

following footpath into wooded area and follow footpath. Exiting the wood at track (47) turn left and go up incline, at the fork in the track continue straight passing bungalow on your left until you meet the Brightwell road (48).

Taking care, cross the road onto footpath opposite and follow continuing straight at crossroads. At bottom of the hill turn right and follow footpath road to the left, passing farm buildings on your right and up the incline until you meet the A12. (49)

Although there is a break in the central reservation, traffic is very fast and crossing here should be avoided due to lack of vision to the right.

Up the bank on your left follow the footpath sign parallel with the A12 for approx. 50 metres and then turn diagonally left across the field skirting the wood. Cross over stile (50) into wood and walk through exiting up a bank onto a track. Continue along the track until the corner of the field and follow track right along rear of houses, exiting onto Bucklesham Road (51). At the road turn right and walk along the road crossing over the A12 by bridge to Hall Lane (beware of traffic and observe the Highway Code). At Hall Lane turn right along narrow road, at crossroads continue straight on crossing a small river bridge (52).

Continue with Foxhall Hall on your left. Approximately, at this point on your right (50 to 100m from road) is the site of All Saints' Church, Foxhall which fell into disrepair in the late 16th Century. Very little evidence remains visible, plus the fact that this ancient site is on private land, so permission from the landowner must be obtained before exploring further. On reaching entrance to Hall (53) turn left and take footpath away to right.

At edge of field (54) take left-hand footpath marked straight on across field. At corner of field pass through the gate. At next corner of field carry straight on into the trees. At road junction (55) turn left and follow. Cross bridge over Mill River and go up hill. At 'T' junction (56) turn right. At sharp left bend (57) in road carry straight on up track towards Purdis Hall. Pass Purdis Farm on right, then Purdis Hall. Pass Poppies Farm and continue on track.

At end of fence (58) turn right and follow footpath signs. Continue walking between the hedge and field. As you exit onto track between the corner of two fields, bear left and walk along edge of field for 25m and turn right into wood. Follow the footpath which alternates between a boarded walkway over marsh ground and undulating woodland footpath. Some areas can be very wet and muddy from autumn through to spring.

Follow the footpath and boardwalk, passing over two footbridges. Just after second footbridge continue straight on.

At footpath 'T' junction (59) turn left. Continue to Foxhall Road (60). Cross road and follow footpath sign along valley. Continue straight, passing in front of pumping station until you approach rear of houses. Turn left and re-emerge on Brendon Drive.

You are now back where you started. I hope you enjoyed the walk.

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'.

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.

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.

Newbourne Springs

Newbourne Springs is a delightful nature reserve featuring a wealth of mature woodland, wild flowers, insects and many species of birds. The old pump house is now a visitor centre with many displays arranged by Suffolk Wildlife Trust who jointly manage the reserve with Anglian Water.

Acknowledgements:

Walks Co-ordinator - Mr Michael Rayment

Walk Updates - Mr Nick Francis / Mrs Judith Francis

Pamphlet Design/Artwork - Mr Alan Comber

Paintings - Mr Richard Cox

Town/Parish Councils - Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm;

Kesgrave; Little Bealings; Martlesham; Newbourne; Playford; and Rushmere St. Andrew.

Funding - Greenways, Suffolk County Council, Countryside Commission, Parish Councils

Contact Details:

Kesgrave Town Council (01473) 625179

© Kesgrave Town Council 2020

Parish Walks

WALK 9



Family Out Walking

Outer Ring

Introduction

This walk is the longest of the Parish Walks (35 km / 22 miles) and incorporates parts of all of the outlying walks. It passes across heath, undulating farmland, through both pasture and cultivated fields, and runs alongside rivers and touches a few built up areas. Completion of the walk should take 8 to 10 hours and can be completed in one day. However it is recommended that it is tackled over 2 days. It is also recommended that an Ordnance Survey map be used in conjunction with these instructions. There are no recommended car parks for this route. Access can be gained to the walk using route 66 getting off at 'Beech Road Shops' and walking towards Penzance Road.

The Walk (Part 1)

Starting where the footpath crosses Brendon Drive (1), follow gravel footpath towards Rushmere Heath. At meadow, walk straight on right of Sandlings sign for 200 metres. At 'T' junction of footpaths (2) turn right and follow track. Continue on driveway between golf course and houses (Linksfield) until you reach Woodbridge Road (3).

Cross road, turn left. Follow road towards Ipswich. Just past No. 80 take footpath on right between houses (4) signposted Footpath. At junction with Playford Road turn left (5). Walk for 50 metres and just past No. 87, cross road and take footpath on right between houses.

Follow footpath. At corner of sports ground take footpath straight towards St. Andrew's Church. Pass through hedge and continue towards Church. At road (6) turn left and then quickly right and follow the path past the east end of the church.

Continue on footpath and just before the road (7), turn sharp left and following hedgerow on your right (It's signposted at the road). Continue walking straight on along track through derelict farm buildings. Cross another stile. At road (8) turn right. At junction in front of Villa Farm (9) turn left.

Following road for 100 metres. At slight bend in road (10) take footpath on right and cross field. In middle of field at telegraph pole turn right. Go onto next pole and continue following markers. At hedge turn left and follow round. Continue following hedge on right.

At end of hedge continue straight on for 75 metres then turn left and follow footpath. Follow path parallel to railway. Continue with hedge on your right into wooded area. Where footpath crosses the railway on left, do not cross, instead carry on with railway on your left.

At junction of footpaths turn left towards railway and pass through tunnel (11). Continue walking to bend in track. Turn right following footpath sign back towards railway line and up slight incline. Continue along footpath with railway on your

right through trees past water meadow on your right (This section can be muddy during the autumn and winter). At footbridge turn right and follow footpath over two footbridges. At track through gate (12) and turn left and almost immediately right onto footpath. At road (13) cross the road into Hill Farm Road. At 'T' Junction at top of hill turn (14) right (no through road). Approximately 50 metres past the last house on the left (15), take the footpath signposted Fynn Valley Walk off to the left running parallel to the road.

Pass through a former pit then pass a cottage on the right. Follow the path which is sunken. Skirt around the field. Pass through gap in hedge on the right and turn left and follow path along edge of field. Continue on footpath until you meet a bend in road (16).

Turn right into Sandy Lane. Pass school on left. At junction (17) turn left then right following footpath sign past Angela Cobbold Memorial Church Hall. Follow road. Just passed right hand bend turn left in front of gate, walking along line of trees on marked footpath.

Follow footpath across field to loan oak tree, through valley towards Martlesham Bypass. Pass bridge over stream. At oak tree cross wooden planks, turn right and follow hedge line with river on your right. Follow path alongside road. Halfway up incline turn right through tunnel (18) under A12.

Turn left after exiting the tunnel and continue up incline. At top follow footpath to right. After 10 metres turn right (19) and cross field towards steps over railway line. Cross stile (20), go up steps, cross line carefully and walk down other side. Follow footpath. Pass over bridge and continue along Post Office Lane until you reach the road (21). Cross over and turn right towards the Red Lion. The corner house was the Martlesham Post Office (40 years ago).

The Walk (Part 2)

At staggered cross roads (22) turn left into School Lane. At bend in road (23) take footpath off to the left marked Fynn Valley Walk. Follow footpath into woods. Continue on windy and sometimes muddy track through woods. At staggered footpath crossroads (24) 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.

Passing through small piece of wood, at corner of field (25) 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 (26) turn right. After 100 mtrs (27) 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 bend in road (28) turn left.

At entrance to Martlesham Hall take track off to right, keeping the hall and buildings to your left. Follow track up slight incline following line of electricity poles. Pass cottage on your left. At road (29) turn right. After 50 metres take footpath on left straight across field. At junction with road (30) turn left and follow. Pass entrance to Moon and Sixpence camp site.

Opposite the next cottage (31) take footpath on right. Pass through gate and follow track. Turn left at end of lake and go up hill. At the junction turn right and pass between tennis courts and bowls green. Pass through the gate, cross over to track around field (32), turn left and follow. Just before junction with road (33) before house take the footpath on the right almost back on yourself. At corner of field (34) turn left and follow footpath towards road.

At road (35) cross into field opposite and turn left, follow footpath on field side of hedge toward crossroads and follow the footpath (36) turning right towards Newbourne. At the next footpath junction (37) take footpath on right almost towards barns. At first junction with track turn left and follow towards trees. Pass farm buildings on right Private Property. Follow footpath signs.

After 100 metres enter Newbourne Springs. At junction with gate and stile (38), take footpath to left immediately in front. Continue on walkways running alongside stream until you reach the visitor centre. Pass through car park and at road turn right. At 'T' junction (39) turn right. Just past the Fox Inn (40) turn right into Fenn Lane. Continue past houses. Pass through kissing gate. Then another. Immediately take footpath straight on through tree lined footpath up an incline. At end of trees (41) turn right and follow footpath around edge of field. Passing caravan site on your left.

At 'T' junction (42) turn left and follow footpath signs. At junction with road (43) cross over and take footpath alongside track to Lower House Farm, Lower House Lane (private road).

At approach to Lower House take the footpath to the left. Pass through gate. Cross road and follow footpath sign straight on. Go through into second field (44) and take footpath diagonally right across field (45 degrees) to bridge almost in opposite corner of field. Cross footbridge over Mill River and follow footpath around to right (may be wet).

Follow footpath signs. Cross under power lines just to the left of pole. At track (45) turn left and go up incline. As track bears to left (46), take footpath to right following hedge line on left. Follow footpath to corner of field with oak tree nearby. Turn right and drop to corner of the field.

Cross into adjoining field through gap. 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