

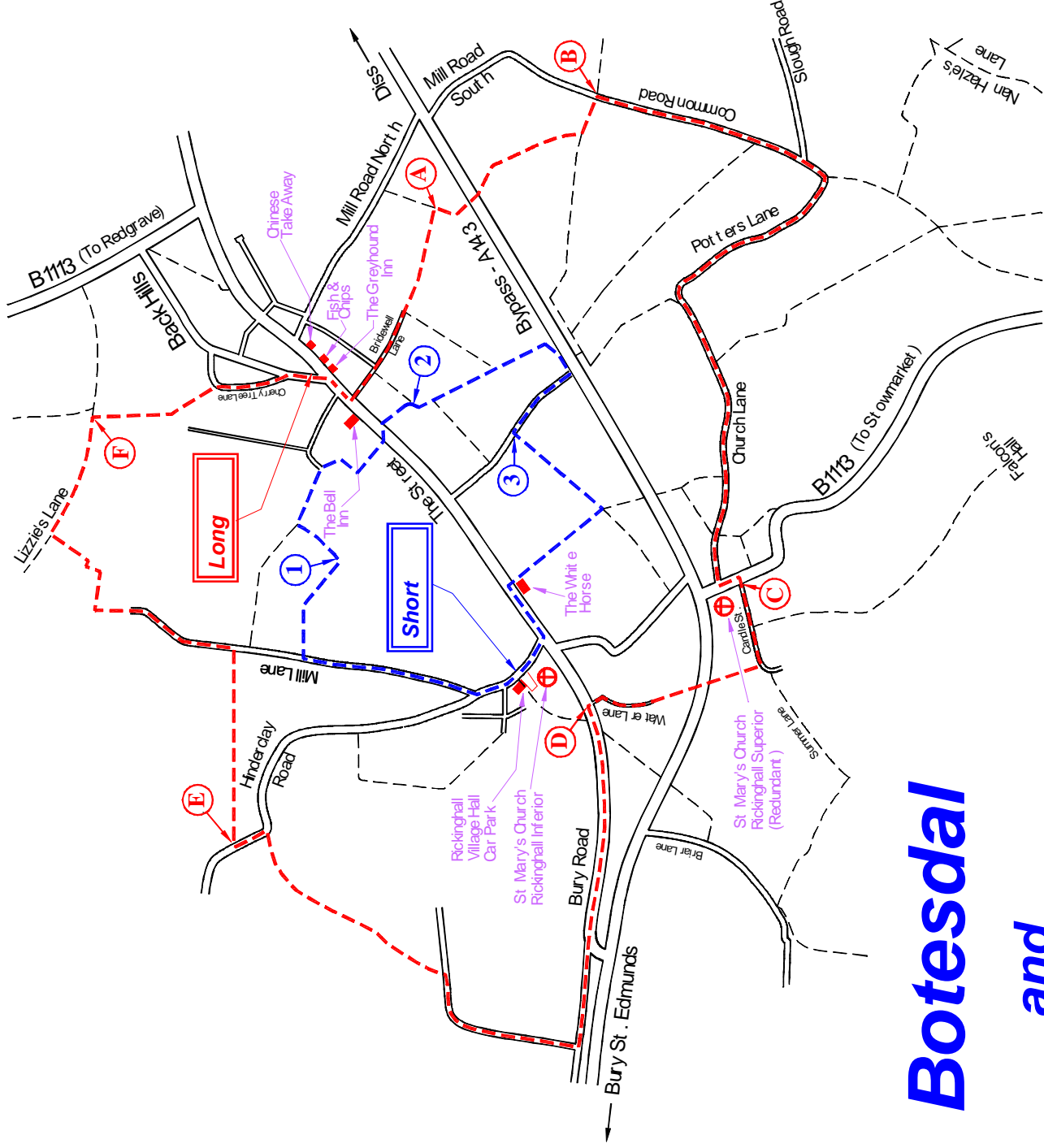
## BOTESDALE AND THE RICKINGHALLS

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. They grew up alongside the old coach road from Scole to Bury and it is still possible to see how the villages evolved in the styles of architecture on The Street. The whole is now a Conservation Area with many listed buildings. A visit to the churches is most worthwhile and why not partake of some refreshment at one of the three pubs, the survivors of the many from the nineteenth century?

The two walks described in this leaflet are in the peaceful surroundings of these three villages. The paths are all way marked and normally all passable – the finger posts are maintained by Suffolk County Council Parish Partnership. If you are feeling especially energetic, the third walk of ten miles on St. Botolphs Way may be your choice. Leaflets are available at Botesdale Post Office on The Street and the public houses.

### SHORT WALK, about 2.5 miles, going - easy.

From Rickinghall Village Hall car park turn left and walk up Hinderclay Road, turning right into Mill Lane. Proceed for about 700 yards and then turn right into a lane marked with a FP signpost. Follow the path along the edge of the field and bear left after the large oak tree (1). Carry on until you can turn right along a grassy track. At the far end of this track cross the brick bridge and turn right; follow the path leading left between a wire fence and a ditch edge. Follow this round to the right passing a seat and over a wooden footbridge; continue up a surfaced path to The Street. Turn left and immediately cross The Street to enter a tarmac lane. At the top of the incline fork right (2) between a boundary fence and a hedge until it reaches a field. Carry on straight over the field along a well-defined path and pass through the hedge to arrive at the side of the A143. Follow the path for 150 yards beside the road; take the turning by a pair of metal gates back towards the village. Follow this track into Garden House Lane; after the third dwelling watch for the



# Botesdal and Rickinghall

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footpath signpost and turn left between the two gardens (3) to emerge into a field. Keep to the left and at the top corner go between two electricity poles into a second field. Follow the field edge path to a footpath crossing marked by a four-arm finger post. Turn right down a well defined path to The Street by the White Horse Public House. Turn left at the White Horse and continue along the footway turning into Hinderclay Road and back to the starting point.

### **LONG WALK , about 6 miles, going - easy.**

Start from Botesdale Market Place and cross to the south side of the Street to enter Bridewell Lane. Follow the Lane first along the surfaced road and then along a short section of gravel track, which bears left into a green lane. At the T junction of footpaths take a right turn (A), followed by a left turn leading through the A143 underpass. Keep to the wide path with its wooded strip on the left. At the T junction turn left to reach Common Road (B).

Turn right into Common Road and at the road junction with Slough Road take the right turn into Potters Lane. Continue along Potters Lane passing on the left, a small wooded area with a roadside plaque giving the history of this site. Follow the road for about a mile to reach a T junction opposite the redundant Rickinghall Superior Church (St. Mary's). Turn left, then immediately right into Candle Street (C) and at Cherry Tree House turn right on to a signed footpath. Follow the grassy path to reach the A143 Bypass. Take extreme care in crossing the A143 and continue along the path, entering Water Lane and then on to the junction with Bury Road.

Turn left into the Bury Road (D), keeping to the right hand side as there is no continuous footway. Where the road bends to join the bypass, take the smaller road to the right past a 'Dead End' sign and continue up the hill to take a right turn along a road signed "Snape Farm". Shortly after the road takes a right hand bend, look for a Green Lane on the left. Follow this lane until it meets the Hinderclay Road, then turn left. After about 100 yards on the right take a well defined cross field path (E). At first this is an open path, but later it has a hedge to the right.

At the junction with Mill Lane turn left, passing a bungalow and bearing left on to a green path with farm/

industrial buildings on the right. Go through two farm gates and continue until a kissing gate is reached. Go over the wooden footbridge before taking a field path and crossing another footbridge. Turn left and follow the footpath over a concrete footbridge, then across a field to join a wide track (Lizzie's Lane). Turn right to follow Lizzie's Lane for about 450 yards.

Turn right along the intersecting path (F) to cross the field and a concrete bridge. Continue straight on to join Cherry Tree Lane. Bear to the right and follow Cherry Tree Lane to a T junction, where a right turn into Back Hills leads to the starting point of the walk.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Simonds of Botesdale Ltd operate a 'Country Link' bus service that serves Botesdale and Rickinghall. The operating days are Monday-Saturday and the main bus stops are at Botesdale and at St Mary's Church, Rickinghall.

For much of the day, the 304 & 305 routes connect Botesdale & Rickinghall to Bury St Edmunds and to Diss.

### **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE**

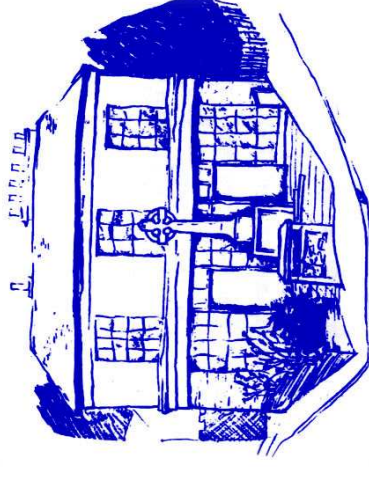
- ◆ Enjoy the Countryside and respect its life and work
- ◆ Guard against all risk of fire
- ◆ Fasten all gates
- ◆ Keep your dogs under control
- ◆ Keep to public paths across farmland
- ◆ Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- ◆ Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- ◆ Take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

### **FUNDED BY**

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# **Botesdale and the Rickinghalls**

## **A guide to the public paths**



*This leaflet has been jointly produced by the Parish  
Councils of Botesdale and Rickinghall*

[www.botesdale.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.botesdale.suffolk.gov.uk) [www.rickinghall.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.rickinghall.suffolk.gov.uk)