

Welcome

Badingham lies in the beautiful Alde valley in rural high Suffolk, an undulating landscape of arable fields, secluded homesteads and pretty churches. This is an area of clay soil uplands that until the Saxon period was full of oak forests, later cleared for meadows and fields.

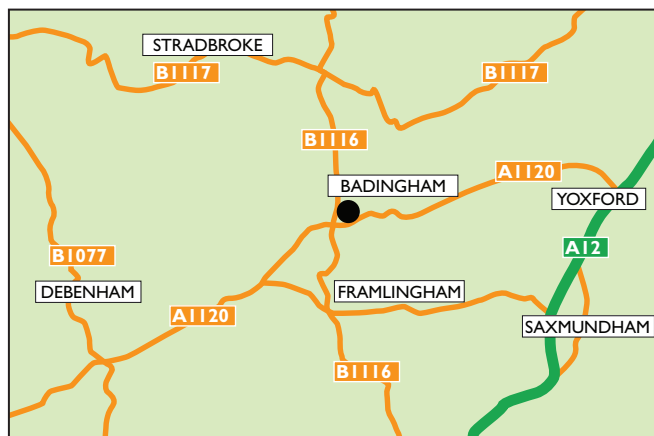
The village has a fascinating history. The course of a Roman road, finds of a Roman settlement and the ruins of a Roman villa reveal that this area has been occupied for at least 2,000 years. Badingham also lies near the source of the River Alde, which winds its way across east Suffolk to meet the North Sea at the coastal town of Aldeburgh.

The most populated part of the village is Low Street running northwards towards Laxfield from the A1120. At the northern end of the village is the church of St. John The Baptist. Dating from the 13th century, this is one highlight not to miss.

The Badingham Walks include two main circuits, which if combined offer up to 11 miles of walking. The circuits take you past many sights including three fascinating churches, ancient halls and woodlands. All walks begin from Badingham Church in Low Street.



Location



Badingham is located on the A1120, the main tourist route between Stowmarket and Yoxford, just 3 miles north of Framlingham.

Parking is available along Low Street (IP13 8JT).

Public Transport

Limited public transport is available to Badingham. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

Discover Suffolk

Discover many more walks and great days out in the countryside at www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Produced by Suffolk County Council and Badingham Parish Council.

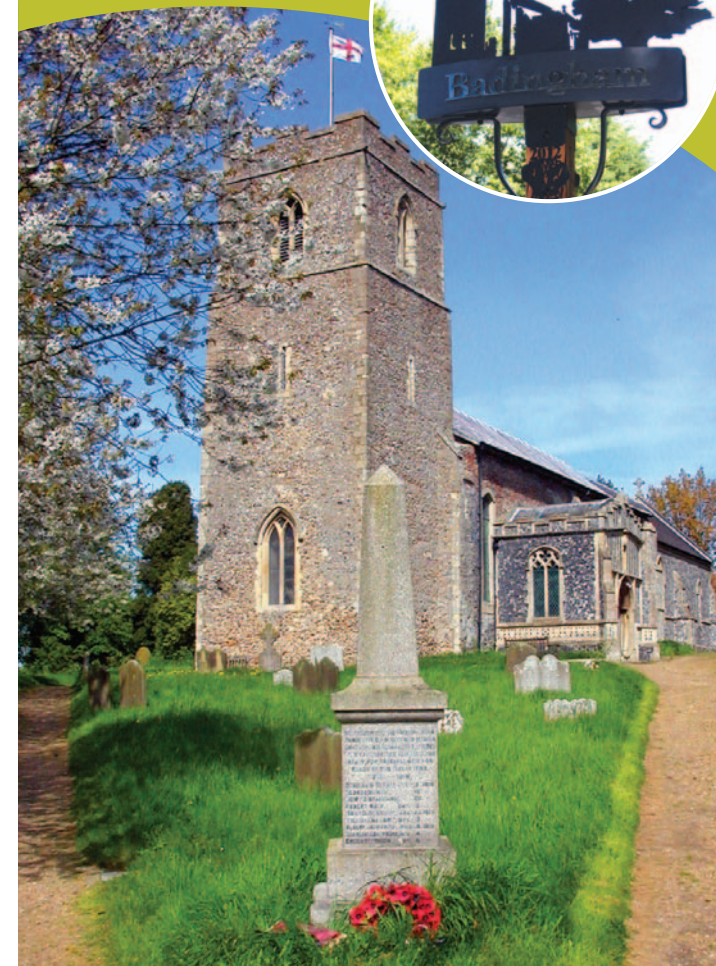
Acknowledgements Many thanks to Chris Harrison, Caroline Meigh and Robert Foster for all their help in developing this guide.



Circular Walks

Badingham

Circular walks
around the parish
of Badingham



The Farms Circuit

Distance: 3 miles / 4.5km ('A Step Further...' loop is 2.5 miles / 3.5km)

Time: 2 hours (3½ hours with loop)

Terrain: quiet lanes, natural surface paths, some across fields.

Start: Badingham Church, park along Low Street.

Keeping the church ❶ on your right, exit the churchyard in the far left corner. Go through a gate and continue with the fence on your right. Cross a paddock to a hedge, turn left, then right where the hedge ends, and continue to a road. (From the church, there is also a permissive path around the paddocks).



A Step Further...

Turn left at the footpath ❶ to cross a pasture, following the right fork to a way marked gap, continuing with the hedge on your left and then on your right, to follow the footpath through a series of gaps to a road.

At the road, cross over to follow Badingham Lane ❷, signed Laxfield.

Turn left at the first footpath sign towards Laxfield Wood. Continue to cross a bridge on your left, then a wood on your right, and follow a permissive footpath (track). Just before the road turn left and continue past Sunflower Farm and around a paddock to a road.

Cross the road ❸ following the footpath into a small copse then over a bridge and across the field. On the far side bear left across the field to a waymarker post. Turn right and continue to the next gap beside an old gate. Re-cross the pasture, to return to the road by the Old Mission Hall ❶. Turn left.



Beyond The Old Mission Hall ❶ turn right into Twin Oak Drive. Towards the end of the drive, just before the farm, turn left to follow the footpath past the old barn to cross a field. At the far side cross a small bridge and walk towards a metal gate. Go through the gate ❹ along a bridleway through Plains Farm. At the junction turn left onto the footpath past Brick Kiln Farm

The Brick Kiln ❺ was just to the right of this junction and made red pantiles and bricks so characteristic of Suffolk. During WW1 a brick maker used to gather white slugs and swallow them whole as they were believed to be an antidote to consumption! The brick maker was also a part time gravedigger and in the days before piped water, declared the water from the pump below the graveyard had an extra sparkle!

Continue to the end of the field, turning right to follow a footpath, keeping the hedge on your right, until you come to a road. Turn right.

The Old Rectory ❻ is an attractive building built around 1727. For 25 years it was the East Anglian Academy for Transcendental Meditation. It is now a private house.

Pass the Old Rectory and turn left on a footpath to return to Low Street by the village hall.



Badingham Circular Walks

Two circular walks around the parish of Badingham

Afternoon tea at Badingham

Afternoon tea is available at the village hall every Tuesday 3.00pm - 4.30pm.



The Churches and Halls Circuit

Distance: 6 miles (9km)

Time: 4 hours

Terrain: Quiet lanes, natural surface paths, some across fields.

Start: Badingham Church, park along Low Street

St John the Baptist Church ❶ dates from late 13th century although Norman details survive from an earlier church. It stands on a piece of high ground, once called Burstonhaugh, which may have been a holy place, possibly linked to pagan celebrations. This may be the reason the church was built here, orientated so the sun shone down its length on Midsummer's Day. Outside, the buttresses contain unusual carvings – one appears to show a dog holding a bowl in its mouth. Inside the finest feature is the spectacular hammerbeam roof, regarded as one of the most perfect examples in England. The 15th century seven sacrament font is stunning and each panel shows a different scene, including one with a fleeing devil!

From the church walk down Low Street. Turn left at the village hall and follow the footpath to a road.

The footpath leads past a field ❷ on the right where there was once an underground bunker used as an ammunition store for the Home Guard in WWII.

Turn right at Old Rectory Road and carefully cross the A1120 to follow Wood Road past Colston Hall.



Colston Hall ❸ is a typical Elizabethan Hall House in layout and design with beams and original brick floors. Self-catering cottages and B&B are available.

At the end of Wood Road turn left for a short detour to St Peter's Church, Bruisyard (1.5 miles (2.5km) round trip).

St Peter's Church ❹ with its Saxon round tower sits on a little hill overlooking the River Alde. The church was restored in the 19th and 20th centuries. Inside note the chancel which has some poppy head bench ends, and the 15th century font.



Returning past Wood Road, continue past a drive on your left and step up the bank to follow the footpath up the hill, past Oakenhill Hall.

Oakenhill Hall ❺ is probably the oldest house in the village. Two thousand years ago this was the site of a Roman settlement and villa.

At the top of the hill go left through a small gate, then right through a metal gate to another gate, before crossing a field towards a group of trees. Keeping a pond and hedge to your left, veer right and head to the bottom of the hill, over a small bridge and cross the field to the road at Fisk's Farm. Turn left and then right and follow the track straight ahead until you reach a junction of footpaths at Great Lodge.

Continue ahead along the footpath. Where the route turns left ❻ you are standing on the course of a Roman Road. This ran between the neighbouring parishes of Peasenhall and Coddendam and was used to carry merchandise to and from the harbour at Dunwich.

Turn right at the road. This is Clay Hill which leads to the A1120 but before you get there, at Clay Hill Farm, you can take a short detour left along a footpath to Dennington (1.5 miles (2.5km) round trip).

St Mary's Church ❼ in Dennington contains many wonders, including amazing medieval carved bench ends. These include a mermaid, a tortoise, a giraffe and a sciapod – a mythical desert creature with one large foot to protect it from the sun – the only such carving known in England! Don't miss the exquisite Bardolph tomb (1441) with a beautiful carving at the feet of Sir William's wife of a wyvern, a mythical winged creature with a dragon's head and reptilian body.

Return to Clay Hill and at the A1120 turn left and almost immediately right by the red post box into Wash Lane.

You now cross the River Alde, more like a ditch here ❽. This river springs just north of Dennington. In bygone years it was navigable to small flat-bottomed punt-like boats all the way to the sea at Aldeburgh.

At the end of Wash Lane, turn right onto a narrow footpath beside a tall hedge to a field. Head straight across the field and on reaching the other side turn left and then go through a gap. Turn right and then left keeping the hedge on your right. Follow the footpath past Dennington Wood and a pond, to a bridge, back to Low Street

