

Welcome

The parish of Wetheringsett cum Brockford stretches alongside the A140, formally a Roman Road.

Lying on the heavy boulder clays of High Suffolk, it remains well-wooded with areas of ancient forest continuing into the Middle Ages. By the time of the Domesday Survey most of the land was held as 'demesne' or home farms, by the great Benedictine abbeys of Ely and Bury St Edmunds.

The broad pattern of scattered greens and hamlets of that period can still be seen, eroded only to accommodate a World War II airfield across the south and west.

Today the village is awash with wonderful buildings, some dating back to medieval times and the old airfield is home to the local landmark - a 1,000 ft high television mast.

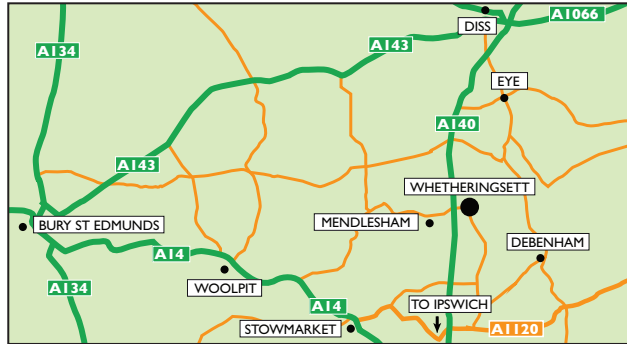
Brockford is also home to the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum, a popular tourist attraction dedicated to remembering what was affectionately known as the 'Middy'. The museum recreates a slice of Edwardian railway travel that everyone can enjoy.

Local Facilities – Tea, coffee and cakes are served in All Saint's Church on Wednesday mornings, March to December.

All walks start from All Saints' Church and follow natural lanes, field edges and quiet country roads.



Location



Wetheringsett cum Brockford lies just off the A140 approximately 24 miles north east of Bury St Edmunds, 9 miles north east of Stowmarket, 16 miles north west of Ipswich and 10 miles south east of Diss.

Public Transport

Limited public transport is available to Wetheringsett. Visit www.suffolkonboard.com (0345 606 6171) or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

Use O.S. Explorer Map 211 Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

Discover Suffolk

Discover more walking leaflets and great days out across Suffolk by visiting www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Produced by Suffolk County Council and Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council.

With special thanks to Roger Perry.

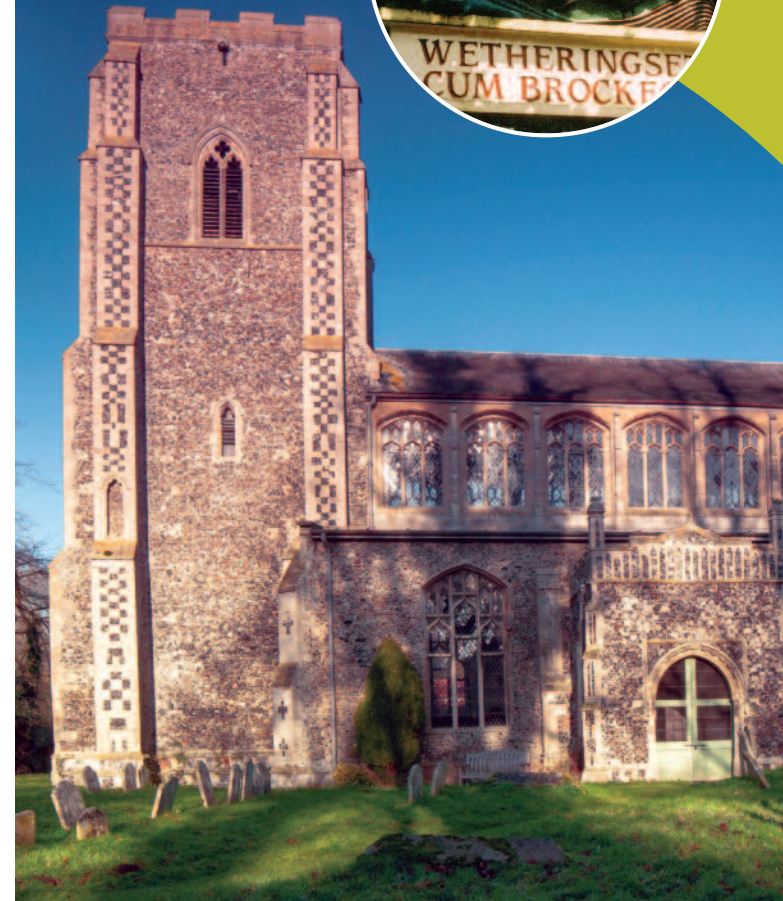
Acknowledgements: David Hosking and Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum.



Circular Walks

Wetheringsett cum Brockford

A Picturesque
Corner of
Rural Suffolk



A Walk in High Suffolk



DISTANCE:	4 miles (6 km)
DURATION:	2 hours
WAYMARKER:	Green Circular Walk

All Saint's Church has an idyllic setting in a shallow wooded valley watered by a headstream of the river Dove, with the charm of old cottages appearing through the trees. This Grade I listed building with lofty nave arcades and chancel arch dating from the 13th century has a tower with a curious feature of an arch entirely open to the weather.

Among the past rectors are recorded two of the most famous and influential English parish priests; Richard de Wetheringsett, first known chancellor of Cambridge University and Richard Hakluyt,

geographer and adviser to the Queen, who became a leading advocate promoting English trade and colonisation in the Elizabethan era.

The former rectory next to the church is now Rectory Cottage, the surviving wing of the medieval building and The Old Rectory which was rebuilt in the Victorian period following the destruction of part of the original rectory in the 1850s.



With the church tower to your right, head out of the church yard via a footbridge to the road and turn right ① and continue along the road, past the driveway to Wetheringsett Manor until you reach the road bend at the foot of Dale Hill ②; carry on straight ahead and with Dale Farm on your right, bear right into Green Lane ③.

This is a classic 'green lane', with ditches on either side with the iconic remnants of coppiced hazel and

hornbeam stools. Ancient pollards, once used for 'wood pasture', also point to earlier days of livestock husbandry. Beyond Green Lane Cottage, the lane continues as a grassy bridleway to enter a belt of trees.

Continue along Green Lane until you reach the road at Five Cross Ways ④, turn right and after a short distance, turn right and continue along High Lane ⑤. In the distance you will see the television mast next to the A140.

The roadside verges along High Lane are a haven for wild flowers; primrose, early purple orchid, cowslip, betony, crosswort, yellow bedstraw, black knapweed, St John's wort, agrimony and meadowsweet. Buzzards have nested in the vicinity and are regularly seen here.

When you reach the cross roads ⑥, continue straight ahead. The lane curves past Brames Hall and Brames Hall Cottages. Take the footpath to your right ⑦ and follow it over two footbridges and along field edges, keeping the stream on your left, back to Wetheringsett Church ⑧.

Brames Hall is a double-moated farmhouse of the 1590s, its name derived from Braham's, the family who were once owners.



Wetheringsett cum Brockford

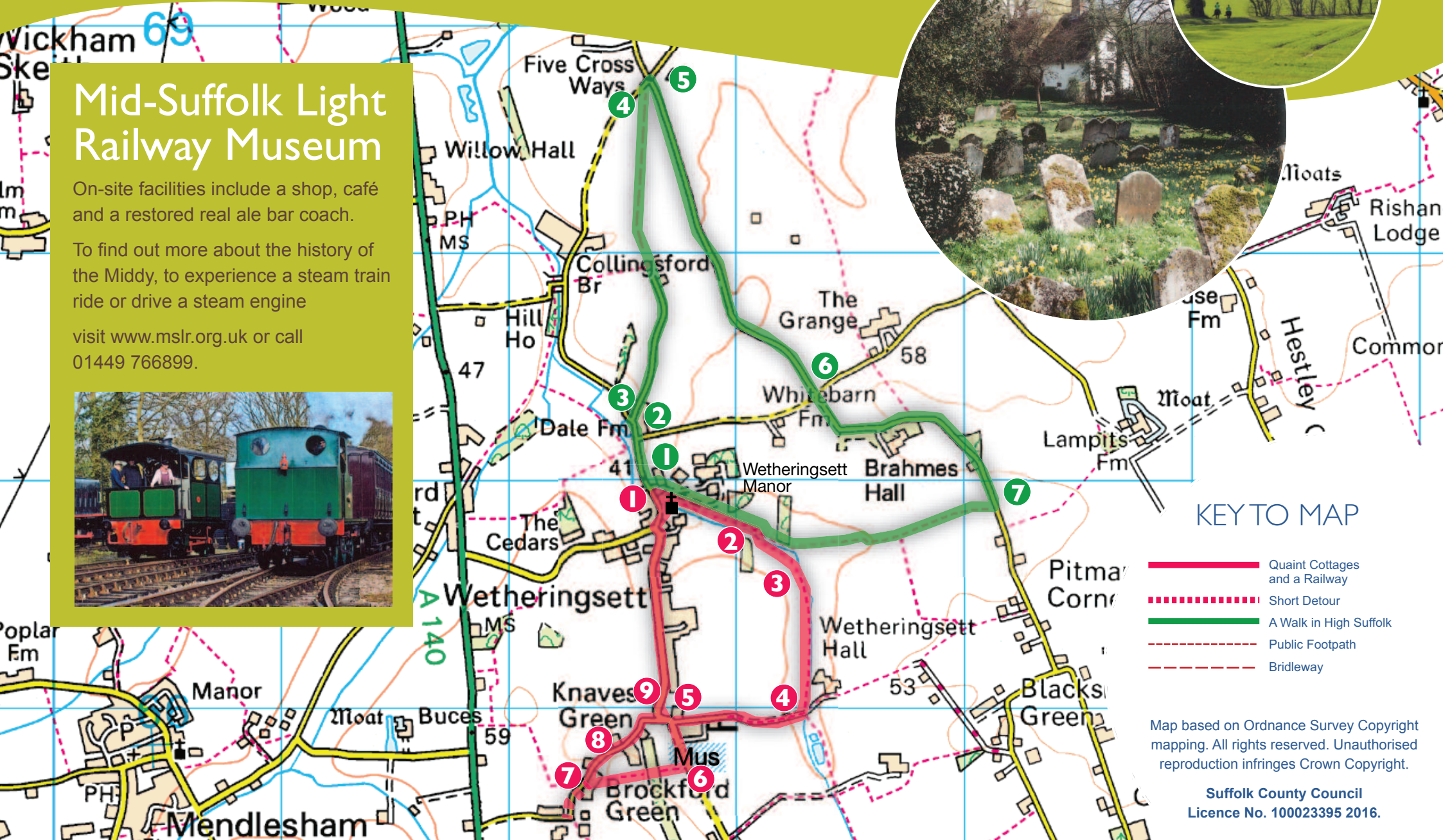
Two circular walks around Wetheringsett cum Brockford

Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum

On-site facilities include a shop, café and a restored real ale bar coach.

To find out more about the history of the Middy, to experience a steam train ride or drive a steam engine

visit www.mslr.org.uk or call 01449 766899.



KEY TO MAP

- Quaint Cottages and a Railway
- Short Detour
- A Walk in High Suffolk
- Public Footpath
- Bridleway

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Quaint Cottages and a Railway



DISTANCE: 2½ miles (4 km)

DURATION: 1½ hours

WAYMARKER: Red Circular Walk Disc

Opposite the church is The Old Forge, a former beer house called “The Old Dun Cow”, the cellar of which still survives. Waveney Cottage with a canted shop window, was a former Post Office, presided over by an indomitable little lady, Win Smith, who died in 2010 at the age of 99.

At the southwest corner of the churchyard is Mill Cottage; a picturesque 16th century thatched dwelling, built up over the stream and was evidently once a watermill.



With the church on your right, continue on past the churchyard to a small green and take the Public Footpath ❶ on your right.

The village sign depicts the Revd Richard Hakluyt on the left and George Ellis. Mr Ellis, a former tailor from Brighton, served as a well-liked rector from 1883 to 1888; however, he was found to be a bogus priest and was jailed. A special Act of Parliament was required to validate the marriages he had conducted in the church.

Continue along the footpath, which is an ancient trackway formerly known as the King’s Highway between Brockford and Debenham.



Wetheringsett Manor was designed by the church architect Samuel Teulon for Revd Robert Moore. Mr Moore was evidently a man of private means for the manor reputedly cost £4,000 in 1843 and he employed six servants and a governess. Today the manor is an international missionary centre.

You will pass a depression of a header pool and remains of a sluice built to sustain the working of the watermill; the pool is now full of vegetation. Around this area, you may catch a rare sighting of the speckled wood butterfly.

Continue over a footbridge and after a short distance turn right to cross the stream ❷. Continue with the watercourse on your left, widening to a trackway. Follow the path to the right ❸ along a field edge lined with willows, a source of wood for cricket bats, until you reach Hall Lane next to Wetheringsett Hall ❹. Turn right and continue to Old Station Yard ❺.

The Old Station Yard is home to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum, comprising of a working rail track, restored maintenance sheds, shunting yard and buildings of Brockford Station.

Leaving the yard, turn left along Station Road and take the Public Footpath on your right ❻ after the paddock. Follow the path and cross a footbridge, continuing to a side road ❼.

Short Detour

To the left, despite the proximity of the A140, is a picturesque corner of rural Suffolk, enhanced in summer with the charm of old cottages seen across flower-strewn meadowland. Shrublands was the home for 300 years of the Revett family, first mention in parish records in 1524.

Turn right and follow the road through Knaves Green, past Modal Cottage, Station Cottages and ❷ Brockford Siding to reach the War Memorial ❸, turn left into Hockey Hill.

Brockford Siding has been restored to reflect its earlier railroad character; it also indicates the route of the Midi railtrack, now vanished, as it headed across to a cutting under the A140 to Mendlesham. The site now provides holiday accommodation.

As you approach the end of your walk you will pass a terrace of dwellings known as Church Cottages. The core of which is a 16th century timber-framed building, which was once the Parish Poor House, and later became almshouses.



A pathway alongside Mill Cottage will take you over a bridge and back into the churchyard.