

# Parish Walks

## WALK 3



Playford Hall

## Playford

At post, cross into field and continue along footpath crossing field following line directly to farm buildings in the distance through the trees.

At farm track (7) cross straight over and follow footpath towards farm buildings. Go straight through farm buildings with pond on left. Continue past tanks to edge of field (8). Follow footpath straight across field running parallel to Playford Road, with farm buildings directly behind you.

At junction with road (9), cross straight over into field. Follow track between fields towards large oak tree in the distance. At junction, cross into adjacent field and continue along footpath with hedge on right. Go through gap in hedge.

Continue along footpath alongside edge of field towards houses keeping hedge to right. Pass under electricity power lines and allotments on your right. Just before the road pass a pond on left. At junction with road (10) turn right and follow.

Turn next right into Playford Lane (11). Pass The Oaks property on your right and follow "Byway". At the end of the tarmacked lane carry straight on track passing another allotment and follow the field edge with hedge on left. Continue straight and pass house on right. Continue on footpath down incline. Cross bridge over railway line (12). Continue down track. Pass between fences with Playford Hall on your right.

Cross River Fynn (joining the Fynn Valley Walk) and continue on track. At junction (13) turn right onto tarmacked road. At road junction turn right (signposted Rushmere and Ipswich). Turn left into Hill Farm Road. You are now back where you started. I hope you enjoyed your walk.

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### Places of Interest

#### *Playford Hall*

A private residence complete with a moat, extensive gardens and situated alongside the River Fynn.

Whenever the grounds are open to the public (often for summer fetes) it is well worth a visit. The impressive Elizabethan Hall was once the house of Sir Thomas Clarkson (1816-1846). Together with William Wilberforce he organised the campaign for the abolition of slavery. There is a granite obelisk to him in the churchyard bearing the inscription 'The friend of slaves'. The Hall was requisitioned by the RAF during the early years of World War II after the bombing of Martlesham Heath airfield and then later from 1943-1945 used by the USAAF as officer quarters.

#### *Fynn Valley Walk*

The River Fynn rises close to Henley. The official walk commences at Witnesham and passes through Tuddenham St. Martin, Playford, Little Bealings, Martlesham and ending at Woodbridge. A delightful walk of about 15 km it passes through varied countryside with many notable features on route.

#### *Admirals Head Public House*

Named after Admiral Pelham Aldrich (1844-1930) whose portrait was on the sign. It is believed that parts of the present building date back to 1728. Unfortunately this pub is now closed.

#### *All Saints Church, Little Bealings*

Delightfully set in tranquil surroundings and well worth a closer look. It dates back to the 13th Century with improvements such as a second nave (late 19th Century) and stained glass east window, early 20th Century.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

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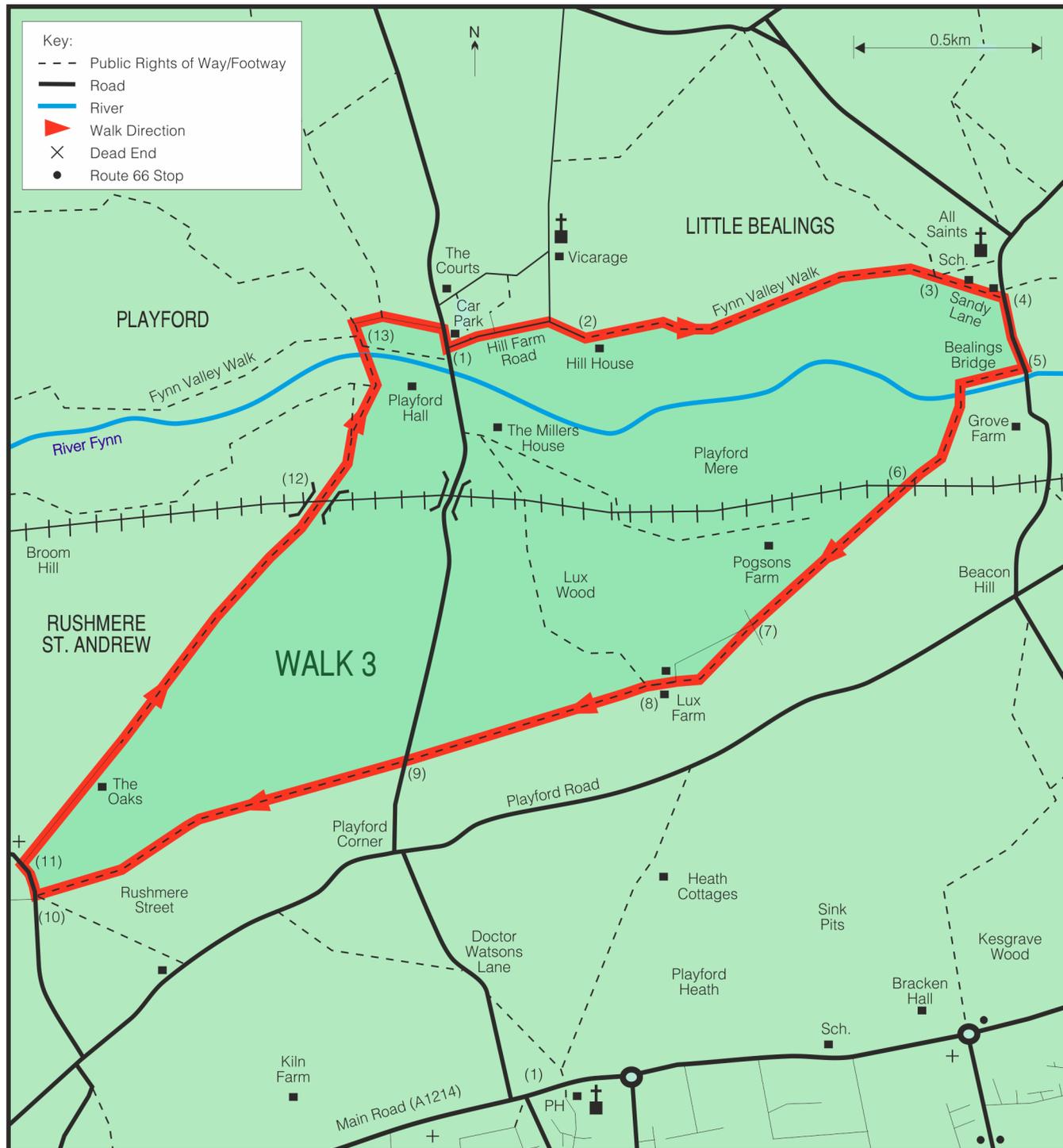
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### Introduction

This walk is mostly across meadows and cultivated farmland, covering a distance of about 7 km. Completion of the walk should take 1.5 to 2 hours. Car parking is at Playford Village Hall (1), signposted off road, just to the north of the junction with Hill Farm Road.

### The Walk

Begin the walk along Hill Farm Road (1), overlooking the River Fynn (a mere stream these days, although navigable up to 100 years ago) and meadows to the right (south). Pass Spring Meadow on the left. At 'T' junction at top of hill turn right (signposted No Through Road).

Approximately 35 metres past the last house on the left take the footpath signposted Fynn Valley Walk off to the left (2) running parallel to the road. Pass through a former pit which is now well covered with vegetation. Pass cottage on the right. Follow the path which is sunken before running along the right-hand side of a cultivated field with hedge and farm on right.

At oak tree take path turning to the right down an embankment. Descend and turn left to follow path along edge of field. Follow the path, passing a stump of a large oak tree on the left, down between hedges into a wooded area. Cross over a culvert and continue on path.

At junction with Sandy Lane (3) follow tarmacked road round to the right. Pass Bealings Primary School on the left followed by what was The Admirals Head public house (now closed). At junction with road (4) turn right and pass Bealings Bowls Club and meadows on the left.

Just before Fynn Bridge take footpath to right (5) and follow. Continue around to left following line of river. Cross footbridge over river and follow footpath towards end of farm buildings. At junction with farm track turn right and almost immediately left over another small stream. Follow signposted footpath up embankment towards an electricity pole on the horizon.

Just past pole cross the Ipswich-Lowestoft railway line using stiles (6). Watch out for trains. Follow footpath diagonally right across field and up incline towards footpath sign at the top of the rise. Go under power lines.