



Passing through small piece of wood, at corner of field (9). follow footpath sign up incline with tree line on your right. Look to your left for views of the river Deben. At 'T' junction with track (10) turn right. After 100 metres (11) take footpath on the right leading towards church.

Enter the churchyard of St. Mary the Virgin. Make your way to the main entrance path and pass on left side of the church. At road (12) turn left. At entrance to Martlesham Hall (13) take track off to right, keeping the hall and buildings to your left.

Follow track up incline following line of electricity poles. Pass cottage on left. Keep following track alongside hedge. At road (14) turn right. After 50 metres (15) take footpath on left straight across field. At junction with road (16) turn right.

At sharp right hand bend (17) take footpath straight on into Doctor Brittain's Wood. Continue walking. BT Labs can be seen on your left in the distance. Continue to road and cross over returning to Martlesham Community Centre. You are now back where you started. I hope you enjoyed your walk.

Places of Interest

Martlesham Community Centre

Built in 1986 with the Richards Room, Parish Council Office and Parish Room extension built in 1992. Martlesham still has a 1923 vintage village hall to the immediate north of the railway bridge.

Black Tiles Public House

During World War II the 'Black Tiles' was a tea room run by two ladies who kept a visitors' book which contained the signatures of many wartime pilots who flew from Martlesham airfield Douglas Bader (the legless pilot), Ian Smith (later to become premier of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe), Robert Stanford Tuck, Peter Townsend (later to become a close friend of Princess Margaret) and Alan Deere to name but a few.

Red Lion Public House

The 'Red Lion', a 17th Century public house on the corner of Bealings Road and Main Road was at one time

the staging post for the Yarmouth to London stage coaches. The Red Lion figurehead is believed to have come from a Dutch warship destroyed in the Battle of Sole Bay in May 1672.

Martlesham Creek

The tidal saltmarsh and mudflats provide an outstanding habitat for common birds and unusual migrants throughout the year, including kingfishers, little grebe, reed warblers, oyster catchers and curlews.

Martlesham Church of St. Mary the Virgin

The site dates back to the Domesday Survey in 1086 but the present building was constructed in the 14th Century. You will note the church is situated on high ground overlooking the creek which in spite of modern day urban sprawl is still relatively remote and peaceful. For the campanologist there is a ring of three bells.

Former Martlesham Heath Airfield

The airfield was originally the precursor to Farnborough and was used to test all civil and military aircraft during the 1920's and 1930's. It then became an operational fighter station during the Battle of Britain and was taken over in 1943 by the USAAF until 1945. During the post war years some development and testing did resume but not on the same scale as the 1930's. The RAF Blind Landing Experimental Unit (BLEU) were at the Heath for a time perfecting instrument approach as opposed to visual. This method of landing is now common place today. The airfield closed in 1960. In 1968 BT moved its research facilities from Dollis Hill, once again rekindling the tradition of being at the leading edge of technology.

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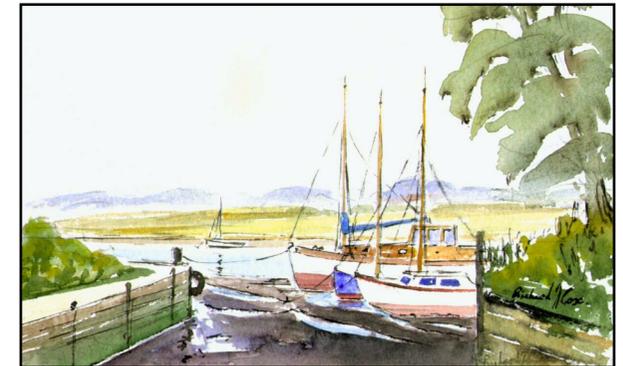
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Parish Walks

WALK 5



Martlesham Creek

Martlesham

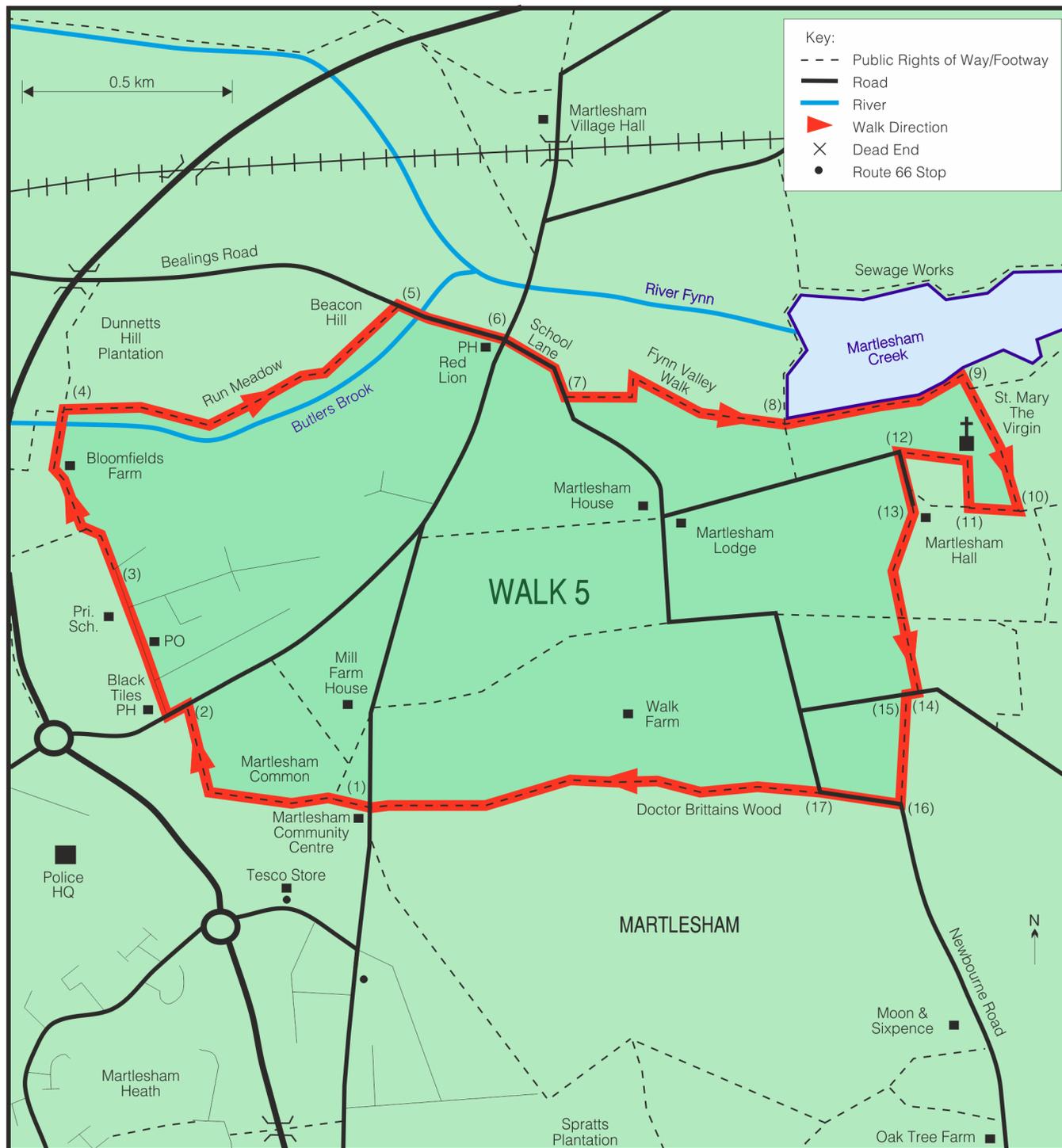


Suffolk County Council

PARISH PATHS
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GREENWAYS
countryside project



Introduction

This walk takes you around old Martlesham, for a distance of about 6.5 km. Completion of the walk should take about 1.5 to 2 hours. Recommended car parking can be found at Martlesham Community Centre. Access can be gained to the walk using route 66 getting off at Tesco, Martlesham and walking to the Martlesham Community Centre.

The Walk

From Martlesham Community Centre car park (1) take footpath leading out the back and to the left towards Tesco store. At T junction with footpath turn right with Martlesham Common on your right. Enter woodland and follow path through to road. At road (2) cross straight over and go down Black Tiles Lane. Pass the Black Tiles public house on left and further on pass the Post Office on right.

Pass Beacon Hill County Primary School on left and at right hand bend in road (3), look at the view over the valley, then take marked footpath down lane on left. Follow lane around to left in front of Vale View bungalow and follow road between new bungalow and older barns on tarmac road, at the end of road continue down hill.

Pass through scissor gate into field and continue to bottom of hill where you pass through another scissor gate onto a footpath crossroads (4). Turn immediately right into Run Meadow and follow footpath with Butlers Brook on the right. This section can be very muddy during the wetter seasons. Follow the footpath through scissor gates and over footbridges until you exit onto the Bealings Road (5). Beware of traffic.

Turn right and follow road crossing over bridge. Pass the entrance to the Red Lion Public House and at staggered cross roads (6) cross straight over and go enter School Lane. Where road bears to the right take the footpath off to the left marked Fynn Valley Walk (7). Follow footpath into woods. Continue on a sometimes muddy track through woods.

At staggered footpath crossroads (8) carry straight on, following footpath with Martlesham Creek on your left. Pass through boatyard to footpath on the other side and continue through gate following footpath with views of the river on your left.