

York Flagstones

These historic flagstones dating from the 1800s mark out the route of a historic footpath. The right of way led across the meadow from Hatfield Place to Church Road. The York Flagstones are a reminder of the link between Hatfield Place (constructed 1791-95) and the settlement of Hatfield Peverel.

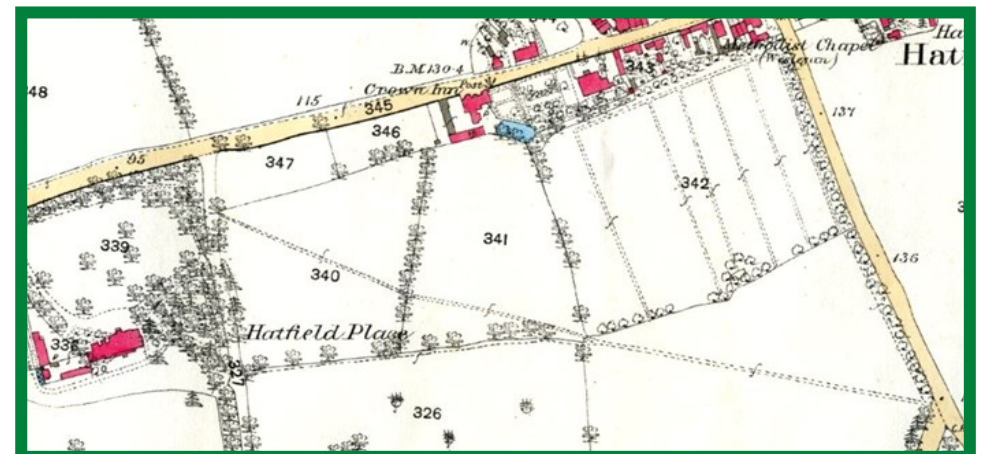
The Footpath

Footpath 43 links Hatfield Place with Church Road. The footpath is recorded in the Tithe Map (1841); the Ordnance Survey Map First Edition (1874); and the estate map for Hatfield Place (1917).

York Flagstones were laid along the length of the path in the 1800s to provide an all-weather walking pavement between this Georgian house and the settlement of Hatfield Peverel. Historic England states that it is likely that the Footpath 43 - and the flagstones - provided occupants and workers of Hatfield Place pedestrian access to Church Road.

In her book *Nine Walks Around Hatfield Peverel* Catherine Voysey invites the reader to:

"Take the path across Stone Path Meadow (so called because the path is paved but now overgrown) to Hatfield Place"



Ordnance Survey Map, First Edition 1874

The footpath between Hatfield Place and Church Road is marked on the map

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Protecting the Flagstones

A local woman recounts that on moving to Hatfield Peverel in 1963, there was a gentleman tasked with clearing away the grass that grew over the flagstones. She also recalls that when Stonepath Drive estate was being built in the late 1970s, villagers expressed concern that the York Flagstones would not be removed.

Scrutiny of past planning applications shows a lot of worry for the importance of the York Flagstones. This representation from a 2005 planning application is typical of the villagers' concern:

'The original flagstones which give the Stonepath estate its name, are in situ. They were laid over 100 years ago. These are a historical feature in the meadow and it would be unfortunate if they were to be removed or built over'.

In November 2020 the flagstones were lifted and placed in safe storage. They were re-laid by Bellway 2022 to form an historic feature as part of the new housing estate. The Historic York Flagstones are preserved for their heritage significance to the parish of Hatfield Peverel.



Drone View of the Flagstones

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