

Survey of Footpaths and Bridleways in the Parish of
Pirton in the county of Hertford

Undertaken for the Parish Council

by

J. E. Thrussell assisted by Janet Saunders

And other children from the County Council School

In the years 1950 - 1952

All these paths and bridleways have to my knowledge
been in public use for 55 years

J. E. Thrussell

Footpath 1 Pirton to Shillington walked March 1951 by John Thrussell and Janet Saunders

Commences at Crabtree Lane going across Dorklins meadow by a hedge northwards to stile near end of moat, then by a hedge and down a path between hedges to Shillington Road, this part is known as the Baulk, crossing the road, going beside a barn over a stile into a meadow, here the path is not traceable owing to being ploughed up and could not be followed (nothing to show where path was).

After crossing the field a path was found along the side of a hedge this was used as a cartway afterwards crossing another field where the path was ploughed up (nothing to show where path was), it again followed a hedge to 'Gallows Corner' and here enters the Parish of Shillington by a gap.

This pathway has been used for 60 years, and appears to be a shortened route of 1A which is described in the Parish Award but is not now existent as a footway (path was good until about 1938).

Footpath 1A Pirton to Shillington walked January 1952 by John Thrussell

From Wrights Farm it follows by the side of a hedge as a cartway, at the end of the field, turns right following the hedge until it meets the next hedge. Then N. Westerly by the hedge to 'Gallows Corner', crossing two ditches without bridges follows the hedge to the Parish boundary. This part is ploughed and path not traceable (described in 'Award' but not now traceable).

A stranger would be unable to find any trace of the path, and it has not been used for 50 years, to the best of one's knowledge (footbridges over ditches not traceable).

Footpath 2 Footpath and driftway Pirton to Apsley End walked April 1951 by John Thrussell and Janet Saunders

Commences at a gateway in the road PIRTON to Shillington at the part known as Grove Close and follows by the side of the hedge westward. This is known as the Driftway, and had a width of about 8 feet (footpath of about 3 foot now, 30 years ago it had a width of 8 ft.), as far as the hedge on the East side, which runs up the hill to 'Lynch Baulk' field, afterward it is a footpath by the side of the 'Rack Pit' field, the path is untrimmed hedge.

At the end of the field a ditch has to be crossed by a footbridge (a plank). Here a path crosses from Shillington Road to Kettledean, which is unrecognisable (this path was used 45-50 years ago and is marked as a dotted line on map 2A).

Continuing by the hedge the path which is still untrimmed and very narrow, enters a meadow by a stile, the path is unmarked but is smooth and unobstructed; at the end of the meadow it crosses a stream by a bridge and enters the Parish of Shillington. This path has been narrowed by ploughing so that in places it is reduced to 2 ½ foot wide.

Footpath 2A Shillington Road to Kettledean

Commencing in Shillington Road follows beside a ditch between two fields and crossing path No.2 at the end of Rack Pit Close then crosses the stream into Shillington Parish (shown on map by dotted line).

Footpath 3 Pirton to Hitchin walked October 1950 by John Thrussell and Janet Saunders

Path commences in Walnut Tree Road, with a stile into a meadow, known as Bannisters, going by the side of a fence (on the right hand) N.E. to a gate into an allotment field, here it is 9ft wide and proceeds N.E. to a stile into a field, known as Bury field, passing through the field into Burnt Close, where it passed along a hedge (on the left-hand side), through another field still keep close to the hedge, at the end of this field the hedge is discontinued and a deep ditch takes its place on the left hand side, until at the end of the field, the path crosses a brook by a footbridge (path good and several stiles are gone and gaps exist).

Still following a hedge and going uphill, the path reaches Mill Way. Up to this point the path is trimmed and the hedge trimmed and it has a width of 3-4 foot.

Turning at right angles to the S.W., it follows the Mill Way inside the field to the cottages. The path is rough and untrimmed and narrow. It then enters the lane to the Mill Yard crossing the Ickniel Way; passing by a bridge over the river Oughton enters Parish of Hitchin.

Footpath 4 Holwell to Hitchin walked April 1957 by J.E. Thrussell and Janet Saunders

This path enters the Parish of Pirton at the N.E. boundary and for a short distance follows the boundary, it then continues to follow the hedge to the corner of the field near to a gravel pit (this footpath passes through the Parish of Pirton).

Up to this point it is a cartway, then following the hedge to the bottom of the field as a wide path it crosses diagonally the next field near a gravel pit, at Hambridge Way where Millway starts, this part across the field is ploughed and sown but a path can be traced and has a width of about 3 ft.

Then the path follows Mill Way and finally emerges into the path No. 3, both following the way through the Mill Yard and over the bridge into Hitchin Parish.