

Welcome to the Claxton & Sand Hutton Heritage Trail

The trail is just over two miles long and covers open roads, footpaths and a bridle path. Stout shoes are recommended. Please be aware of fast moving traffic between and through both villages. Please keep to the Trail and rights of way, and respect both the Country Code and the privacy of residents. The Trail, which is circular, may be started at any point, although the War Memorial has been selected as a convenient point. This also provides some car parking space on a lay by on the opposite side of the road. Both the villages are ancient settlements (referred to as “Claxtorp” & “Hotune” in the Domesday Book). The Trail mainly relates to the recent heritage associated with the Walker family of Sand Hutton Hall, especially of Sir Robert Walker, 4th Baronet 1890-1930.

War Memorial (1) Start the walk at the Claxton & Sand Hutton War Memorial. From here, the road to Claxton runs between two ridges of land rising to 40 metres above sea level. Beware of fast traffic along this road and be vigilant at all times.



The ridges contain a mixture of cobbles, pebbles, gravels and clays, left here 10000- to 12000 years ago by a glacier. They are part of what is known as the York Escrick moraine (a line of glacial rock and soil deposits). In the field margins, you may be able to see bits of limestone, granite, chalk and grit stone, which the glacier moved in from the north and east. There is also Triassic sandstone, mainly derived from the solid rock, which lies beneath the glacial deposits. This rock formed around 220 million years ago and is the bedrock of the Vale of York. The soils produced from these materials are generally fertile and easily cultivated. On your walk, you may be able to see carrots, potatoes, maize, barley, wheat and grassland for grazing, silage and hay.

As you enter the village of Claxton you will see, on the left hand side, **Claxton House** (2) built in 1912 by Sir Robert Walker for his Estate Manager.

Opposite the entrance to Claxton House is the site of the former Claxton Day School, built in 1824. It was a brick building with a pantile roof. Little else is known about the building though it is mentioned in the 1833 Education Enquiry, which lists both a school and a schoolhouse at Claxton. For many years it served as a shelter for cattle and a hay store. It was demolished in 1977.

The first dormer bungalow on the right hand side was built as the Estate Office.

There are a number of houses built from bricks produced from the local Claxton brickworks. Properties in Claxton span a time scale of 300 years.

Continue to walk down Main Street and try to identify the five former working farms and imagine what life would have been like in this farming village.

Walking on, look out for:

- In the centre of the village on your right is a former Wesleyan Chapel dated 1843, recently converted for residential use.
- A row of former farm workers cottages.
- A Victorian post box.
- A seat donated by “The Dalesman” for winning the Best Kept Village award in 1989.
- Further down on the left hand side is the former primitive **Methodist Chapel** (3) c.1850, now also converted for residential use.



Further along overlooking the village green, the bungalows replaced a row of cottages built as the village poor houses.



villagers for the Millennium.

The **Village Green** (4) was originally the site of the village pond. On the edge of the green is a small-planted area to commemorate the Queen’s Golden Jubilee. The circular seat surrounding the American Oak was donated by the

At the cross roads turn left down **Whinny Lane** (5) passing the cul-de-sac **Greenhills** (6), and continue down to the bridle path at **Ings Farm** (7).

The building on the corner is on the site of the former station and terminus of the Claxton branch line of the 18-inch gauge Sand Hutton Light Railway.

Walk ¼ mile along the bridle path, which follows the line of the old **Light Railway** (8).

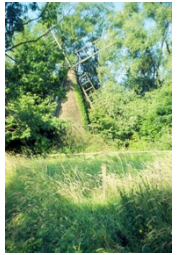
Looking back towards Greenhills is another view of the moraine ridge. 1-2 metres below the surface there is glacial clay, which in the 19th century was extracted on a small scale for the local supply of bricks.



Brickwork Remains (9) In 1924 the site was developed by the Stairfoot Brickworks Co. and later, the Yorkshire Amalgamated Brickworks Co. to produce up to 100,000 bricks per week, which were distributed regionally.

These were carried to Warthill station via the Sand Hutton Light Railway. Enter the wood ahead of you passing a “private fishing” sign, keeping to the bridle path.

Immediately on your left are the remains of the underground flue of the German designed Hoffman Barrel-Arch kiln. Further into the woods are the “**brick ponds**” (10) created as the clay pits filled with water. A small **wind pump** (11) was built which took water from the brick pond up to Claxton village. This still exists on the far side of the pond; however there is no public access.



Looking into the woods, rusting boilers and other remains of the brickworks are visible. You may also see one or two railway sleepers of the original railway track, which ran alongside the kiln before turning right and running to Gravel Pit Farm.

As digging got deeper, an increasing amount of lime was found in the clay, making it unsuitable for brick making. By 1932 the works were closed, and soon after, so was the railway.

The brick ponds are now two large 2-4 metre deep **Fishing Ponds** (10) from different eras of extraction.

They are largely undisturbed and have been used for fishing bream, carp, perch, pike and tench. A number of smaller shallower ponds show where test digs took place in an attempt to discover more suitable clay.

Over the seventy years since the works closed, the wood has developed a mixed flora. Keeping to the bridle path, look out for ash, birch, sycamore, alder, willow, poplar, blackthorn, bramble, guelder rose, hawthorn, elder, and honeysuckle (from a survey list of 26 tree and shrub species) bluebell, water violet, common spotted orchid, cowslips, marsh marigold, twayblade, marsh valerian, wood anemone, water lily, yellow iris (from a survey list of 72 herbaceous species).

Continue walking along the field margin to the next **Woodland** (12) and parallel to the path; notice the line of trees off to your right. These mark where the railway line ran, carrying bricks to Warthill.

Just before joining the main **Sand Hutton Lane** (13) the land rises up on the right side of the track and is known locally as Weed Hill.

Before turning left to walk to Sand Hutton, look right towards two houses across the road. Sir Robert Walker built these around 1928 for Herbert Milne, the head master at Sand Hutton School, and George Batty, chief engine driver to Sir Robert Walker. Claxton Brickworks supplied the bricks. The houses cost approximately £650.00 each and the annual rent was £25.00.



Walk down the road and you will see the **Village Hall** (14) formerly the laundry that serviced Sand Hutton Hall.

Turn into the car park and approximately 46 metres beyond, at the start of the private driveway, you can see the remains of bridge supports of the Sand Hutton railway line where it crossed Stank Beck.



Leave the car park turning right over **Stank Bridge** (15) date of construction unknown but carved on the side is 1873. On the right hand side of the road the ground is raised where the railway line ran on a low embankment.

On Sand Hutton village green you will see a **Well** (17) one of three, that served the village. In this well is a time capsule put in a number of years ago by the villagers.

St. Mary's Church (19) (normally open during the day) was built 1840 by Anthony Salvin at the sole expense of James Walker, replacing the 12th century Chapel of Ease, **St. Leonard's** (20) the ruins of which can be seen behind St. Mary's. This has recently been made secure by re-pointing the walls and the opening of the crypt to secure and make safe. This was made possible by local subscription and financial support of the English Heritage trust.

Hall Drive (18) on the right hand corner of the green is the old gateway to Sand Hutton Hall, demolished in 1971.

The village was part of a large private estate bought by the Walker family in 1838 from the Read family for whom John Carr of York built the original southern part of Sand Hutton Hall c.1786. John Read, who is buried in St. Leonard's, was Lord Mayor of York twice, 1719 and 1746.

Continue along the Main Street passing the 'Old Forge' on the left which has seen many transformations: a public house, 'The Blacksmith's Arms'; post office; forge and the last one Banks Music Publishers. An apocryphal story is that workers were found enjoying a drink when they should have been at work. Consequently the Baronet permanently closed the pub! Hence there is no public house in either village to the present date.

On the right the terrace of cottages immediately before the school, was restored by James Walker in 1865.

The **Village School** (21) was built in 1861 (note elaborately slated roof) & extended in 1997 to provide a dining hall & kitchens.

The 18th century cottage directly opposite had fulfilled this purpose for the previous fifty years, and had also been the village reading room for the first half of the 20th century.

Walk past the school playing fields. The old vicarage can be seen to the left and more estate houses on the right.

Carry on along the road keeping to the right hand side and cross over the turning to Stamford Bridge (23). Immediately on your right in a copse, is a plaque commemorating the **Queen's Silver Jubilee**, (22) this is also near where the Sand Hutton Light Railway turned towards the War Memorial.

This completes the circular walk.

A **Triangular walk** is outlined in Yellow (24/5/6); Can be started from the War Memorial (1) or in Claxton, (4) this is a gentle walk along the country lanes.

More information about the villages and their heritage may be found on the website www.PhotoReflections.co.uk

PLEASE OBSERVE THE COUNTRY CODE

We hope you will enjoy the Heritage Trail and respectfully request that you follow the Country Code.

Enjoy the countryside and respect it's life and work.
Guard against all risks of fire - Fasten all gates
Keep your dogs under close control
Keep to public paths along farmland
Use gates and styles to cross fences, hedges and walls
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
Take your litter home - Help to keep all water clean
Protect wildlife, plants and trees
Take special care on country roads
Make no unnecessary noise

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY



There are two Defibrillator locations marked with a red heart.

Always dial 999 first in any emergency!

Defibrillators do not replace the ambulance service, but help save lives once an ambulance has been called.

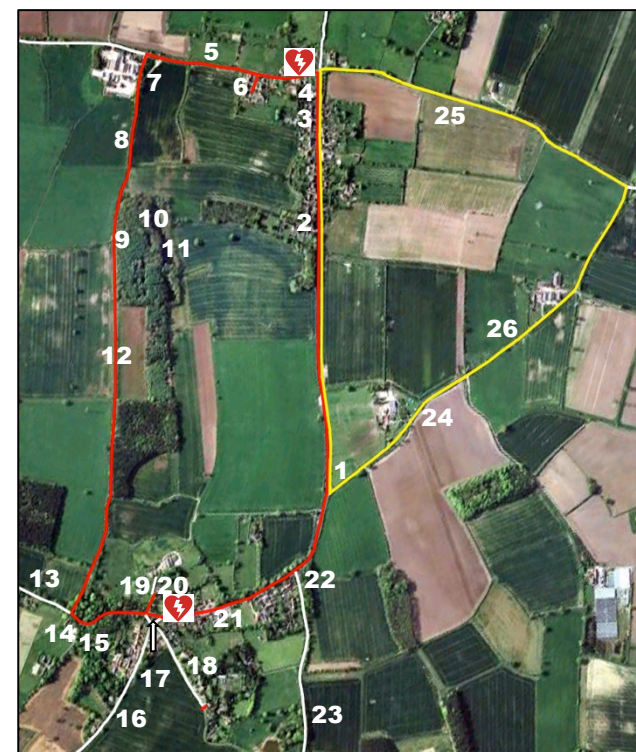


Published by the
Heritage Group,
Claxton & Sand Hutton

January 2013 Ref: Heritage Trail 010113



Heritage Trail



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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. War Memorial | 14. Village Hall |
| 2. Claxton House | 15. Stank Bridge |
| 3. Chapel | 16. Upper Helmsley Rd |
| 4. Village Green | 17. Village Well |
| 5. Whinny Lane | 18. Hall Drive |
| 6. Greenhills | 19. St. Mary's Church |
| 7. Ings Farm | 20. St. Leonard's Ruin |
| 8. Light Railway Path | 21. Village School |
| 9. Brickwork Remains | 22. Silver Jubilee Plaque |
| 10. Fishing Ponds | 23. Stamford Bridge Rd |
| 11. Windpump Remains | 24. Bossall Lane |
| 12. Woodland Walk | 25. Kirk Balk Lane |
| 13. Sand Hutton Lane | 26. Triangular Walk |



De-Fib Location