

Bromley Pub Walk No. 3

Keston to Leaves Green

Via Wilberforce Oak

A walk through woods and farmland, with views across the valley, passing the source of the River Ravensbourne, Wilberforce Oak and the perimeter of Biggin Hill airfield

Please read the Bromley Pub Walks introductory notes for explanation about information provided in these walking guides

Wilberforce Oak



Approx. Distance:	2.5 miles
Approx. Time:	1 hour
Gradients:	There is a gradient up to Wilberforce Oak from either direction
Type(s) of path(s):	Mostly gravel paths, also path through cultivated fields, and grass on the common
Stiles / Gates:	This route has a stile and a kissing gate. Some steps near the ponds (but a step-free route is available)
Road Walking: <small>(ie. roads without footway)</small>	All roads have footways
Livestock or crops:	This route includes fields which may contain livestock or crops
OS Grid References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keston: TQ 413645▪ Leaves Green: TQ 415616
Maps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ OS 1:25 000, No. 147▪ The entire route is within the area covered by a combination of Bromley Council's walks and trails leaflets: 'Leaves Green', 'Nash' and 'Darwin's Footsteps, Keston Holwood' (includes maps)
Connections to other Bromley Pub Walks:	From Keston: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 01 to Hayes Station▪ 02 to Leaves Green via Nash▪ 04 to Downe▪ 05 to Farnborough▪ 63 to Fickleshole

The Bromley Pub Walk guides have been prepared and published by Bromley CAMRA to encourage members and others to enjoy walking in the rural areas of Bromley and to visit the many pubs and clubs on the routes.

If you have any comments about the Bromley Pub Walk guides please send an email to:
walking@bromley.camra.org.uk



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	<p>From Leaves Green:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 02 to Keston via Nash ▪ 06 to Downe ▪ 07 to Farnborough ▪ 37 to Tatsfield ▪ 38 to Fickleshole <p>On route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This route follows the same route between Keston and Holwood Farm as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 04 Keston to Downe – 05 Keston to Farnborough ▪ This route follows the same route between Leaves Green and Holwood as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 07 Leaves Green to Farnborough – 06 Leaves Green to Downe (part only)
Pubs / Clubs:	<p>Keston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fox Inn, Heathfield Road, Keston. BR2 6BQ ▪ Greyhound, Commonside, Keston. BR2 6BP <p>Leaves Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kings Arms, Leaves Green Rd. BR2 6DU
Public Transport:	<p>Keston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 146 Bromley North/South to Downe ▪ 246 Bromley North/South to Westerham <p>Leaves Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 320 Catford to Biggin Hill via Bromley South ▪ 246 Bromley North/South to Westerham ▪ R2 Orpington to Biggin Hill
Notes:	<p>This route passes Keston Ponds, at the head of which is Caesar's Well, the spring which is defined as being the source of the River Ravensbourne. The river makes its way through Bromley (mostly in culverts), and south east London, eventually joining the Thames at Deptford Creek.</p> <p>The route also passes Wilberforce Oak, where in 1788 William Wilberforce announced that he intended to introduce legislation to end the slave trade. Although the original oak no longer exists, a commemorative stone bench and plaque mark the spot.</p> <p>The route also passes close to the end of the runway of Biggin Hill Airfield.</p>



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The Route:

(Starting at Keston)

- Follow LOOP signs via Heathfield Rd, into Lakes Rd
- Continue following LOOP signs along track at the end of Lakes Rd. past Keston Ponds, the source of the River Ravensbourne and through Keston Common to Westerham Rd (A233) near junction with Heathfield Rd (B265)
- Cross the busy Westerham Rd with care and continue on LOOP path up the hill, passing Wilberforce Oak, and then down to Holwood
- Near Holwood Farm (note the plastic cow!) there is a junction with Routes 04 to Downe and 05 to Farnborough
- Turn right into Downe Rd. After approx. 200m, take a signposted (but not immediately obvious) path between the houses
- Follow the path into and across the field (often has a crop), heading slightly uphill towards the trees and radio mast
- At the top of the hill the route joins Route 06 (Leaves Green to Downe) near the perimeter fence of Biggin Hill Airfield
- Path continues diagonally across field down to the hedge line
- Go over the (high) stile and the path emerges on the green, about 300m from the Kings Arms pub

(Starting at Leaves Green)

- The route starts at the opposite end of the green from the Kings Arms, about 75 yds. beyond the last house



From William Wilberforce's diary, 1788.

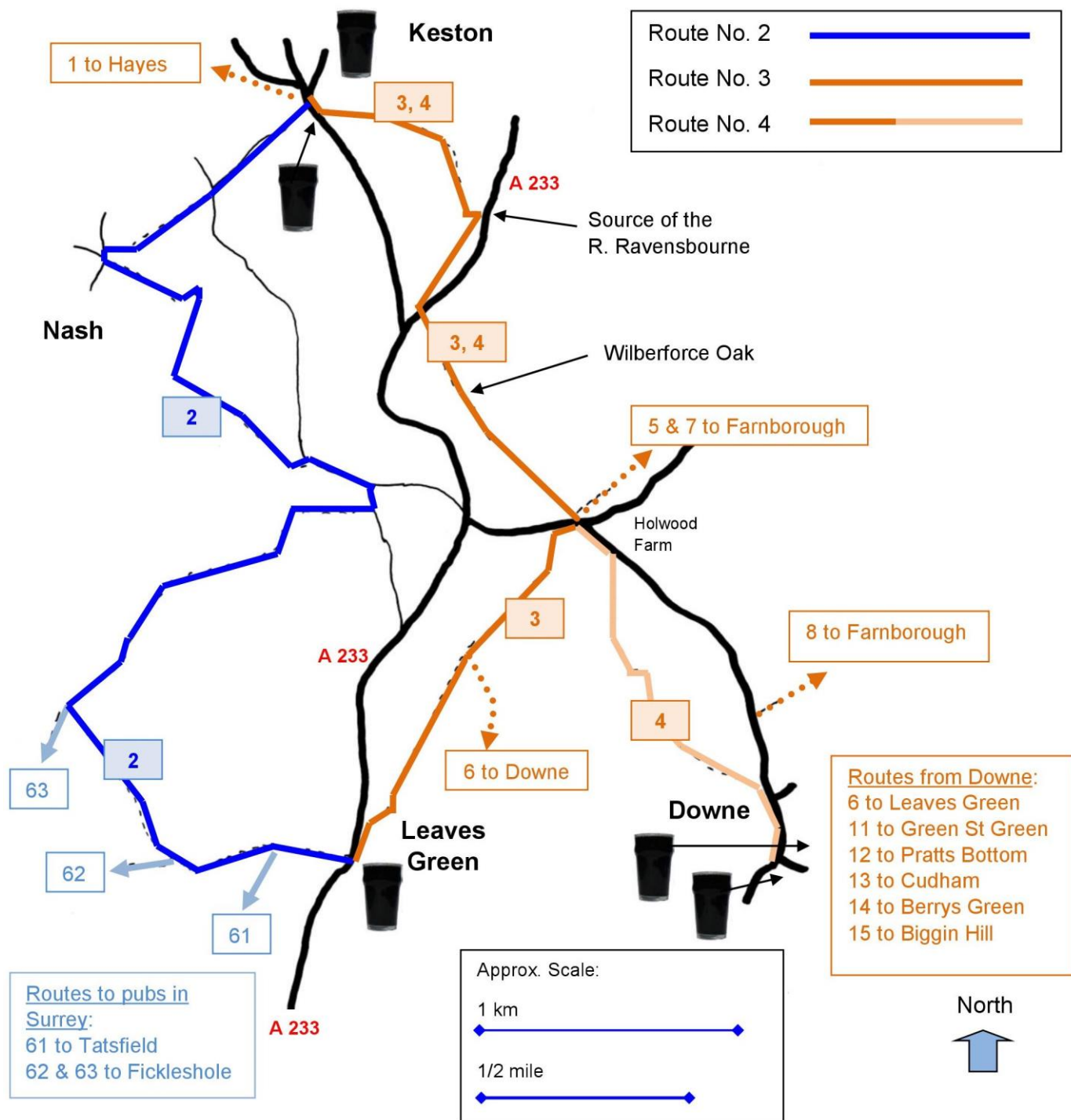
"At length, I well remember after a conversation with Mr Pitt in the open air at the root of an old oak at Holwood, just above the steep descent into the vale of Keston, I resolved to give notice on a fit occasion in the House of Commons of my intention to bring forward the abolition of the slave trade."

Date of survey / updates
– Surveyed June 2019



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Sketch Map for Routes 2, 3 and 4

Temporary Map.

It is hoped to improve the maps for all the Bromley Pub Walk routes



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