



Number one of a series of short walks around Stowe by Chartley this walk is a linear 4km walk along the perimeter of Hixon Airfield and the route of the old Clog and Knocker railway line. The walk goes as far

as Amerton Brook but you can retrace your steps at any time. Apart from a flight of steps near the far end the route is quite flat but too uneven for wheelchairs.

After the war public rail freight services resumed until nationalisation in 1948, when the line became part of British Railways Eastern Region, passing to the Midland Region in 1950.

The line finally closed to all traffic, apart from the Air Ministry sidings, in 1951 and the stations were closed and the bulk of the signalling removed in 1953. The last train on the line was in 1957, a special organised by the Stephenson Locomotive Society. The track was lifted between 1957 and 1962. The bridge over the Trent and Mersey Canal at Weston was removed in the 1990s; it had been used by a local farm to allow the transit of dairy cattle across the canal.

The junction at the north end of Stafford station is still known as "Uttoxeter Line Junction Number 5"

For more ambitious walkers there is a series of longer walks in the Parish.

The Drointon Walk takes in the high ground above the Parish as well as parts of Hixon.

The Stowe Walk includes the site of a former gypsum mine.

The Fradswell Walk crosses and recrosses the Chartley Estate.

The Chartley Walk takes in a sweep of Chartley Estate and follows a bridleway back to Stowe.

There is also a Heritage Walk leaflet which gives some notes on the history of Stowe Village.

Copies of this leaflet are available to download from the Parish Council's website [www.stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk)

## The Airfield Walk

**STOWE BY CHARTLEY  
PARISH COUNCIL**

**1.** The walk starts at the bottom of Bridge Lane, Stowe by Chartley. Postcode ST18 0GL. Park on the outside of the bend against the fence. An old wartime building can be seen in the field and this sets the scene for the walk. Go thorough the kissing gate. Disabled users will be able to open the gate fully with a RADAR key. A tarmaced path leads round a copse and up on to the airfield. There are cherries, hazel nuts and blackberries to be had in season.

**2.** Coming out on to the airfield you are at what was once the end of the main runway. Before the airfield was built this spot would have been in a farm yard. Ahead is the perimeter path and beyond it a wooded escarpment the other side of the Trent Valley. To the left a Right of Way takes you to Hixon. Walk down the perimeter path looking out for skylarks or lapwings.

**3.** At the corner of the field leave the perimeter path and follow the fence around to the right. This is the old track of Amerton Lane which once ran across to Shirleywich on the A51. Past this point is too uneven for wheelchairs

**4.** The path takes you to an overgrown high gate.

To the left a tunnel through the undergrowth takes you to Amerton Lane, the old track of which you have just followed. Walking down Amerton Lane takes you to Amerton and the pleasures at Amerton Farm less than a kilometer away. Resist the temptation for the moment and turn left to follow the woodland round. On a sunny day the butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies are a delight.

**5.** Walking through an old gate you arrive on

the track of the old 'Clog and Knocker'. This railway ran from Stafford to Uttoxeter but closed in 1951.

In season primroses and lords-and-ladies adorn the shady path. There are glimpses of the airfield through the trees.

**6.** A flight of steps runs down to the bottom of the embankment taking you along a Right of Way that follows the perimeter of the airfield around to Hixon. If you fancy a 3km detour you can follow this back to point 2 on the map but be aware that part of it is through an industrial estate that is busy

during the week. Take care descending the steps. If you continue you will find a second flight of wooden steps on your left. Descend these with care and turn right.

**7.** After a short time you come to Amerton Brook where it emerges through an archway in the railway embankment. Having been born near Roundhouse Farm above Chartley the Brook is on

the Trent at Ingestre Further on the Right of Way continues right alongside the main railway line to emerge at a track that winds down to Weston.

Retrace your steps and look out for all of those things you missed on the way down. The view of the small fields before Stowe Lane and the fields leading to the ridge behind make for a fine view.

As you approach to top of the airfield the tower of St. John the Baptist Church comes into view. The church is opposite The Cock Inn where you can rest up and enjoy good English Ale and French cuisine.

