

Welcome

A stroll down The Street, which is the heart of Botesdale, Rickinghall Inferior and Rickinghall Superior is also a stroll through the history of three old Suffolk villages.

In 1227 King Henry III granted a charter to hold a market in Botesdale every Thursday and for a fair to be held once a year on St Botolph's day.

The villages grew up alongside the old coach road from Scole to Bury St Edmunds; it is still possible to see how the villages evolved in the styles of architecture along The Street. The whole area is now a Conservation Area with many listed buildings.

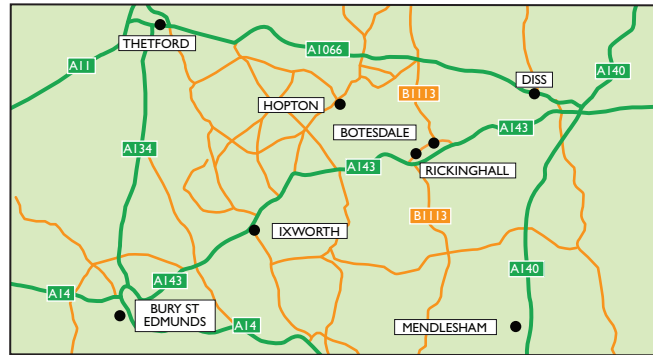
Today you can find shops, a supermarket and places to eat.

The Rickinghall Farmers Market is held in the village hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month attended by many local producers with a whole range of quality products.

The walks described in this leaflet are in the peaceful surroundings of these three villages. They follow mainly public rights of way with some road walking; take care when crossing the A143. The routes are easy going but can be muddy in places after rain, suitable footwear is advised. Parking is available along The Street.



Location



Botesdale and the Rickinghalls lie alongside the A143, 16 miles north-east of Bury St Edmunds, 13 miles north of Stowmarket and 6 miles south-west of Diss.

Public Transport

Simonds of Botesdale Ltd operate a 'Country Link' bus service that serves Botesdale and Rickinghall.

Visit www.suffolkonboard.com (0345 606 6171) or www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk (08712 002 233) to plan your journey.

OS Explorer Map

Use O.S. Explorer Map 230 Diss & Harleston to enjoy this walk and the wider area.

Discover Suffolk

Discover more walking and cycling leaflets by visiting www.discoveruffolk.org.uk.

Follow us on  and .

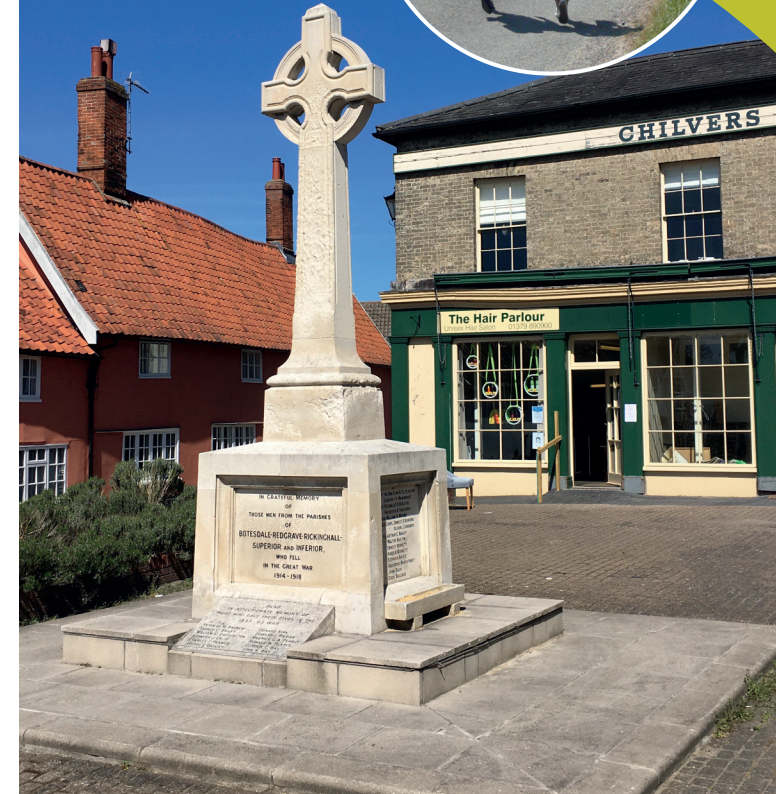
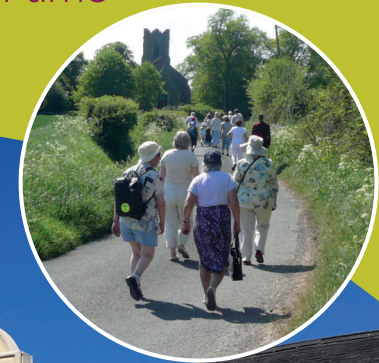
Produced by Suffolk County Council and Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils.



Circular Walks

Botesdale and the Rickinghalls

A stroll through time



Millennium Walk

Walking the Bounds

DISTANCE: 9½ miles (15 km)

DURATION: 3 hours

WAYMARKER: Red Circular Walk



From Botesdale Market Place, with The Greyhound on your left, head along The Street. Turn left into Bridewell Lane 1.

In the medieval period Bridewell Lane was called Watersledeway, possibly meaning water hollow way as 'slede' means hollow.

Continue along the byway, turning right at the T junction 2, passing under the A143 and on to Common Road 3

In the medieval period Botesdale Common would have extended on either side of where

Common Road now runs. The Common was called Micklewood Green from the medieval period until the 18th century. Commons or greens were usually communal unenclosed land used for grazing animals.

Follow the footpath opposite, keeping left as you walk past Old Mill House, continue to the end of the field and turn right 4, after a short distance turn left over a bridge, through a small field, a gap in the hedge and over a bridge. Cross the field to Grove Farm 5, turn left along Slough Road.

Turn right at the moat 6 and follow the footpath along Nan Hazle's Lane, an ancient tree lined path, to a track 7, turn right.

Straight after the bungalow, turn right 8 along a footpath. At the hedge, the path heads diagonally left across a field to a gap in the tree line 9. Continue over the next field, heading for the white building, Suggenhall Farm, in Church Lane. 10

Reference to 'Sughenhale' has been found in a document recording fines paid to the lord of the Manor in the 13th and 14th centuries.

In the year 1289 it is recorded that 'Matylda Sughenhale gave the lord 12d for her licence to marry Walter Spareche'.

Follow the lane left. At the church, dog leg left into Kiln Farm Lane 11.

Rickinghall Superior church dates from the 14th century. Basil Brown a local resident, who discovered the Sutton Hoo Viking burial, excavated the lady chapel in 1952.

Continue along the lane, past Kiln Farm on the left, along a footpath to a small wood 12. Turn right along a field edge path, crossing a stream, down to the road 13. Turn right and right again after the next house 14.

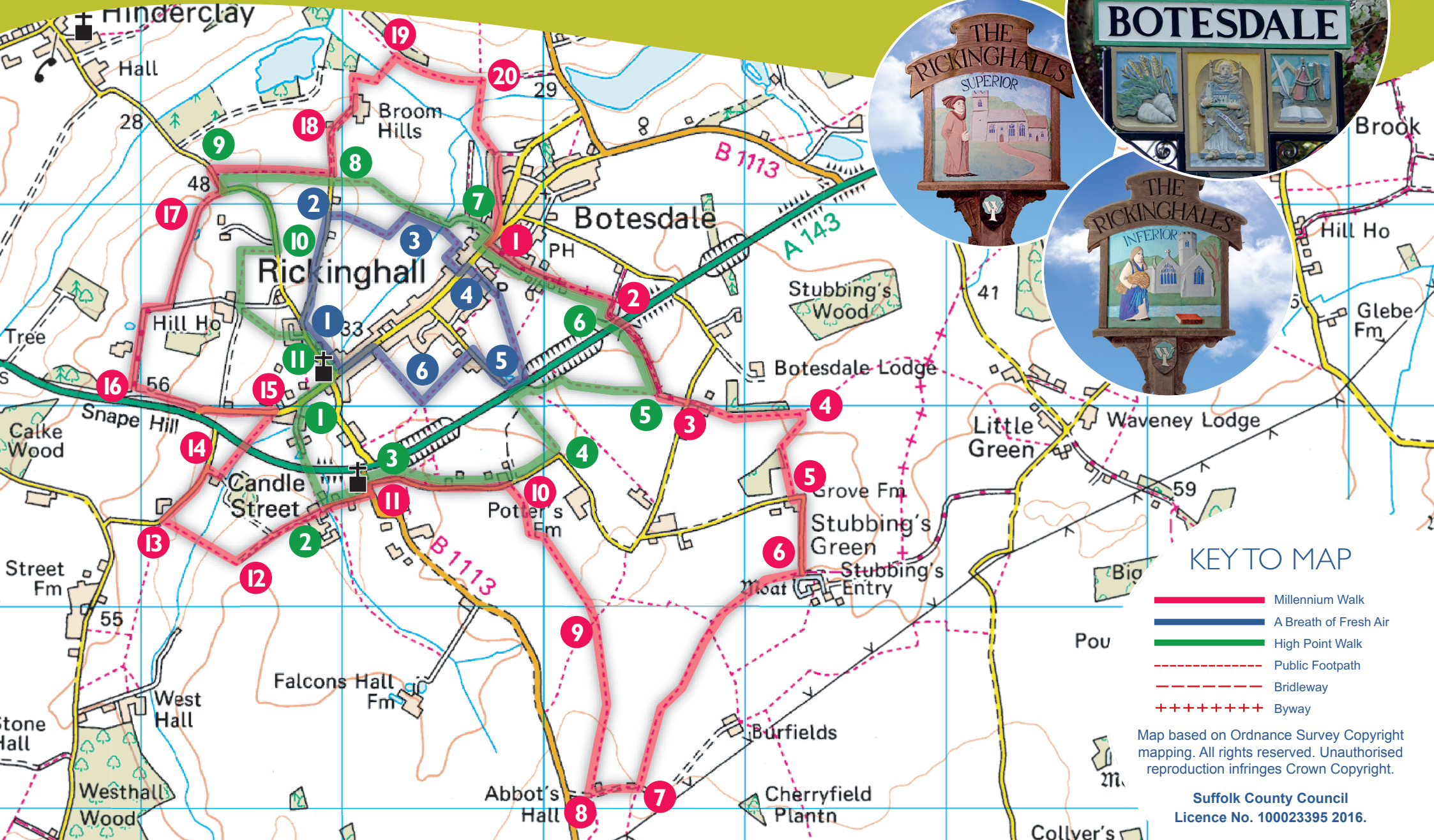
Turn left before the black barn; follow the footpath which leads over the A143 to the Bury Road, turn left 15.

Continue ahead for Snape Farm, until you reach the gate 16 turn right follow the track down to the Hinderclay Road 17; turn left and take the footpath to the right.

Head over the fields to Mill Lane, turn left to proceed past Broom Hills 18; cross three bridges then continue through the meadow. Turn right 19 along the grass track to the footpath junction 20. The path right leads to Cherry Tree Lane and back to the Market Place.



Botesdale and the Rickinghalls Circular Walks



KEY TO MAP

- Millennium Walk
- A Breath of Fresh Air
- High Point Walk
- - - - - Public Footpath
- - - - - Bridleway
- - - - - Byway

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High Point Walk

DISTANCE: 5½ miles (8½ km)

DURATION: 2 hours

WAYMARKER: Green Circular Walk



St Mary's, Rickinghall Inferior, is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. The round tower was built in the late 11th century and was heightened by an octagonal belfry in the 14th century. The belfry contains three bells, the earliest dating from about 1350.

With the church on your right, walk along Bury Road turning left into Water Lane ①. The route crosses the A143 down to Candle Street ②. Turn left towards Rickinghall Superior church.

The 1819 Enclosure Map shows a 'camping close' in the field behind the church running parallel with the A143. Camping or camp ball was a game similar to football, dating from the medieval period.

The south west window in the church chancel commemorates Samuel Speare, a village boy who at the age of 15, went to East Africa as a missionary. He died at the age of 20 in Lincolnshire in 1873, where he was being prepared to be ordained.

Make a dog leg left past the church into Church Lane ③, continuing until you pass Suggenhall Farm and reach a sharp right-hand bend. Take the footpath left ④, follow it along field edges until you reach a grassy track ⑤, turn left.

The lane passes the old marl pits; marl was used extensively from the medieval period until fairly recently, to fertilize the fields.

Keeping to the track pass under the A143 and follow the track left ⑥ to the Market Place.

In 1920 the War Memorial was built of Portland stone to commemorate the 61 men from Redgrave, Botesdale and the Rickinghalls who had fallen in the Great War. It was unveiled in 1921 and over 2000 people attended the ceremony.

Follow Fen Lane opposite ⑦, crossing a stream and via a gate to follow the wide grass footpath to Mill Lane ⑧. Dog leg right to follow the wide grassy footpath left along a hedgerow to Hinderclay Road ⑨.



From this footpath enjoy the views of Hinderclay to your right.

Follow the road uphill to The Old Rectory; take the footpath right after the driveway ⑩. The path follows the field boundary leading you to Snape Hill House. Pass through the gate ahead and walk diagonally down the large field in front of the house, to a gate in Church Meadows. This leads to Hinderclay Road ⑪ where you turn right, back to the church.

A Breath of Fresh Air

DISTANCE: 2¾ miles (4½ km)

DURATION: 1 hour

WAYMARKER: Blue Circular Walk



From the church, walk up Hinderclay Road and turn right ① along Mill Lane. After Rickinghall Stables, take the tree-lined footpath on your right ②.

A medieval mill called Brommelle (Broom Mill) was situated on 'Mill Mount' near here.

Follow the field edge path and curve left to reach a T-junction ③, turn right along the grass track.

After the bridge turn right; follow the winding path up to The Street, turn left and continue to Hamblyn House. Cross The Street and take the footpath opposite ④.

This lane, which crosses a large field, used to be called Procession Way. In the medieval period, the left field was known as Botesdale Field and the right one, Patlotfield; later becoming Howchins Field. The lane and footpath mark the villages' boundary.

Follow the footpath up the lane and right of Bunny Hollow, continue across the field to the A143. Turn right for a short distance, then right again by a gate ⑤.

Head towards the village, turn left onto the footpath between properties.

The footpath rises to a high point where paths cross, ⑥ turn right down between fields to The Street. Left will take you back to the church.