

Cross into adjoining field through gap (11). Turn right and follow footpath across field and up slight incline heading directly towards a large oak tree at the edge of the wood. Continue following footpath into wooded area and follow footpath. Exiting the wood at track (12) turn left and go up incline, at the fork in the track continue straight passing bungalow on your left.

At road (13) cross straight over into signposted RUPP (road used as a public path) and follow. At path crossroads (14), cross path and follow footpath straight on onto a sunken footpath.

At bottom of slope (15) turn right and follow track around to right. Cross stream and about 50 metres past stream turn right and cross stile by gate (16) that almost goes back on itself. Then follow track around to the left with willow trees on the right and hedgerow on your left. The BT tower is just visible straight in front of you.

Cross small stream. Walk straight ahead following footpath towards Church Cottages. At ford (17), cross bridge on left hand side. After crossing, carry straight on for 30 metres to corner of hedge. Pass into field and cross field diagonally towards gate to right of houses almost in line with electricity pole. Pass in front of cottages and exit through gate onto road.

Cross road (18), take entrance road to Brightwell Hall Farm almost immediately opposite. (This is also a private residence so please keep to the paths and respect the owners privacy). Pass through farm buildings being aware of heavy farm machinery movement. Pass to the left of the barn at the far end of the road heading towards a large chestnut tree (19) turn left and pass through the gate onto a track in line with oak tree and BT tower slightly to the left.

Follow track around to right. At the end of the hedge on your left turn left at the footpath sign (20) and head straight across the field passing close to the two large trees on your right.

Exit the field through the gap in the hedge (21) and turn left then almost immediately right. Taking care, walk along the road to a sharp right hand bend (22) where you cross over into lane opposite and pass Sheepdrift Cottage on your right. Re-trace your route through the small business premises to exit onto the road. You are now back where you started. I hope you enjoyed your walk.

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### Places of Interest

#### *Newbourne Land Settlement*

The settlement was created by the government in the late 1930's for unemployed Durham miners. Each house included a

small holding complete with greenhouses with produce being sold via the settlement co-operative. The scheme continued until 1983 when the small holdings were sold to private buyers.

#### *Mill River*

The Mill River rises close to the crossroads of footpaths immediately to the west of the Stadium, with a second stream rising in the area of the decoy ponds on Purdis Heath. The river eventually flows into Kirton Creek and then into the Deben. The Mill, which ceased operation around 1930, is situated in Newbourne at the point where the river flows under the Mill Road. The complex adjacent to the Mill was the former Felixstowe/Trimley Water Works. It ceased operation when Alton Reservoir became operational in the mid 1980's. The site is still used for water abstraction but now only to pump water to Alton Reservoir when topping up is necessary.

#### *St. John the Baptist Church, Brightwell*

This is one of the smallest churches in Suffolk. Situated on the north side of the Mill Valley overlooking the rural scene that has changed little over recent centuries. The Church dates back to the 14th Century with the main door being the original. Inside, the Church is well cared for with interesting features such as stained glass windows, wall hatchments and stone font. The brick tower was built in the mid 17th Century and houses a single bell.

#### *Brightwell Hall*

This was apparently a fine building superbly positioned in the Mill Valley of 17th Century vintage. Unfortunately it fell into disrepair in the mid 18th Century. The farm buildings and house have been extensively rebuilt with additionally properties being added, it is now a private residence so please keep to the paths and respect the owners privacy.

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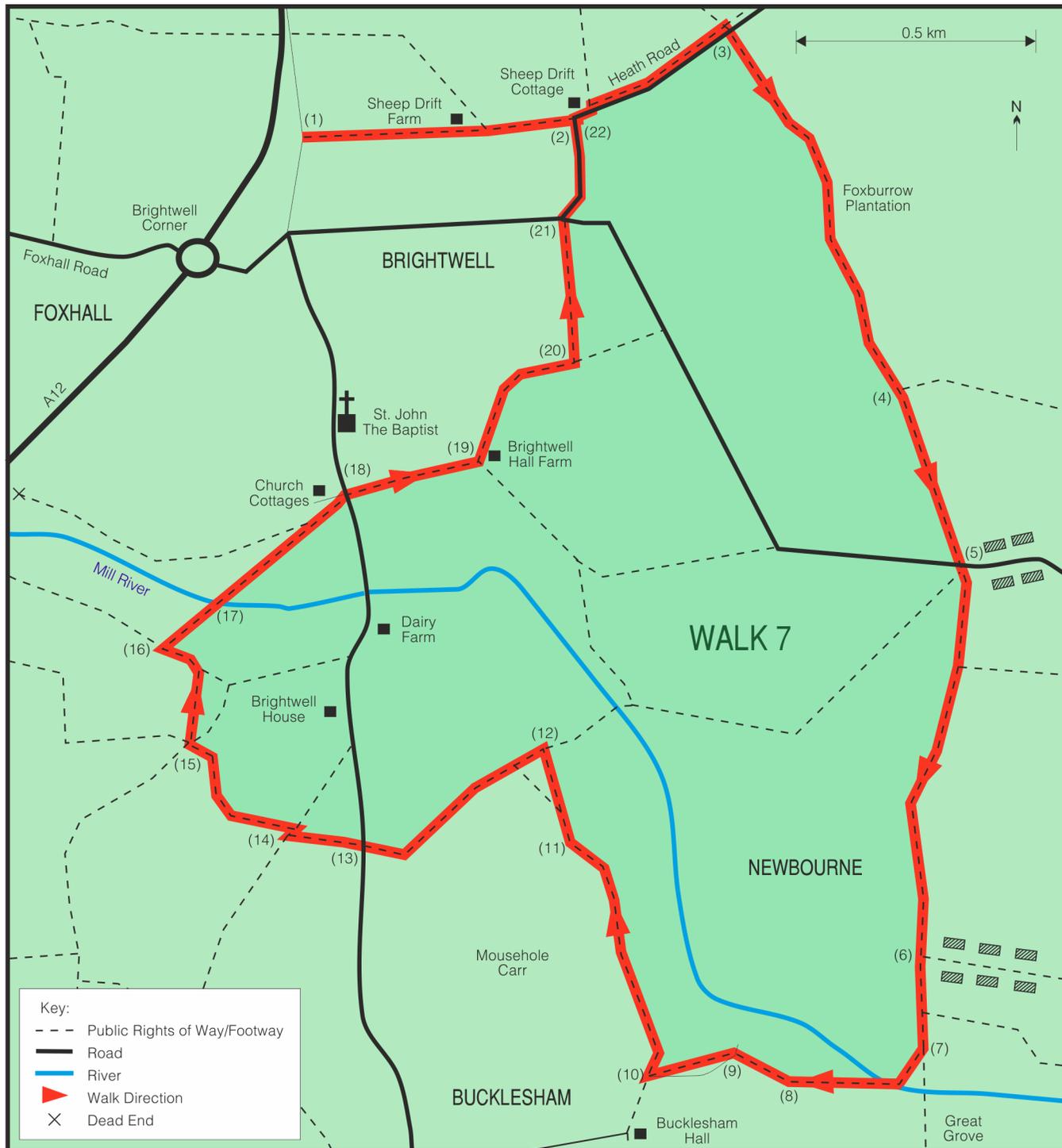
# Parish Walks

## WALK 7



Brightwell Church

## Brightwell & Bucklesham



### Introduction

This walk takes you through the parishes of Brightwell, Newbourne and Bucklesham, for a distance of about 7 km. Completion of the walk should take 2 to 2.5 hours. There are no recommended car parks for this route. However, on road parking can be found in the dead end road which is the first on the left having exited the A12 at the roundabout. The road widens outside the BT Network Evaluation Facility.

### The Walk

Starting at the entrance to the BT Network Evaluation Facility walk back along the road for about 100 meters and turn left on to the footpath at the entrance to Hunters Heath (1).

Follow the footpath through a series of small business premises (be aware of vehicles) and pass Sheepdrift Cottage (2) on your left. At the road stay left and walk along the grass verge / footpath parallel to the road on your right heading to Waldringfield. At metal gate (3) turn right and pass through pedestrian access and cross the road. Take footpath into trees (Foxburrow Plantation). Pass through trees and bear to left to follow footpath around edge of field.

Pass old quarry and a pond, very overgrown on your left. Just past the pond follow footpath sharp right and continue on footpath. At 'T' junction of footpaths (4) which joins from your left (if followed this will lead you to Newbourne Springs, another walk available in this series perhaps for another day) carry straight on. Ascend the slight incline to reach junction with road (5) turn left and almost immediately right taking footpath down beside track to Lower House Farm, Lower House Lane (private road).

NB: Alternatively, to shorten the walk, take the footpath diagonally across field and follow path to point (12).

Follow path down incline and just before the entrance to Lower House Farm take the footpath to the left, running parallel to the track, and follow. Pass through gate, cross road (6) and go through gate on opposite side. Follow footpath. At corner of field carry straight on, keeping hedge on left.

At stream (7) pass into field to the right. Take footpath diagonally right across field (45 degrees) to stile almost in opposite corner of field. Cross bridge over stream and follow footpath around to right (can be wet and muddy). Follow footpath signs through willow trees heading directly for electricity pole. Cross under power lines (8) just to the left of the pole.

At junction with track (9) turn left and go up incline. As track bears to left (10) take footpath to right. Follow footpath to corner of field with oak tree nearby. Turn right and drop to corner of the field.