

embankment with A12 on the left. Pass through gorse bushes following path around to right to entrance road for Park & Ride. Watch out for traffic exiting the Park & Ride on your right.

At junction with road (10) cross over and follow footpath around to the right back towards Kesgrave. Pass Woodmans Place on your right, and using the pedestrian crossing, cross the A1214 Main Road. Turn right and then cross Portal Avenue and the Suffolk Constabulary Headquarters entrance on your left. Continue on footpath with A1214 Main Road on your right.

Pass route 66 bus stop. Pass into Kesgrave and cross Deben Avenue (11). Pass Dobbs Lane bus stop, followed by Bracken Avenue. Cross under Ropes Drive (East) using subway. You are now back where you started. I hope you enjoyed the walk.



Places of Interest

Pump House

The pump house at the 'sinks' or swamp, was once used to raise water approximately 30 metres over a distance of 800 metres under the A1214 to Grange Farm. During World War II an American serviceman based at Martlesham Heath painted a full sized mural of St. Francis on the southern end of the pump house. From a distance this painting looked very realistic with the figure surrounded by waving rushes and birds. On the northern side St. Christopher was painted by a local artist. Both murals have suffered over time and have been given some restoration but they still suffer from the dust and mud thrown up by lorries accessing the quarry.

Sinks Pit (Halls Pit)

The name 'sinks' would seem to originate from Sinks Farm, once part of the Kesgrave Hall Estate. To the western end of the pit lies the source of Butlers Brook that eventually flows into Martlesham Creek. The row of

houses on the northern edge of the pit were known as Laundry Cottages and part of the Kesgrave Hall Estate up until 1936. Also in the 1930's Grange Farm started to extract water from the lake for the carnation nursery and later for wider irrigation on the whole farm. Unfortunately post war the Sinks lost some of its natural beauty and became a quarry and refuse tip. It is still used by TrucksRUs.

Osierbed House

Originally a tied house where the Groom from Kesgrave Hall and his family lived. The land to the north east of Hall Road, through which Butlers Brook passes, formerly contained osierbeds. These were cut each year for basket making.

Kesgrave Hall

Kesgrave Hall and estate was at one time part of the Prettyman empire who were major land owners in the area. A house has been recorded on this site since 1086 and in fact appeared in the Domesday Book. The present building was erected in the 1830's with the last residents being the Barnes family until the death of Lt. Colonel Barnes in 1936. Payment of death duties necessitated the sale of the Hall and estate. In 1940 the RAF requisitioned the Hall as a billet. In 1943 until the end of World War II the Hall was a billet for USAAF personnel stationed at Martlesham Heath. Post-war the Hall was used as a school until 1995 when KDM International plc took over the premises. It then became Ryes School in 2005 and is now Milsoms Hotel.

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Parish Walks

WALK 4



Pump House

Little Bealings

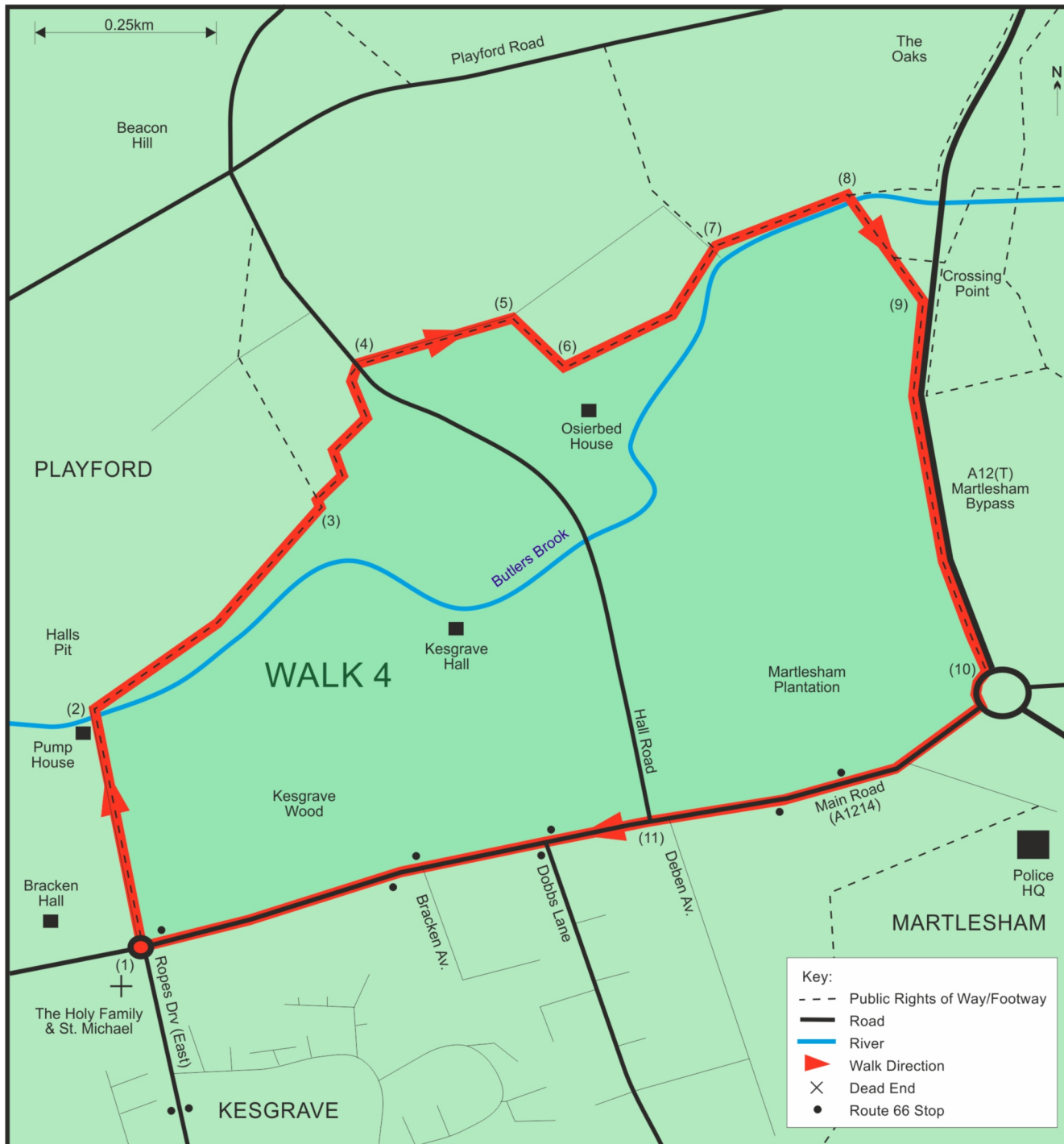


Suffolk County Council

PARISH PATHS
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GREENWAYS
countryside project



Introduction

This walk takes you through Halls Pit, into the parish of Little Bealings and back around Martlesham Plantation, for a distance of about 4.25 km. Completion of the walk should take approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. There are no recommended car parks for this walk. Access can be gained to the walk using route 66 getting off at 'St Michaels' or 'Fentons Way'.

The Walk

Starting at the Catholic Church (1) follow the footpath under the subway / roundabout and cross over A1214 Main Road using the pedestrian crossing. Walk back towards the roundabout and turn right into Sinks Pit.

Follow the footpath down an incline. Pass the pump house and pond on your left with the painting of St. Francis of Assisi and continue. At entrance to pit (2) follow footpath around to right, continue with the woodland on your right.

Pass through a gate (3), turn right, follow footpath round the edge of the field until you come to metal gate.

Turn right and exit through gate onto road. Cross straight over and take the marked footpath opposite to the right of the track(4) running parallel to the track.

Just past oak tree (5), follow footpath, which turns sharply to your right. Pass between hedgerows leading down to meadow. At entrance to meadow (6) turn left and follow footpath signs straight across field between paddocks.

At junction with track (7), cross track into the field. Follow signed footpath keeping stream to your right. Approximately 200 metres before corner of field turn right (8) over footbridge crossing Butlers Brook. Cross into field and walk straight up slight incline towards wood, passing through gap in fence (9) into wood, keeping parallel to Martlesham Bypass.

After approximately 45 metres pass through the gate, turn right and follow path towards Martlesham Heath, keeping fence to your right. Continue walking along