



Eye

The soaring tower of St Peter and St Paul with its sublime flint flushwork is one of the wonders of Suffolk. Largely built during the 15th century this beautiful and lofty building has a glorious medieval chancel screen painted with the figures of saints. The 20th century rood loft and rood above are by Sir Ninian Comper and surmounted by a richly decorated canopy of honour.



Wingfield

Deep in the north Suffolk countryside, St Andrew's is known for its breathtaking interior and splendid monuments. In this collegiate church of nearby Wingfield College, stands the tomb of the founder Sir John de Wingfield, who died in 1361, as well as that of John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk and his wife Elizabeth Plantagenet, sister of Richard III, the 'king in the car park' and Edward IV.



Hoxne

The church of St Peter and St Paul, with its massive embattled tower, stands aloft from the village with its thatched and timbered cottages. A church stood here in ancient times when the Bishops of East Anglia held court in Hoxne and today's building dates from around 1350. Inside there is much to discover, including 15th century wall paintings, fine monuments and a 14th century parish chest.



Thornham Parva

The walk across the fields to the ancient thatched church of St Mary is worth every step as you enter this tiny building to see one of the greatest medieval treasures in Europe. Remarkably, this 14th century altarpiece, originally painted for Thetford Priory, was rescued from a nearby stable loft in 1927. A series of exquisite wall paintings telling the story of St Edmund makes the journey even more worthwhile.



Other trails in the series:

Framlingham Woolpit Southwold
Clare Mildenhall

A Step Further

St Peter and St Paul's Eye to St Mary's Thornham Parva and back - 7 miles/11 km



Leave the church by the heavily-timbered 15th century Guildhall in Church Street. Note the town's old coat of arms on the primary school next door. Turn left into Broad Street, then right into Magdalene Street, named after a medieval leper hospital. Continue to the cemetery and take the footpath, right, into the field immediately after it. After two sides of the field, you will arrive at a hedge with a stile and footpath sign to the right. Go over the wooden bridge and turn right, then left into a field in front of another stile. Keeping the ditch to your right, follow the track, turning left by the side of the field towards Hall Farm. Pause to listen for skylarks in summer. Go through the farmyard and down the farm track to the A140. Cross with care and take the path just to the left of the 50 mph sign leading into Hall Lane which takes you through to the Old Ipswich Road. Follow the footpath across country until you come to the Mellis Road. Turn left, signposted to Eye and Thornham Magna. Continue down the road until you see the left turning to the church in its beautiful country setting in the fields. For the return route, turn right out of the church gate into Bull Road towards the A140. Cross with care to the B1117 and take the



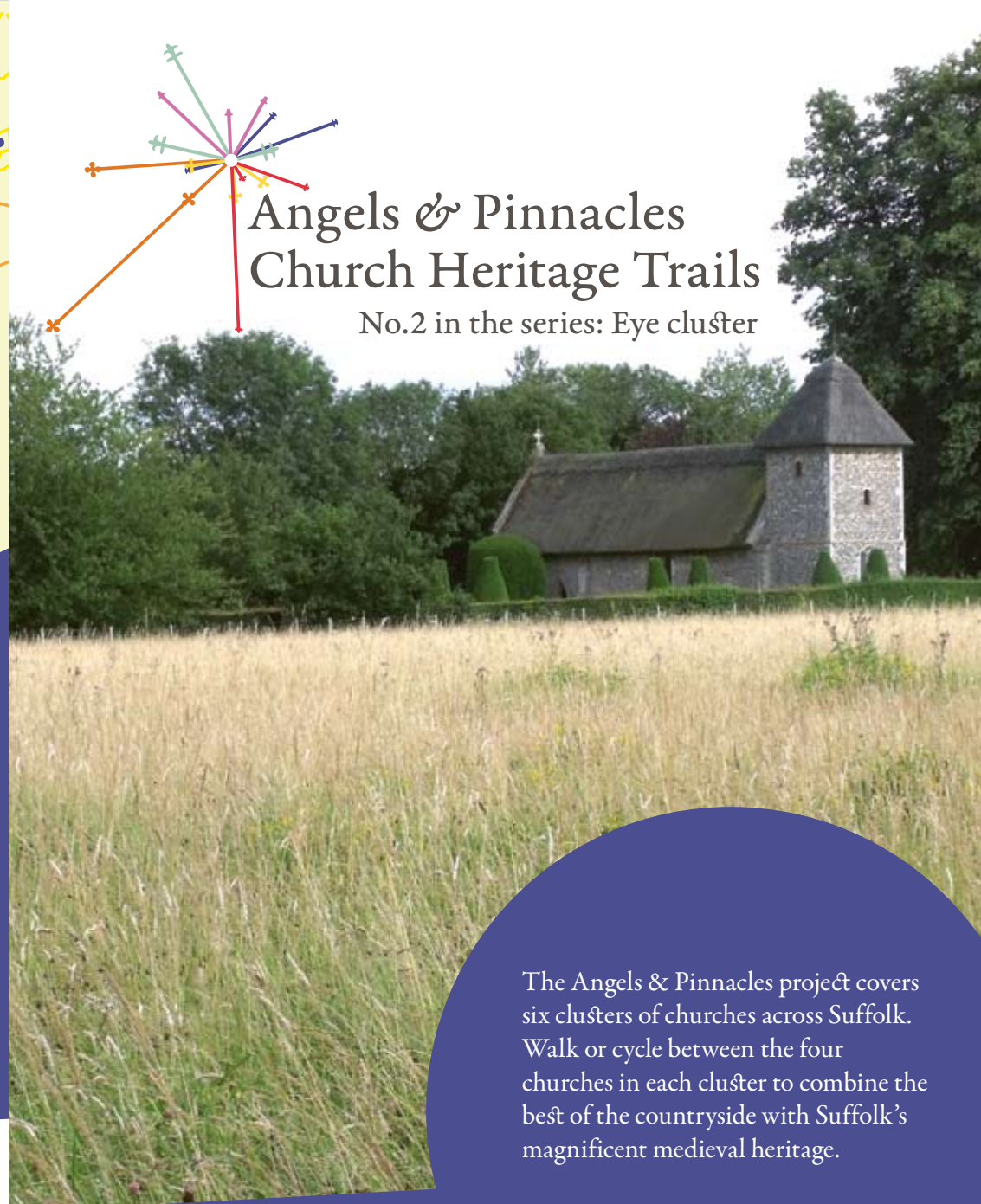
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bridleway on your right. Continue on this track, past Steggall's Wood until you come to the Braiseworth Road. Turn left then first right to continue along the track. Continue until you see a five-bar iron gate on your left. Take the little footpath through the thicket and cross over the stile into the meadow. Cross the meadow diagonally to reach the next gate and continue to join the Mid Suffolk Footpath to Moor Hall Farm. Turn right into the lane and pick up the footpath across the Town Moor and the playing field which takes you back to Magdalene Street. Turn right into Broad Street, leading into Castle Street. The town of Eye grew up round the castle after the Norman Conquest of 1066. Make time to visit before heading back to the church just round the corner.



Angels & Pinnacles Church Heritage Trails

No.2 in the series: Eye cluster



The Angels & Pinnacles project covers six clusters of churches across Suffolk. Walk or cycle between the four churches in each cluster to combine the best of the countryside with Suffolk's magnificent medieval heritage.

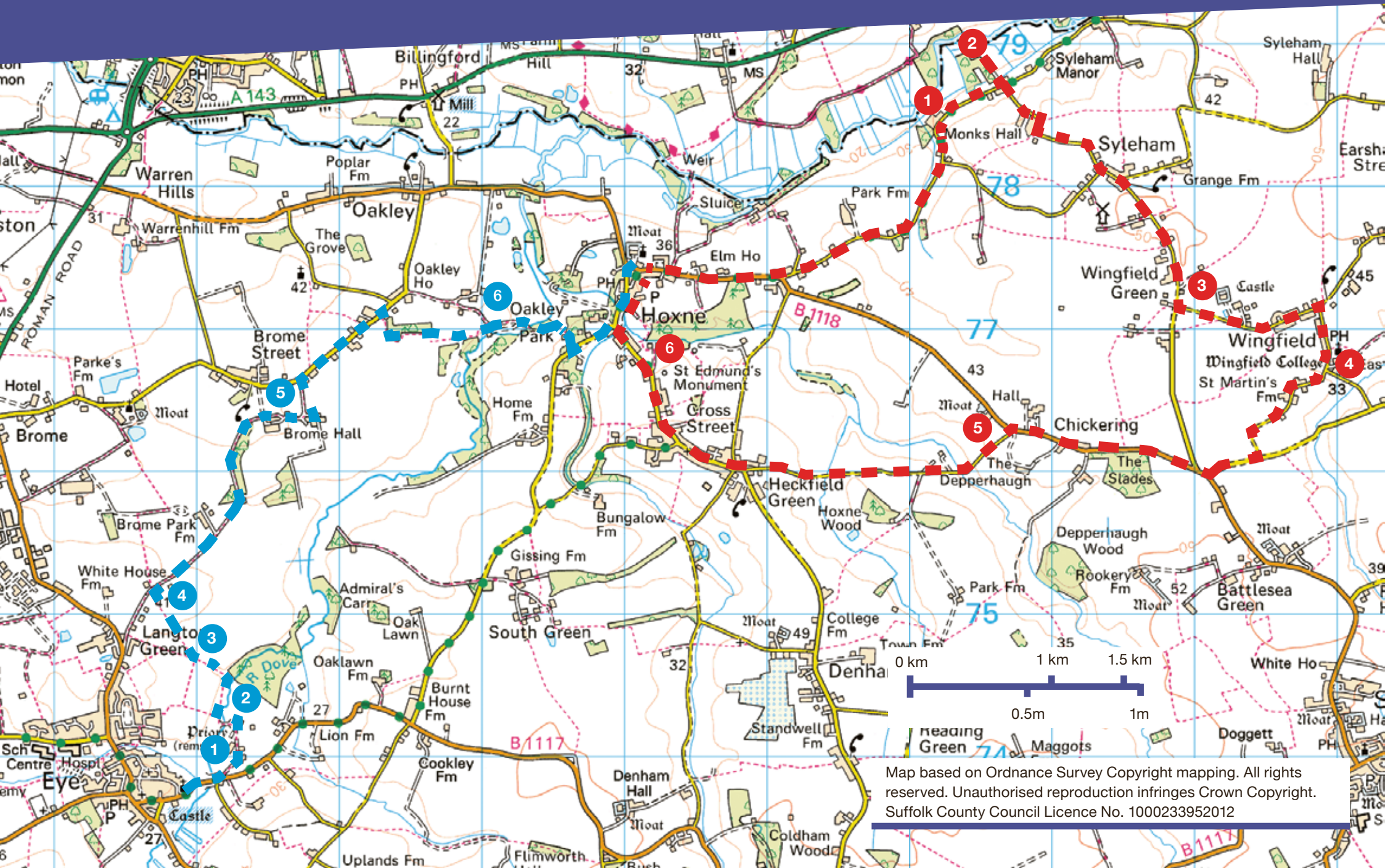
www.angelsandpinnacles.org.uk



St Peter and St Paul Eye – St Mary's Thornham Parva
St Peter and St Paul Hoxne – St Andrew's Wingfield



Angels & Pinnacles – Church Heritage Trails



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Route 1 — 5 miles / 8 km each way ■■■■

St Peter and St Paul's Eye to St Peter and St Paul's Hoxne



Leave the church and take the Hoxne Road out of Eye. Just after the bridge, turn left at the sign of the Abbey ① to pick up the Mid Suffolk Footpath.

The 'Abbey' is the site of the ancient Priory of St Peter, founded in the 11th century and the building to your right would have been the Prior's Lodgings.

Continue over the River Dove bridge and pause ② to admire the soaring tower of Eye church across the meadow.

Through the next metal gate, turn sharp right to follow the grassy track then sharp left at the concrete standing to follow the track up a slight incline. Watch for the gap in the hedge ③ on your right and follow the pylons until you emerge at Mustard Pot Farm ④. Turn right to rejoin the Mid Suffolk Footpath along a narrow lane.

Follow the lane for about a mile until you come to Brome Lodge. Enter the gap at the side of the gate, following the drive round to the front of Brome Hall ⑤. Rebuilt in the 1960s, the hall was formerly a fine Elizabethan mansion, built by Sir Thomas Cornwallis, member of the Privy Council of Queen 'Bloody Mary'. Emerging at Brome Street, turn right. After about 800 metres, take the footpath to your right in front of the thatched cottage. Follow the path round the wood and beyond as indicated with the tower of Hoxne church ahead of you. Turn right ⑥ down the slope towards Oakley Park, the site of the old Hoxne Hall, once the Bishop's Palace where Bishop Lyhart of Norwich died in 1472. His coat of arms can be seen on Hoxne church font.

Cross the bridge and turn left through the poplar trees and up the slope to arrive at Eye Road. You are now close to the spot where a metal detector discovered the fabulous Hoxne Hoard of priceless Roman treasure in 1992.

Turn left and after 400 metres, turn left into the Low Street with the 16th century Swan pub on your left. Just after the post office, turn right into Church Hill to emerge opposite the church.

Return by the same route.

Route 2 — 9 miles / 14.5 km ■■■■

St Peter and St Paul's Hoxne to St Andrew's Wingfield



From Hoxne church, turn left along Green Street B1118. Continue for about half a mile, then fork left for Syleham and Harleston through wild hedgerows and passing Park Farm on your left.

Follow the sign to Weybread and Harleston, past the heavily timbered Monk's Hall ① on your left, dating from around 1600. The hall takes its name from a much earlier event in the 12th century when Herbert de Losinga, first Bishop of Norwich, gave the Manor of Syleham to the monks at Thetford Priory.

At the junction, take a short detour to the left to visit secluded Syleham church ② where Roger Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk is said to have sworn submission to Henry II in 1174, surrendering his castles of Framlingham and Bungay to the Crown.

Leaving the church, take the Wingfield Road (virtually opposite the church lane) past farmland and round some sharp bends, until you come to Upper Syleham.

At Wingfield Green, turn left into Vicarage Road ③ and ride across the green with Wingfield Castle to your left. This was the home of Sir John de Wingfield, chief of staff to the Black Prince, whose heirs were the de la Poles, earls and dukes of Suffolk. Their tombs can be seen in St Andrew's church.

To reach the church, turn right down Church Road, signposted Wingfield Barns. Close to the church is the remains of Wingfield College, ④ founded by the will of Sir John de Wingfield in 1362.

To return to Hoxne, continue on past the church and bear right past the De la Pole Arms to ride past St Martin's Farm. Turn right at the junction, then right again at the next junction to follow the B1118, then left down Chickering Road ⑤.

You will enter Hoxne via Abbey Hill and the historic St Edmund's Monument ⑥ marking the spot where St Edmund is said to have been martyred after his spurs were seen glinting in the river at nearby Goldbrook Bridge. Pause to read the story of Edmund at the village hall. Continue into the village past the Swan inn on your left, built in 1480 by the Bishop of Norwich as a lodge. At the top of the hill, turn right into Green Street and the church is on your left.



The route from Eye to Hoxne and back is a day's easy walking.

Toilets are available in Eye church and Cross Street car park near the Town Hall, Eye.

Picnic tables are located at the Pennings, Eye and at Hoxne Village Hall

Beard's of Eye is a café and deli in Church Street a few yards from the church.

Details at www.beardsofeye.co.uk

Public transport - Timetables and journey planners are available at www.suffolkonboard.com



There is a coffee shop at Wingfield Barns. Details at www.wingfieldbarns.com

The De la Pole Arms, opposite Wingfield church, serves meals. 01379 384545 or visit www.delapolearms.net

The Swan Inn, Hoxne is open for lunches and evening meals. Details at www.hoxneswan.co.uk

More walks and great days out at: www.discoversuffolk.org.uk