



Circular Walks

Bredfield

Three beautiful circular walks around Bredfield



Welcome



Bredfield is a small but active village situated off the A12 about 3 miles north of Woodbridge. It is largely a rural settlement based on farming and small bespoke business enterprises. Currently there are three working farms within the parish.

Bredfield, a "broad clearing" in old English, has evidence of Romano-British and Saxon settlement. The village grew up around crossroads where roads from outlying communities to Woodbridge converged and crossed an ancient track from the river Deben at Melton towards the Roman road at Debach post.

The first mention of Bredfield is in the Little Domesday (1086AD), a draft that never made it into the Great Domesday book, and which records the village as 'Breda Felda', meaning 'broad clearing'.

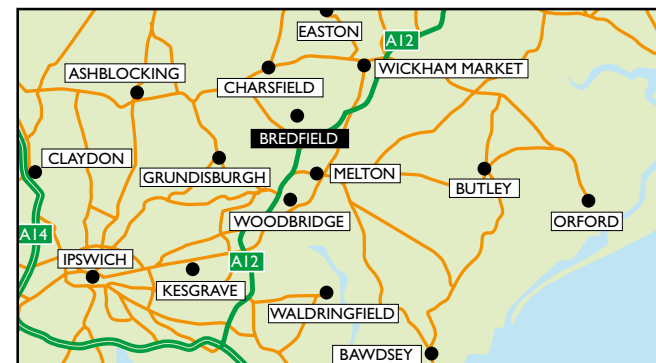
The centre of the village is dominated by St Andrew's Church, dating from the 14th century.

Bredfield once had a forge at the southern end of the village. At the Debach road fork there is a signpost surrounded by ornamental ironwork made by the forge to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Other examples of fine metal working include a fire screen given to the Queen as a gift for her Silver Jubilee, also garden gates for the Sandringham estate.

The Bredfield walks include three circuits of the village of varying lengths which take you past interesting sites including two ancient churches and various places associated with the poet Edward Fitzgerald. All begin at the Village Hall car park **A**.



Location



Directions

Bredfield is located one mile from the A12 and three miles north of Woodbridge. All 3 walks start from the Village Hall Car Park, The Street, Bredfield IP13 6AX.

Public Transport

Limited public transport is available to Bredfield.

Visit www.suffolkonboard.com for timetables and to plan your journey.

Discover Suffolk

Discover many more walks and great days out in the countryside by downloading the Discover Suffolk App (Apple and Android) or visit: www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Follow us on:   



Produced by Bredfield Parish Council and Suffolk County Council.

Printed by Vertas Design and Print IP2 0UH 01473 260600

The Fitzgerald Walk

DISTANCE: 5.25 miles (8.5 kms)

DURATION: 3 hours

TERRAIN: Woodlands, footpaths, field edges, stiles, and pavements. Footpaths can be muddy after the rain.



From **A** turn left passing St Andrew's Church on your right **1**. Continue to the junction **2** and keep right looking out for a signed footpath just beyond the last house on the left. Turn left onto the footpath **3** and continue through a short thicket to a small meadow. Cross over a ditch into an open field. Turn left and follow the field edge for approximately 70 metres, then bear right onto a crossfield path. Continue ahead towards the left edge of hedge. With the hedge on your right continue towards a gap in the hedge.

This area is a remnant of an old field system. Look out for Teasels, Scabious, Knapweed and Wild Carrot growing here.

Pass through gaps in two hedges and continue straight ahead on a crossfield path aiming for the edge of a hedge. Cross over a wooden footbridge and continue ahead with the hedge on your right to reach the end of the field. Cross over a wooden footbridge onto a path between hedges. Turn right and follow this to emerge onto Woodbridge Road. This road can be busy. Turn left **4**.

Continue along the road with care for approximately 100 metres to a footpath and the driveway to Manor Farm. Turn right **5** and follow the driveway, curving right at a junction

with a track. Pass through a stable yard until you reach a grassy path and a footpath fingerpost near a large dead oak. To your left is Bredfield House.

Edward Fitzgerald was born at Bredfield House in 1809 to one of the wealthiest families in England. He was close friends with Alfred Tennyson and William Makepeace Thackeray and is famous for his translation of the poems of Omar Khayyam who lived in 12th century Persia and was known as the "Astronomer-Poet of Persia".

Omar Khayyam's poems became known after his death in 1131 and many centuries later achieved global fame when Edward Fitzgerald translated over 100 stanzas, publishing them as 'Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam'. Here is a one stanza to read whilst standing in the shade of the oak tree:
**"Here with a Loaf of Bread beneath the Bough,
A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse – and Thou"**

The 'White House' as Bredfield House was also known, was demolished in 1950 after sustaining damage during the Second World War. The shaped gable ends of the stables and walled garden remain and can be seen on your left.

Continue ahead downhill across a large field aiming for the right side of a pond **6**. Bear left to cross the field diagonally towards a line of mature trees to reach a gap in the hedge and bridge over a ditch. Go through the gap.

Continue ahead through a spinney to cross a wooden bridge, through two deer gates and a kissing gate, then uphill over the field to reach a wide headland

with a hedge on the right. Pass through the gate into a field, which may contain livestock. Look out for the footpath on your right. Turn right through the gate **7**.

With the hedge on your left follow the footpath which becomes a pleasant, enclosed ride. Turn left on to the metalled driveway to reach Boulge Road. **8** Turn left and then after 40m turn right onto a quiet lane.

Along this lane are good views looking across to Hasketon and Grundisburgh.

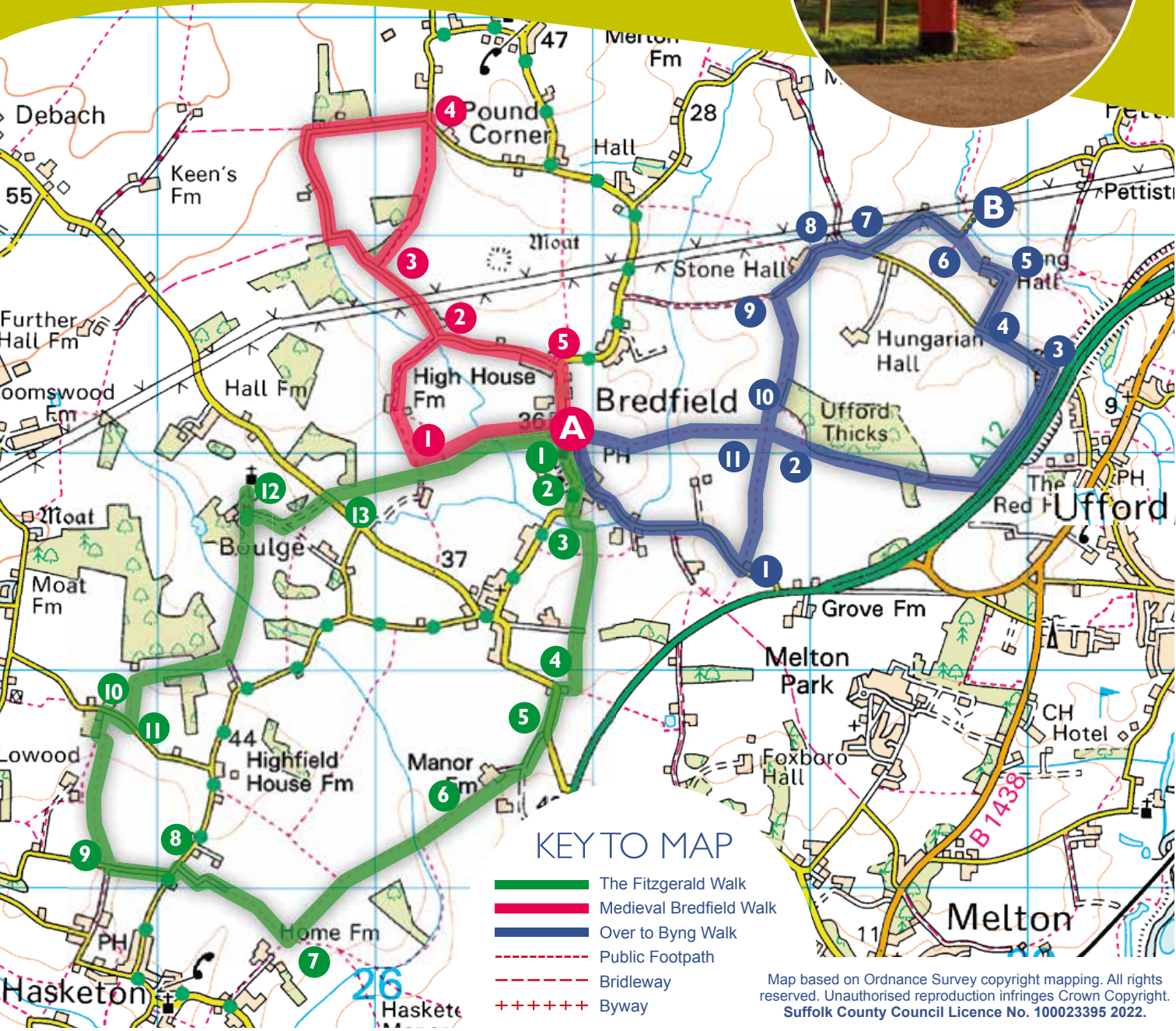
At the bottom of the hill, past a hard standing area on your left, turn right on to the footpath **9**. Follow the footpath up the right-hand side of the field. Cross a wooden bridge and continue ahead with the hedge on your left. Continue through a thicket, following a high fence until you reach a road. **10**

Across the road is an old cart shed which forms part of the land owned by the Sinfield Trust. The trust was established in 1994 to advance conservation. With over 100 acres of wild-flower meadows, woodland, scrub, natural regeneration and ponds, traditional practices are retained, including conservation grazing with a herd of British White and Red Poll cattle, hay cutting and coppicing.



Bredfield Circular

Three beautiful walks around Bredfield



The Fitzgerald Walk cont...

Turn right and continue along the road for about 150 metres **11**, turning left on to a footpath and immediately left again to follow the path through woodland. Cross two stiles and follow the footpath into a wide meadow with the mature hedgerow on your right. Keep ahead until a red brick house becomes visible on the right and at a footpath waymarker post on your right bear left to continue across a field towards a black metal sign advising 'keep dogs on leads'. You are now in Boulge, a French placename meaning 'bag-shaped piece of land'!

Go through a gate and cross the field diagonally aiming to the right of a large cedar tree to the right of a large garden urn visible beneath the trees.

The current Boulge Hall is visible through the trees. The original hall was a Queen Anne mansion that was demolished in 1955 due to dereliction. Edward Fitzgerald lived in a cottage in the grounds of the Hall between 1853 and 1860 before moving to Woodbridge.

Go past the right-hand side of the cedar tree and then follow the left-hand side of the field towards a gate. Go through the gate and continue to a driveway. Turn left then right to reach Boulge Church **12**.

This is a good place to stop and take refreshment.

The Fitzgerald family vault lies to your left with the grave of Edward Fitzgerald to one side, the 'Omar Khayyam' rose growing over it. This rose was planted in 1893 and grown at Kew Gardens from a seed brought from the grave of Omar Khayyam in Naishapur in Iran.

Retrace your steps back to follow the driveway to a road. Cross over the road. **13**.

Continue diagonally right on the crossfield footpath to pass through the gap in the hedge. Cross over the wooden bridge, turn left and continue across the field aiming for Bredfield Church. Pass through the gap in the hedge and continue slightly leftwards across the next field, crossing a wooden bridge over a dry ditch. Continue ahead across the corner of the next field. Cross over a larger ditch and continue across an open field towards a gap in the fence line and very tall lime trees. Enter the churchyard through the small kissing gate. Continue past the church to reach The Street. Turn left to return to **A**.

Medieval Bredfield Walk

DISTANCE: 3.5 miles (5.5 km)

DURATION: 2 hours

TERRAIN: Field paths and lanes.
Road liable to flooding below Cambridge Cottage after heavy rains

From **A** turn left along the road and shortly turn right through the church gate to visit St Andrew's Church **1**.

There has been a church on this same site since before the time of the Domesday Book when it was a wooden thatched building. Set in the heart of the village, with its fine flint-clad bell tower, the church has been much repaired and restored since the 14th Century but there are still traces of the medieval building in the fine hammer beam roof, the remains of a rood screen, and the remnants of a holy water stoup. The village War Memorial is located near the main entrance and the churchyard is shaded by ancient lime trees.

Continue through the churchyard to a kissing gate at the far end. Continue ahead to cross over the brook at the bottom and ahead on the crossfield path. Cross over the wooden bridge and head slightly left across the next field aiming for a gap in the hedge. Partridge Farm is in the distance on your left.

Once through the hedge turn right **1** and continue with the hedge on your right. Cross over the wooden bridge to enter a small wood emerging onto the lawns of High House Farm. Keep ahead and continue along the driveway past a large barn to Caters Road **2**.

Turn left. After approximately 400 metres turn right onto a footpath by a small wood. **3** Cross the wooden bridge and continue along the left side of the field to enter a small wood.

Pause awhile here to look around. You are on the parish boundary with Dallinghoo. On your right is a large bank and ditch and a concrete boundary marker amongst the vegetation. The track you are walking on is an old Medieval pack way that ran between Walton and Framlingham castles.

Continue through the wood with the bank and ditch on your right, past a second concrete boundary marker, to emerge onto a field. Continue down the left-hand side of the field to reach a road **4**.

Turn left and immediately left again and follow the lane for 1½ miles to reach the main village road at the T-junction **5**.

Turn right onto The Street to return to **A**.

Over to Byng Walk

DISTANCE: 4.5 miles (7.25 km)

DURATION: 2.5 hours

TERRAIN: Ancient woods, field paths, lanes, stile and tracks.

From **A** turn left **2** and follow the road to the first junction turning left into Ufford Road. After 1km turn left onto the footpath **1** just before the house and continue up the right side of two fields. Cross the wooden bridge and continue ahead to reach a footpath marker post in the middle of a field.

Stop to listen for skylarks and yellowhammers.

Turn right to cross the field aiming for the right-hand corner of the wooded 'Ufford Thicks'. Pass through the gap and continue ahead keeping the woods on your immediate left. The woods are full of oak, field maple, hazel and ash with the occasional Douglas Fir. Watch out for deer.

The path widens into a track. **2** Continue for 1km. It runs parallel to the A12 for the last stretch, to reach Byng Hall Road. The A12 flyover is on your right. Turn left onto the road **3**. Continue to the next dip in the road. Turn right on to the footpath **4** along the driveway to Byng Hall. Continue ahead to the end of the track with Byng Hall on your left.

The manor of Bing, or Byng, is one of the earliest settlements in the area. A Roman brick kiln was discovered on this site in 1846. The Domesday records show a population of 76 people. In 1253 Roger de Huntingfield was granted a market at Bing and it was recorded as being 'a large town' in 1286.

After Byng Hall follow the track left **5** and through a field gate. Continue through the yard aiming for a small wicket gate to the left of a metal roofed barn. Go through the gate and walk along the left-hand side of the field to emerge onto Byng Lane **6**.

Turn right here to the bridge over Byng Brook **B** which gives its name to the local manor. The brook rises to the west of Bredfield and flows eastward in a huge 'S' shape to join the River Deben at Ufford. Retrace your steps and continue along the road to the right **6**.

Continue along the lane climbing gently to a T-junction **7**. Turn right, then left and after 100 metres onto a stony track **8**. Continue past houses on your right to reach a field. Turn left onto the path **9**. With the hedge on your left, continue ahead.

Pause for fine views of Bredfield. Ufford Thicks, on your left, are ancient woods. Look out for Early Purple Orchids at the woods edge whilst the Spinney, to your right, has Hornbeams and Spurge Laurel.

Continue ahead to the edge of the wood in the corner of the field. Follow the narrow footpath through the hedgerow turning immediately left when you emerge **10**. Continue ahead to reach the same footpath marker post you passed earlier **11**. Turn right and cross the field. Cross over the wooden bridge over Byng Brook and continue ahead towards the Village Hall. Go around the playing field to return to **A**.

Please follow the Countryside Code:

- ✓ Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you would find them and follow paths.
- ✓ Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.

- ✓ Keep dogs under effective control.
- ✓ Plan ahead and be prepared.
- ✓ Follow advice and local signs.

