There have been two major fires in the village which have greatly changed its appearance. The first, on August 13th 1651, destroyed 26 houses, stables and other buildings as well as 223 loads of hay and corn. A third of the village was devastated. This fire, and the later one in 1905, started near Wakeney Manor and soon spread up the street along the thatch of the closely built houses.

Most of the houses in Eydon are listed buildings and the village is part of a Conservation Area so that its character should not be lost by over-development.

St. Nicholas Church.

The six bells, five restored in 1981 and a sixth added, are rung regularly before and after the Sunday morning service, with practices on Tuesday evenings. They are also rung on special occasions and at New Year. The oldest bell, made by Newcombe of Leicester, was cast in 1603.

There are many wild flowers in and around the village and one of the most common along the path to the churchyard is Feverfew, known for its medicinal properties. Please do not pick or dig up wild flowers.

Thanks to the following landowners for their co-operation:

R. Batchelor - Mannings Farm
P. Broome - Cedars Farm
C.I. Gardner - Dodds Manor Farm
J. S. F. Grindlay - The Rectory Farmhouse
D. B. Habgood - Horne Farm
H. C. Harper - Crookwell Farm
G. W. Leigh - Eydon Hall
W. H. Meilen - Moors Farm
P. C. Nichols - Lodge Farm
B. L. Scawbrook - Burnt Mill
R. B. Smith - Ashby Farm
G. R. + P. Thame - Trafford House Farm

Countryside Code:

1. Always keep to the path to avoid trespass. If the path is obstructed you are allowed to seek a reasonable way round the obstruction. Taking care to avoid causing damage. Please report the obstruction to the highway authority.

2. Remember to close gates behind you. Straying stock can cause damage or spread disease and carelessness may lead to tragedy.

3. To avoid harm or distress to farm animals and wildlife it is best to leave dogs at home. If you have to bring them they should be kept on a lead.

4. If your route takes you on a road keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic and use the verge if one exists.

5. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season and remember to allow plenty of time to complete your chosen route.

6. Remember that every piece of land in the countryside belongs to someone, so please treat it with respect and others will be made welcome.

7. Remember that Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected by law in order to ensure their survival. Please respect them and other archaeological sites.

Acknowledgements:

Paths walked and marked by Ronnie Pettifer, John Salt and Bert Manton.
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Leaflet designed and compiled by Sonia Hawes.
Idea supported by Eydon Parish Council. 1987
Leaflet revised by Sue Payne 1990.

If you experience any difficulty on your walk such as barbed wire, locked gates or damaged stiles and footbridges please report them to the Principal Rights of Way Officer, West Office, Amrera House, London Road, Daventry. Tel. Daventry. 301001.

Countryside Walks and Rides Leaflet No. 16.

Northamptonshire Countryside Services is a branch of Northamptonshire Planning and Transportation Department

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Countryside Walks and Rides

Eydon
The Green and Stocks

Northamptonshire
Countryside Services

Eydon
The Green and Stocks

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Manitoba, now a small modern housing estate, was formerly an area of allotments. The Pettifer family had an acre of herbs here for their business making animal medicines.

The Elms (the former rectory) is a three storey house of local stone on the site of an older house. It was built for Rev. Francis Cleeke. Lacking land and privacy it has often stood empty for years at a time, another rectory (now a private house) having been built on the edge of the village towards Culworth. Empty for most of the period between 1858-1917 it was bought by Mr. Swain and renovated, lived in for a while with other empty again. Its see-saw life of renovation and periods of near dereliction have continued ever since.

The Royal Oak Public House was, in the 19th Century, several times including a brew house. It still retains beams and a large bread oven. Cockfights were held here in the 1800s.

St. Nicholas Church. Features include a Norman pillar and font and a 15th tower. The church was enlarged and kerosed in 1885 by public subscription.

To Culworth
Swallow
Heron
House Martin
Fox

The Moravian Chapel. Built of brick in 1810 and tucked away among the garages this is one of only four such Chapels in the County.

Blacksmith's Lane
The Old Forge

The old School

Stocks, Erected in 1825 at a cost of £6 15s. 6d. They were made to hold two people seated side by side and one person standing for whipping.

Lodge to Eydon Hall with tower and fire bell. There is a carving in local stone on the side of the lodge of the Black Moor that surmounts the shield forming the Armesley Coat of Arms.

Village Hall opened by Viscount Valencia on April 19th 1935. It was built by Trench and Sons at a cost of £751, 13s. 9d. (including the land).

Dodds Manor Farm.

Shop. In the 1840s there were seven shops- 2 butchers, 1 baker, 2 baker/grocers, 1 draper, 1 general shop. Other occupations included stone masons, a cooper, a pig dealer, miller, painter, plumber, surgeon, tailor, farrier, saddler, carpenter and wheelwright. There was also a clock and watchmaker by the name of Edward Dodds.

Village Farm
Home Farm

To Carons Ashley
Furdon Road

The Methodist (Wesleyan) Chapel

Methodist (Wesleyan) Chapel

Farbridge Lane

Boker Lane

To Carons Ashley
Furdon Road

To Culworth
Swallow
Heron
House Martin
Fox

Illustrations show wildlife seen around the village.
Eydon - Situated on the south slope of a hilly hill the village was probably already old when it was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1066 and is thought to be of Saxon origin.

The name Eydon has also been written as Ickdon, Ickdon or Eisdon and may be from the Saxon ‘eye’ - an isolated spot or ‘dune’ a down or hill.

George Freddie built the pre-Roman road railway bridge. The arrival of the railways in 1844 brought easier access and cheaper coal. National newspapers could also be delivered on the day of printing.

Local sand and gravel were used and buildings had large windows in the village cottages in extra income.

The average farm wage was 18 shillings (60p) per week when the average workers took home 3s 4d (17p) per 10 hour day.

Fields such as New Zealand, Botany Bay and Manitoba are named after the places to which wrongdoers were often transported.

A dried effect can still be seen in some fields - remnants of the old strip farming system of some 5000 years ago.

The local abundance of stone, sand and gravel resulted in an increase of building firms and associated trades such as plumbing, carpentry and joinery in the 19th and early 20th centuries.