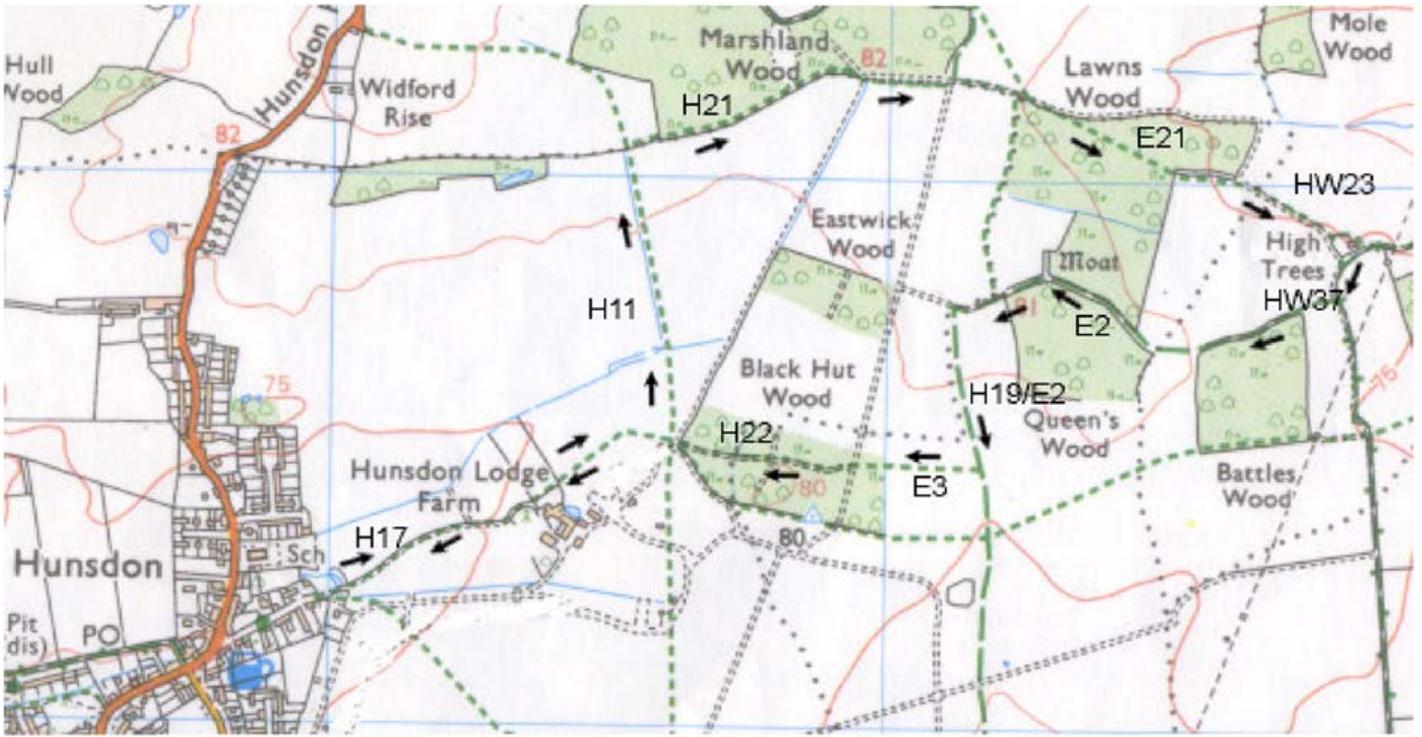


A walk through the woods

The walk 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. Parts of the walk are over cultivated land and 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 village pump and proceed down Drury Lane. At the end of the lane continue ahead through the kissing gate, past the pond and along the farm track (Hunsdon FP 17), until you reach a small copse on your right. This is the site of the original Hunsdon Lodge Farmhouse, with some barns dating from the 16th Century on the site of what was thought to be a royal hunting lodge in the time of Henry VIII. Past the copse the footpath continues ahead across the cultivated field. On reaching the waymark junction post just short of Black Hut Wood turn sharp left (Hunsdon FP 11) across the field, over a small footbridge, and continue along the right hand side of the hedge and ditch to the top of the field. From here pass through the hedge over a small footbridge turn immediately right and follow the north side of the hedge until a further footbridge takes the path back through the hedge again. Turn left and follow the path, (Hunsdon FP 21) along the length of the southern edge of Marshland Wood and into open country again for a short distance until reaching the corner of Lawns Wood.

Here the path goes into the wood. (The track to the left of the wood is not a public path.) As you enter Lawns Wood look out for an earth bank on your right, behind which is a small medieval moat. There are several tracks branching off but waymark posts in the wood will keep you on the right route. On emerging from the wood keep to the field edge alongside the wood thence along a farm track (High Wych FP 23) towards a small group of trees where the waymark post directs you to the left around the rear of the cottage, (*High Trees*), where the path joins up with a RB (High Wych 37).

Turn right for a short distance until reaching a waymark post directing you again to the right. The RB becomes a bridleway from this point and passes initially over a short stretch of cultivated field, then alongside Battles Wood before crossing a further short stretch of cultivated land to reach Queens Wood. (Eastwick FP 2) Follow the track (Eastwick FP 2) through the wood.

On emerging from the wood note the large water filled medieval moat on your right. The bridleway, the north end of Cockrobin Lane, then turns slightly to the left across cultivated land before turning sharply to the south. Although part of Eastwick BR2 this section, just coming inside the Hunsdon boundary, is numbered Hunsdon FP 19. On reaching the first waymark post turn right, (Eastwick FP 3) across cultivated land and passing on the left, part of Black Hut Wood, thence across the concrete track and through the remainder of the wood.

The flora in Black Hut Wood has now recovered from a spell of War Games in the 1980s and in spring Early Purple Orchids and Primroses are becoming a common sight. There is also a particularly large patch of wild bluebells just as you come to the first part of the wood from the field path. Many of the old wartime airfield structures including huts, slit trenches and a pillbox are also visible from the path in the second part of the wood. About three quarters of the way through this part you will notice a shallow ditch crossing the path. This denotes the Hunsdon Parish boundary that has survived as a marker presumably since the original boundaries were established. The ditch continues along the northern edge of the wood, again denoting the boundary when this and Eastwick Wood were all one. The last few metres through the wood from the ditch become Hunsdon FP 22 and on emerging you again join Hunsdon FP 17 taking you back to the village over the outward route.