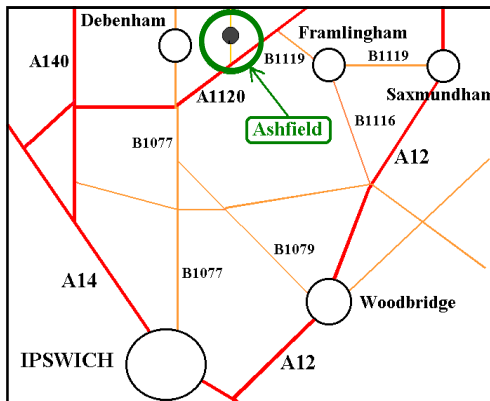


## Introduction

These options for circular walks take you through a mix of terrain in the lovely rolling countryside around the headwaters of the River Deben. The routes are a mix of footpaths through farmland and bridleways along green lanes. Clearly marked with circular walk discs (green spot distinguishes from Debenham walk) they are easily negotiated but waterproof footwear is advisable. Much of the route is along bridleways and after wet periods the ground can be made rough by the horses.

## Maps

Ordnance Survey Maps Landranger 156 (Saxmundham), Pathfinder 985 (Debenham) & 986 (Framlingham) or the Explorer Maps 211 & 212 show other rights of way in the area.



How to reach Ashfield-cum-Thorpe:

The village lies just to the north of the A1120 road about 5 miles to the west of Framlingham and about 2 miles to the east of Debenham.

**By car:** There is parking space for a few cars in front of the Village Hall when it is not in use for functions. The Hall is almost opposite the church in the village centre.

**By bus:** Ashfield can be reached by the Galloway European 119 bus from Ipswich. An alternative is to use the Galloway 116 or Simonds 114 services from Ipswich to Debenham and then to join the Ashfield Walk from the Debenham Walk at Grove Farm.

## Country Code

- Fasten all gates.
- Keep your dog under close control.
- Enjoy the Countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.



## Countryside Walks

**Circular walks of  
3 to 6 miles around the  
village of**

## Ashfield-cum-Thorpe



Ashfield Post Office  
1937-1999



Thorpe Hall and  
ruin of St. Peter's Chapel

St. Mary's Church, Ashfield



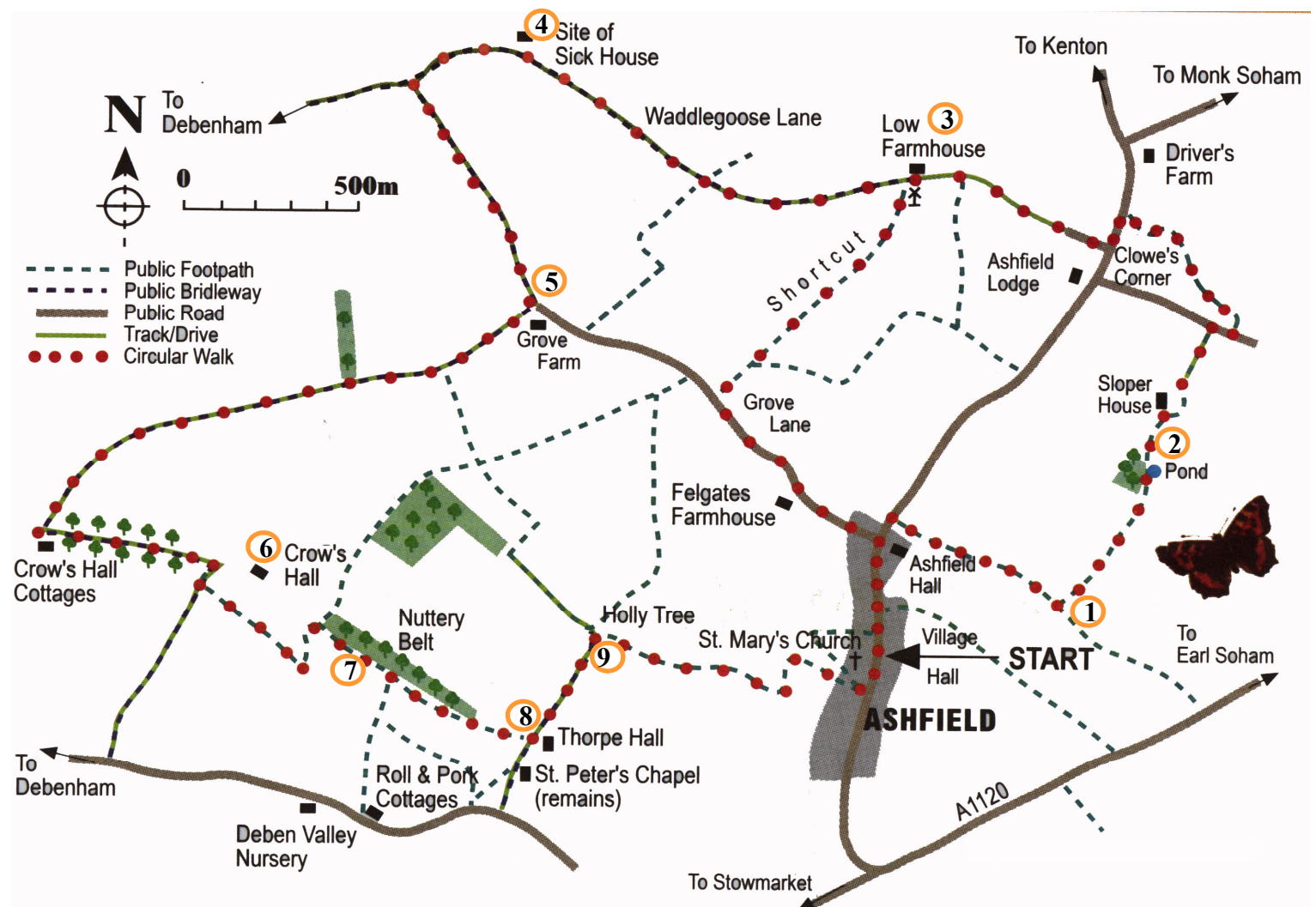
Produced with support from  
 Suffolk County Council

April 2010

# SUFFOLK

**Produced by  
Ashfield Footpaths Group**

Turn R from the **Start** at the **Village Hall** and walk up the village. Pass Grove Lane on your L and 50m further on leave the road by the footpath to the R. As you walk along the field edge, through the hedgerow and across the open field beyond savour the lovely view across the valley on your L. At the L turn in the middle of the field (1) identify Framdsen Hall, the large house in the R distance. Pause at the stile (2) and pick out Monk Soham Church beyond and L of the house in front of you while Windwhistle Farm can be seen across the valley to the R. The modern **Sloper House** before you was built in 1995 beside the site of the Ashfield Windmill which ceased grinding in 1928 and was dismantled in 1947. Although it served the village of Ashfield the mill was actually in Earl Soham as it was to the R of the path which is the Parish Boundary. The millhouse was on the Ashfield side of the path. Together with oak from an Earl Soham windmill, timber from the Ashfield Mill is preserved in the form of the memorial chancel screen in Tuddenham St. Martin Church near Ipswich. It is interesting to note also that the mainpost for the last Postmill restoration in England (Wetheringsett Mill, near Debenham, in 1883) was cut from an Ashfield oak tree. The occupants of the lovely **Low Farmhouse** (3) have their own fresh water supply at the wind-pump on your L.



You now have the option of taking the **short cut** past the wind-pump up to Grove Lane and L back to the **Start** but if you wish to see more keep straight on. Follow **Waddlegoose Lane** up the rise and you should soon be able to see Kenton Church across the fields ahead and to your R. (4) is the site of the **Sick House** which is an area by two oak trees on the R of the lane in a shallow valley. This was an isolation cottage for the village sick, mostly smallpox - possibly in response to a severe epidemic mentioned in the Parish Register of 1766. At **Grove Farm** (5), you can again shorten your walk by keeping straight on to the farmhouse and along Grove Lane to the **Start**. **Crow's Hall** (6) was the seat of the Framlinghams at Debenham - it acquired its name from the crows in the family coat of arms. You now have views across the Deben valley to Winston on your R. At (7) look for the steep-pitched tiled roof of the house on your far right - a traditional feature in many Suffolk houses which derives from the county's classic long-straw thatched roof where the straw was not close-packed and therefore needed the steep pitch to drain adequately. At **Thorpe Hall** (8) turn R briefly to view over the fence on your L the ruin of **St. Peter's Chapel** in the grounds of the Hall. This was rebuilt as a chapel in 1739 after having been in ruins for many years. It was used as the Parish Church (Ashfield-cum-Thorpe is one of England's oldest dual-village parishes) from the early 18thC when St. Mary's at Ashfield collapsed; the existing St. Mary's was a rebuild in 1853. Cross the bridge (9) to the lone holly tree and follow the path uphill. Return to the **Village Hall** taking care on the dangerous bend by the Church. A visit to **St Mary's** will enable you to reflect on your walk while sitting in the peace of the Church (please clean or remove your boots).