forward across the meadow keeping to the brow of the hill, being careful of any cows in the field until reaching a hedge to your front running alongside the track bed of the old St Margarets to Buntingford branch line, now a farm roadway.

(If you have planned your walk at the right time of day you can break off here for refreshments by going down to the gate and stile by the River Ash, cross the old railway and follow the path along the river which will take you into Wareside where there are two pubs serving food.)

On reaching the hedge turn right, this is Wareside BR 18. Follow the hedge on your left and at the bottom of the hill you reach a gate, the parish boundary with Widford, and the bridleway becomes Widford BR 19. This part of the walk along the side of the valley runs alongside the track bed of the old St Margarets to Buntingford Branch on the left. The line was opened in 1863 and closed to passenger traffic in 1964. Although the line rises to Widford much of it is in a cutting and it is particularly interesting to note the depth just prior to Widford. **(Note the old railway track bed is not a public right of way.)**

Continuing along BR 19 you reach a point where the levels meet and the track merges with the bridleway. Shortly after this the path leads off to the left through the trees, follow this until you reach the B1004 road. Cross the road and follow the footway past the old station, now a coal and garden sundries depot, until you reach Widfordbury Farm on your left. Turn right here and cross the road joining Widford RB 20. Follow this up the hill to a small wood, Townlands, turning round at the top of the hill to take in a further wide view from Wareside round to Widford Rise. From Townlands the path becomes Hunsdon RB 12, giving views over Hunsdon and after initially going downhill, ultimately takes you back to Hunsdon village centre.



Wareside from near Hogham's Wood with old railway in foreground