All Saints Church
The building dates from the 15th and 16th centuries. The exterior is Perpendicular and is of knapped flints and stone, with a lovely tower built by William de la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk. It is said that 12 parishes can be seen from the tower. John Charles Ryle, when Rector, was responsible for the restoration of the interior of the church in 1871 to 1879. Ryle went on to become the Bishop of Liverpool.

Bishop Grosseteste
Stradbroke’s most famous citizen was born in 1168, reputedly in the Town House. He was a learned man and in 1214 became Master of the Schools in Oxford and, in 1235, Bishop of Lincoln. He died in 1253 at Buckden Abbey.

Town House
Town House was called St Ann’s Guildhall in 1463. In 1587 it was given to the parish by the Lord of the Manor. It was rented out for businesses, and has also been a school. It is two storied, timber-framed with an overhang, first floor plastered.

Cemetery
The cemetery is a herb rich grassland, a rarity in Suffolk. It was formerly meadow land and is now a conservation area for wild flowers, so the whole of the area is not closely mown. A list of plants is shown on the board on the chapel wall. In late Spring, the primroses, cowslips and green winged orchid are a delight. Other plants that are present are fairy flax, ox-eye daisy, yellow rattle, pepper-saxifrage, quaking grass and bird’s-foot trefoil.

Skinner’s Mill
There was a windmill on this site from 1688. It was one of the first post-mills in Suffolk, grinding corn for local people. The Skinner family have owned the mill over a period of 200 years.

Further information (available in the village)
Stradbroke Notes
All Saints Church, Stradbroke, a Short History & Guide.

Refreshments
Public Houses:  White Hart  Queen’s Head
Ivy House  

Village Shops for food and drink:
Stradbroke Stores  Londis Shop
Stradbroke Bakery  Sheila and Dave Wholefoods
Hubbards Stores  Briarknoll Stores.

Country Code
Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
Guard against all risk of fire
Fasten gates
Keep dogs under close control
Keep to the public paths across farmland
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
Take your litter home
Help to keep all water clean
Protect wildlife, plants and trees
Take special care on country roads
Make no unnecessary noise

How to get to Stradbroke:

Parking
Parking available at the Village Hall car park.

A short circular walk through village and farmland, (approx: 3 miles)

Produced by Stradbroke Footpath Walkers

Suffolk County Council
Financial assistance from Suffolk County Council and the Countryside Commission through the Countryside Access Project is gratefully acknowledged.
The Walk

From the village hall grounds join main road and turn left. Proceed along road past the Fire Station with its historical whimsical ceramic panel, the work of a local potter.

At T-junction turn left, noting the village sign, which depicts Bishop Grosseteste and the poet James Chambers. The high wall on the left was once the garden wall of Stradbroke Rectory. Continue along, passing Bishop's Way and Woodfields, both modern estates. Note the magnificent copper beech. Walk along to footpath near the sign “Doggets”.

Follow path to left of hedge and track. Turn right, then left and follow path until it enters a wide track. Turn right and you will see Skinner’s Mill, which was once a windmill, and a lovely view of All Saints tower over the attractive thatched cottages.

Turn right at main road, walk past Hemspeach House (formerly a pub) and the primary school (opened in 1863), to the Court House, now a Community Centre. Turn left and take footpath ahead into Willow Close, past the original village pond. Turn right into Shelton Hill, then left, to Drapers Hill Farm.

Keep to right between buildings and cypress hedge on right. Cross bridge and follow path with ditch on right, cross footbridge and head for the oak tree, through cultivated field, and head for beginning of hedge. Turn right and walk through crop to a wide track, past Observer Corps station and Cemetery.

At main road turn left and go past Mill Lane (the round house is the remains of a windmill). Continue along with Stone Cottages on left and enter Field Cottage drive. Follow privet hedge on field side and walk across to bridge.

(Alternative walk: Continue to Gray’s House and follow round field hedge on your left, and on reaching ditch turn right and proceed to bridge, this by permission of the farmer).

Cross bridge and walk across field to another bridge. Keep to left of hedge and proceed to Neaves Lane. Home farm buildings are on your right.

(Alternative route: Turn right at main road near cemetery and cross to Neaves Lane).

Follow Neaves Lane until you reach footpath sign on right. Follow path past small wood (where a chaffinch can often be heard) and ahead is Stradbroke High School. The path meets B1118 Stradbroke to Willy road. Continue to Village Hall.

To view the village, continue along to T-junction and turn right. Walk along Church Street, passing Town House (Foulham’s) the alleged birthplace of Bishop Grosseteste. Continue to corner with Church House on left. Cross Church Street to see All Saints Church from the War Memorial. Enter the churchyard by the South gate, to read the inscription on the grave of James Chambers. Walk round the tower to the North Porch to find the gravestone (with a harp towards the top). He is described as a “poor wandering Suffolk poet”. Near the West gate is another interesting low table tomb, that of the Fox family.