



Framlingham

An historic town with a colourful market place and a famous castle, seat of the powerful Howard dynasty, is the setting for St Michael's church. The handsome church tower can be seen for miles, acting as a landmark for walkers striding out to Badingham or Dennington. Once inside, visitors are inevitably awestruck by the magnificent tombs of the Howards and their links with Henry VIII and his wives



Badingham

A large parish with homes scattered over a wide area, Badingham still manages to achieve a community spirit and even has a community garden in the extended graveyard of St John the Baptist.

It's a steep climb up to the church but worth every step to look inside and discover the 15th century font with its exquisitely carved panels depicting the seven sacraments.



Dennington

The sturdy St Mary's with its lofty tower dominates the village and is virtually unrivalled in Suffolk and beyond for its medieval treasures. The view down the nave to the east window is breathtaking and among the many features to discover are the superb alabaster effigies of Lord Bardolf, one of Henry V's 'happy few' who fought at Agincourt, and his lady wife Joan.



Worlingworth

This is one of Suffolk's 'hidden' villages and, nestling among pretty cottages, the church of St Mary's is almost hidden too. But you will spot the ancient tower as you walk or cycle through. As you approach, admire the flint flushwork – the art of the medieval mason using the only local stone available. Inside, the church is full of interest from the soaring font cover to the beautifully carved Stuart benches.



Other trails in the series:

Woolpit Eye Southwold
Clare Mildenhall

A Step Further

St Michael's Framlingham to St Mary's Worlingworth
13 miles/21 km



St Mary's Worlingworth is the fourth church in the Framlingham cluster and hidden in a maze of country lanes ideal for cycling. From St Michael's Framlingham, head out of the town on the B1119 to Saxtead Green until you come to the A1120.

Cross the road with the Post Mill on your left, one of many built in Suffolk from the late 13th century. Milling ceased in 1947 but you can take a fascinating audio tour in summer. Follow the road across the green towards Tannington.

After Saxtead Little Green, turn right at the T-junction. Shortly after Braiseworth Hall on your left – thought to have been a fortified manor house with moats and ramparts in medieval times – follow the signpost to Worlingworth and Brundish. After two thirds of a mile, turn left at the next junction signed Worlingworth and Southolt. In about half a mile, the road bears round to the right. Carry on until you see the Worlingworth village sign and head into the village. Just before the church is Worlingworth hall, venue for the Jubilee Feast in commemoration of King George III's 50 years reign, when a whole ox was roasted. You can see a painting of the event at the church just on your left. Opposite the church is the former Worlingworth Poorhouse, originally a Guildhall, which closed in 1836. Turning left out of the church, you will pass the Swan Inn

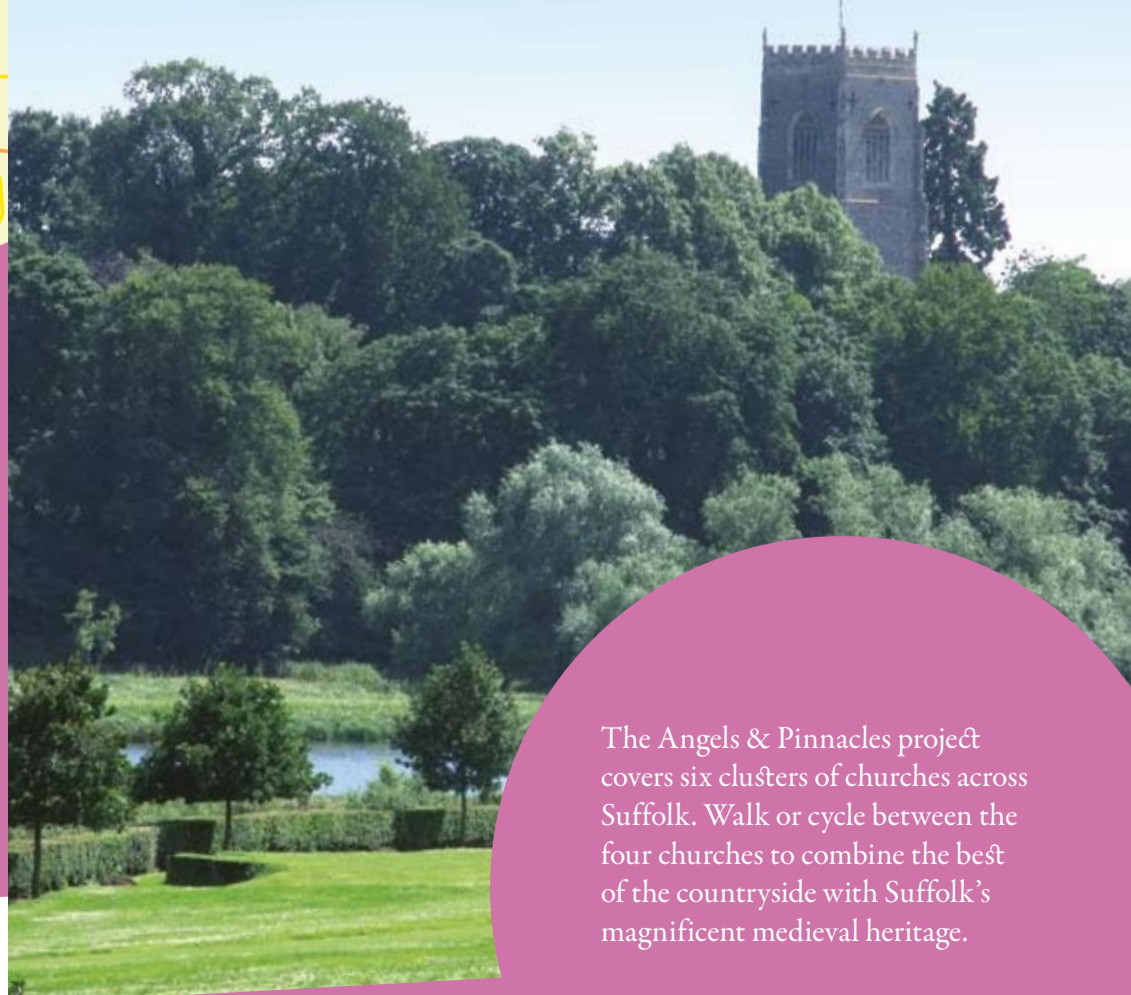


where the contents of the poorhouse were auctioned off in September of that year. The 16th century pub was also the venue of the first meeting of the Loyal Worlingworth Volunteers in 1798, formed in case of a Napoleonic invasion. Now turn left into Swan Road, then left at the T-junction for Tannington and Framlingham. At the next junction, turn right towards Tannington and St Ethelbert's church is on your right. Go inside to admire the modern window of local scenes including Braiseworth Hall. The road then bears to the left and, shortly after, you turn right towards Braiseworth Hall on your right. You are now back on the original route, four miles from Framlingham. If you call at the 17th century Old Mill House pub in Saxtead, remember it was once known as The Volunteer.



Angels & Pinnacles Church Heritage Trails

No.3 in the series: Framlingham cluster



The Angels & Pinnacles project covers six clusters of churches across Suffolk. Walk or cycle between the four churches to combine the best of the countryside with Suffolk's magnificent medieval heritage.

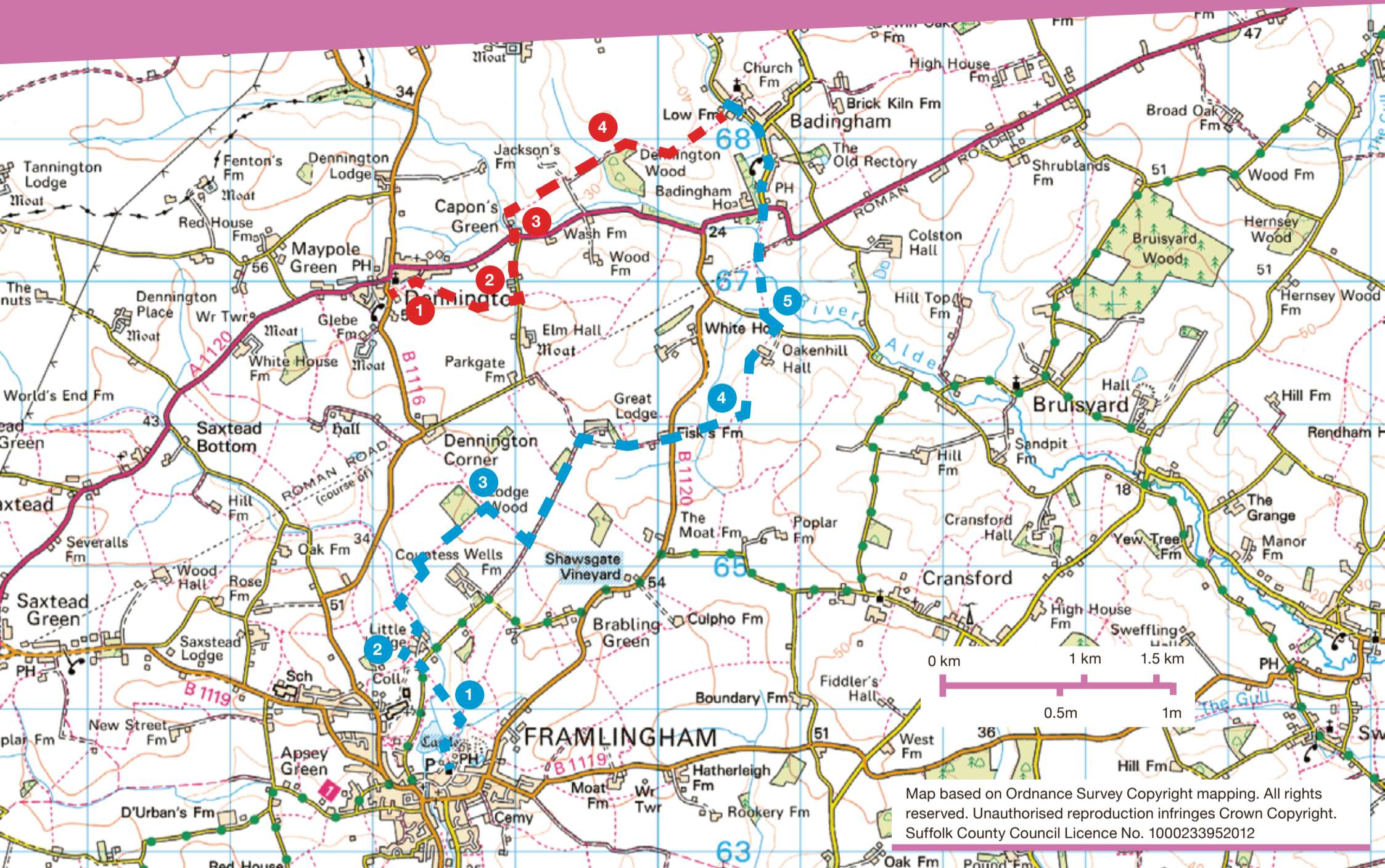
www.angelsandpinnacles.org.uk



St Michael's Framlingham – St Mary's Dennington
St John the Baptist Badingham – St Mary's Worlingworth



Angels & Pinnacles – Church Heritage Trails



Route 1 — 4.75 miles / 7.5 km each way

St Michael's Framlingham to St John the Baptist Badingham



Leave St Michael's church by the church hall and turn left for the castle, then sharp left along the bank of the dry moat. Look up to the battlements and imagine Mary Tudor rallying her supporters before being crowned Queen in 1553.

Cross the wooden bridge and turn left towards the mere. Dug out by Roger Bigod, second Earl of Norfolk, who rebuilt the castle, today it is managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Go down the steps and over the bridge and continue with the mere and Framlingham college on your left. **1**

Go round the sports field, ignoring the first footpath sign, until you come to a wooden gate. Cross the road and turn left, then right at the sign. Follow the hedge round to the right **2**.

At the top of the hill, take the official footpath diversion round Little Lodge, turning right and heading over the bridge.

Head towards Countess Wells Farm and Lodge Wood **3**. Try to imagine the activity there would have been when this was all part of the castle's great medieval deer park of up to 600 acres. Gifts of deer were given to curry favour from powerful men such as the Bishop 'my Lord of Norwyche' and the 'Abbot of Bery'. Continue past Great Lodge and on to Fisks Farm and the B1120. Turn left, then first right at the sign to cross the field, then cross the wooden bridge. **4** Turn right, then left up the side of the field. The field winds round a mill pond on your right. Here you cross the field to go left towards Badingham church tower. Continue on to Oakenhill Hall, once the site of a Roman villa, turning left at the road and picking up the footpath on your right **5**, then immediately left through the hedge. Cross the field, heading towards the river, then over the bridge and straight ahead over the stile up the slope to the field. Turn left, then sharp left down the drive by the side of the house. Look out for a path through the hedge. Keeping straight, you'll see the White Horse pub in front of you on the B1120. Walk up beside the pub and through the village. The church is on your right. Return by the same route.

Route 2 — 2.5 miles / 4 km each way

St Mary Dennington to St John the Baptist Badingham

Leave Dennington church at the south porch and turn sharp right just before the gate to follow the church wall with the pub on your left. Go through the iron gate to follow the path between the hedges alongside the sports field. Emerge into the meadow and cross over to the barn **1** on the other side. By the barn, go across the field. At the corner of the field, you'll see the footpath sign. You can hear the church clock striking if the wind is in the right direction.

The path crosses the centre of the field towards Clay House Farm, although there is a permissive footpath round the field. Cross the next field and looking back, you can still see Dennington church tower in the distance. You will emerge on a grassy track where you turn right.

At the road **2** turn left to follow the lane down towards the A1120. Cross with great care, turning left, then first right down the track and over the bridge **3** that crosses the River Alde. The river used to be navigable by small flat-bottomed boats all the way to the sea at Aldeburgh. Rivers such as the Alde were the equivalent of roads in Anglo Saxon times!

Immediately next to the iron gates of

Capons Green Farm, take a sharp right between the conifer hedge and wall. Follow this narrow path to the end and take the gap in the hedge past the footpath sign and into the field.

Cross the field and, at the end, turn left as indicated by the sign. You can still see Dennington church from here.

Go left again through the hedge, then turn right on to the track, then left across the concrete standing.

Follow the track down towards Dennington wood **4**. Walk alongside the wood to the corner where the track bears round to the right and continue on for approximately half a mile until you come to Badingham Low Street. Turn left and you will see the church on your right.

Take a look round the community garden in Badingham churchyard before heading back by the same route.



You can park at Framlingham church for a donation, or use the car park at the castle entrance with the fee refunded if you visit the castle.

Toilets are available in the church or in Crown and Anchor Lane, off Church Street.

There is a wide choice of places to eat and drink in Framlingham.

Public transport - On weekdays or Saturdays, you may consider taking the bus one way. Timetables and journey planners are available at www.suffolkonboard.com

The Dennington Queen is a public house serving lunches and evening meals next to St Mary's church www.thedenningtonqueen.co.uk

The White Horse is a public house serving food on the A1120 at Badingham

There is limited parking near Dennington church or opposite Badingham church.

More walks and great days out at: www.discoversuffolk.org.uk