

# Prees Walks

## WALK 6 – Fauls, Marchamley Wood and The Hoarstone



**An anti-clockwise 6 mile circuit from Fauls the across gentle countryside of the East of Prees Parish.**

### Route notes

1. This walk starts from the centre of Fauls at a T junction of the main Fauls road with a small lane just up from the Fauls Church Hall. There is generally parking at the side of the road by Fauls church.
2. Start by walking down the small lane and after just a few yards (opposite the Old Vicarage) turn right through an old iron kissing gate and follow the direction indicated by the finger post.
3. Go through a kissing gate on the far side of the field and then head to left hand end of a long line of tall poplar trees. Go through the kissing gate in the corner and diagonally across another field. Go through the metal footpath gate and follow the hedge on the right which turns to the right after a while. Keep following the hedge down to a kissing gate and a sleeper bridge over the ditch.
4. Turn left up a rough but well used track/lane.
5. At the end of the track (with Fauls Farm on your left) go slightly left but effectively straight over onto a concrete farm track.
6. Follow that track for a quarter of a mile. It comes to an end and you continue in a similar direction but you are now walking on a field edge with the hedge on your right.
7. Cross the stile at the end of the field and bear half right and walk diagonally across the next field. The path then crosses two stiles in quick succession before you enter a field with the hedge on your left. As you crossed the second stile you left Prees Parish and entered Hodnet.
8. Follow the hedge until you come a stile. Cross the stile and turn right onto a driveway. Follow the driveway down to the road.
9. When you reach the road turn left for about 10 yards and then right over a sleeper bridge and stile. Bear left over another stile and then aim for an obvious gap in the hedge on the far side of the field. Go through that gap and continue on that line to a stile in the far corner of the field.

10. Turn left on the lane and once past the houses turn right and follow the lane to the end.
11. When you reach a T junction turn right. After 30 yards go through a farm gate on the left and walk to the far right hand corner of the field. Go through a farm gate to the right and then over a stile in the left hand hedgerow after just few yards.
12. Follow the direction shown on the yellow waymark disc and look for the same yellow discs as you cross a series of paddocks with electric fences. There are clip "gates" in the electric fences so just unhook, walk through and re-hook. The path is following a straight line towards the far right bottom corner where you will see there are some trees.
13. Here you cross Sidley Moor Brook on a substantial footpath bridge and re-enter the parish of Prees. Bear slightly left having crossed the bridge and head for a stile in the fence line.
14. It is actually a double stile. Cross that and then two further stiles straight ahead of you. Once you cross the second stile the path turns sharp right with the hedge on your right.
15. Cross one more stile and walk up to join the road. You will need to open the farm gate to get to the road. A few yards to the right you will see the start of a bridleway on the opposite side of the road. Walk up it. Go through another farm gate and keep an eye out for an electric fence which is sometimes across the track – it is easily opened but not always very visible.
16. Follow the track. At the highest point take a moment to appreciate the stunning views of Shropshire, Staffordshire and Welsh mountains. The track goes through another farm gate and then through a remarkable vaulted avenue of coppiced hazel before emerging through an iron gate into a grassed meadow area. Over to the right is the very old farm called Hoarstone – the name is a word used to describe an ancient boundary stone.
17. Walk straight ahead towards a power pole in the middle of the meadow. Just before you reach the power pole, you will come to the track leading up to the house. Turn left on that track and walk away from the house.
18. After a short while look for a kissing gates in a field boundary on the left. Go through that gate and head to the right with the hedge on your right.
19. You will pass a large lake on the right and will get only glimpses of it through the trees. When the hedge turns to the right, keep on walking straight ahead towards a gap in the hedge on the far side of the field. You can instead follow the hedge as it turns to the right and walk around the field edge. At some times of the year this maybe easier.
20. You are now heading back towards Fauls on a path which crosses a series of fields and through 6 kissing gates. The route is straightforward in the most part. Just keep following the direction indicated by the yellow waymark discs.
21. Having passed through the 5<sup>th</sup> gate the route can appear a little vague. You walk straight on initially to where a hedge starts. Keep that on you right for 20 yards and then walk towards an oak tree which stands in the field up on the left where you can see the houses of the village now starting to come into view.

22. Bear slightly right when you reach the oak and then to the right of a large house you will find the final kissing gate. Go through that and walk straight up the rough lane and onto the road.
23. You have arrived back at Fauls Church and your destination.