



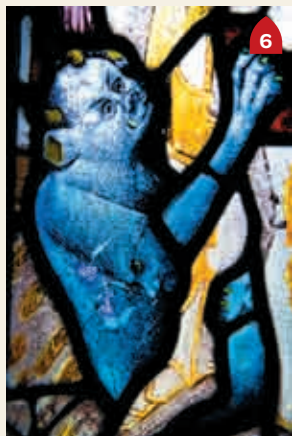
THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

Historic churches in
Suffolk

reveal the
treasure
of ages

Suffolk's lasting legacy

Suffolk's old churches are a treasure trove of history. Their bold flint towers or stone spires are landmarks; inside they tell the people's story.



East Anglia was once the most populated region of England. With the arrival of the Normans in 1066, it grew rich on wool, trading with Europe for huge returns. Small villages built mighty churches with their gains. Today, many of those villages have moved or vanished, leaving only the churches behind.

All the churches in this leaflet have been saved by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust is a charity that cares for more than 340 churches in England. This is one of 18 leaflets that highlight their history and treasures.

For more information on the other guides in this series, as well as interactive maps and downloadable information, see visitchurches.org.uk



treasure trove of history

trace the lives and loves of the great and the good in the Medieval church of All Saints, Little Wenham



1

Badley, St Mary

A church frozen in time

A visit to St Mary's begins with a journey – a mile's walk or drive down a rutted track across Suffolk farmland, to a small valley of trees and birdsong. The flint-and-brick church has nothing for company but a 16th-century farmhouse and the wildlife of its pretty churchyard. Passing through the sturdy medieval door with its iron grille, you step into a time capsule – a church scarcely changed for 300 years, with plain walls and a brick floor set with memorials to the Poleys, once owners of the house nearby.

Badley, Ipswich IP6 8RU

→ 3m SE of Stowmarket off B1113

Nearest railway station: Stowmarket (2 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



2

Bungay, St Mary

**Brilliant carvings and
a legendary beast**

The tower of this church is a landmark, visible high above the town. Inside, the 15th-century building is filled with light and full of images of wonderful creatures. A wooden dole-cupboard – where bread was left for the poor – is carved with religious worthies and a perky rat. Gaze upwards and you'll see roof carvings of angels, a lion, two-headed eagles and a bat. St Mary's is also famous for the Black Dog of Bungay – it appeared during a terrifying storm in 1577 and attacked the congregation.

St Mary's Street, Bungay NR35 1AX

→ Town centre of Bungay

Nearest railway station: Beccles (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



3

Little Wenham, All Saints

One of Suffolk's best-kept secrets

This 13th-century flint church, with a Tudor brick-topped tower, is hidden away up a track past one of the oldest houses in England. Behind the altar, the walls are alive with Medieval paintings: pick out St Margaret with her dragon and St Catherine with her wheel. The saints are elegant and almost ghostlike, with strange blackened faces from the ageing paint. There are also wall plaques to the local Brewse family – one with the doll-sized figure of John Brewse, kneeling in eternal prayer.

Little Wenham, Ipswich CO7 6PU

→ 7m SW of Ipswich off A12

Nearest railway station: Manningtree (5 miles)

🕒 *Keyholder nearby – see website for details*



4

Redgrave, St Mary

**A Gothic gem with
tombs, statues and
stained glass**

Five centuries of parishioners have worshipped at this vast country church. Everything is on a grand scale – the east window is stunning, with stained glass images of glorious saints and angels. Tombs have life-size statues in elaborate 17th-century fashions. There are also 13 hatchments – wood and canvas coats of arms – more than any other Suffolk church.

Churchway, Redgrave, Diss IP22 1RJ

→ 4m W of Diss off B1113, 1m from village centre

Nearest railway station: Diss (4 miles)

🕒 *Open first Sat of month all year: Dec-Mar, 10am-12pm; Apr-May, 10am-2pm; Jun-Sep, 10am-4pm; Oct/Nov, 10am-2pm; at other times keyholder nearby*

visitchurches.org.uk/daysout

Spend a day with us

More churches to enjoy

Each CCT church has been saved because it is special. We can't do justice to them all in one leaflet, so visit our website for more information on those only briefly described here.



Akenham, St Mary

This flint-towered church from the later Middle Ages is in a delightful rural spot, yet it is only four miles from the centre of Ipswich. The interior is simple but beautiful – and contains a wonderful carved font.

Akenham, Ipswich IP1 6TQ

→ 3m N of Ipswich off A14 and take A1156

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Chilton, St Mary

A 15th-century stone-and-flint church, with a splendid 16th-century red brick tower. The chapel – the Crane Chantry – has stunning monuments to Sir Robert Crane, MP for Sudbury, and his two wives.

Sudbury CO10 2ZB

→ 1m NE of Sudbury off B1115

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Claydon, St Peter

A Saxon church with wonderful views over the Gipping Valley. The Victorian interior – commissioned by eccentric High Church rector, George Drury – is stunning, full of vibrant stained glass and extravagant carving.

Church Lane, Claydon, Ipswich IP6 0EQ

→ 4m NW of Ipswich off A14

🕒 *Open daily*

Covehithe, St Andrew

Once a glorious medieval church, St Andrew's now lies in picturesque ruin by the sea, with only the lofty tower and a curtain of walling surviving. A smaller thatched-roof church, built in 1672 and still in use, nestles inside the ruins.

Covehithe, Lowestoft NR34 7JW

→ 7m S of Lowestoft off A12

🕒 *Visitors welcome to look around ruin, no access to tower*

Ellough, All Saints

A striking 14th-century church standing proudly on a hill. It boasts a 15th-century font, a timber roof and a great collection of brasses. Also look for the names of 19th-century labourers carved into the pulpit's base.

Beccles NR34 7TR

→ 2m S of Beccles

🕒 *Open daily*

Icklingham, All Saints

This unspoilt thatched church, built largely in the 14th century, is a treasure house of local craftsmanship. The octagonal font is beautifully carved and the floor of the chancel has a dazzling mosaic of 14th-century tiles.

The Street, Icklingham, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6PL

→ 8m NW of Bury St Edmunds on A1101

🕒 *Open daily Easter to end Oct, Sun only rest of year*

Ipswich, St Mary-at-the-Quay

This Medieval church lies next to Ipswich's regenerated quayside. Elegant Perpendicular windows bathe the interior – and its handsome arcades – with light. The wonderful Medieval hammerbeam roof in the nave has carved figures of apostles.

Foundation Street, Ipswich IP4 1BU

→ SE of town centre, junction of Key Street and Foundation Street

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Newton Green, All Saints

A Norman church, rebuilt in the 14th century with a lovely wooden porch. Inside, the Medieval treasures include wall paintings of Nativity scenes and a marble effigy of a lady wearing a wimple.

Church Road, Newton Green, Sudbury CO10 0QP

→ 3m E of Sudbury off A134

🕒 *Open daily*

Rickinghall Superior, St Mary

This handsome church has a 14th-century tower and chancel, a broad 15th-century nave, with magnificent Perpendicular windows, and beautiful Victorian stained glass. One window shows Samuel Speare, an altar boy at St Mary's, who became a missionary aged 15 and died in Zanzibar aged 20.

Rickinghall Superior, Diss IP22 1EZ

→ 7m SW of Diss on corner of B1113 and A143

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

Become a supporter

6

5

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13

Sapiston, St Andrew

14

This isolated, homely church stands at the end of a long track on the site of a vanished village. The chancel, nave and square west tower date from the 14th century – but the church also has a beautifully carved Norman doorway.

Sapiston, Thetford IP31 1RY

→ 7m SE of Thetford off A1088

🕒 *Open daily*

South Elmham, All Saints

15

A charming medieval church with animal-shaped bench ends, in a churchyard filled with wild flowers. The attractive round tower is Norman in origin but much restored in the 19th century.

South Elmham, Bungay IP19 OPB

→ 5m S of Bungay

🕒 *Open daily*

Stanton, St John the Baptist

16

An evocative, partially ruined flint church with a bold tower and fabulous 14th-century windows. The churchyard is an oasis of trees in unhedged farmland. The floor of the roofless nave and chancel is carpeted with grass.

Bury St Edmunds IP31 2XD

→ 9m NE of Bury St Edmunds off A143

🕒 *Open daily*

Stonham Parva, St Mary

17

Spectacular and airy, this medieval flintwork church has a tower, with parapets accented with slender pinnacles. The nave and chancel are impressively high, and inside the double hammerbeam nave roof is a splendid example of Medieval craftsmanship.

Church Lane, Stonham Parva, Stowmarket IP14 5JL

→ 10m N of Ipswich off A140

🕒 *Open daily*

Sudbury, St Peter

18

This vast, magnificent medieval church dominates the town from the top of Market Hill. It has a stunning Victorian interior – including a gorgeous altar screen and carved fittings. Outside is a statue of Sudbury's most famous son, painter Thomas Gainsborough.

Market Square, Sudbury CO10 2TP

→ Market Square, town centre

🕒 *Open regularly for events; at other times keyholder nearby – see website for details*



Washbrook, St Mary

19

St Mary's sits at the end of a winding path amongst picturesque trees and meadows. A Norman church rebuilt in the 14th century, it boasts wonderful stone carving, a handsome 15th-century font and beautiful Victorian stained glass.

Washbrook, Ipswich IP8 3HQ

→ 3m W of Ipswich off A1071

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Wordwell, All Saints

20

Although restored by the Victorians, All Saints still contains stone carving and a chancel arch from Norman times. The 15th-century benches have beautiful carvings – look for the back panel filled with grotesque creatures, some with human heads.

Wordwell, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6UN

→ 6m N of Bury St Edmunds on B1106

🕒 *Open Apr to Oct, daily; Nov to Mar, Sun & Bank Holidays; at other times keyholder nearby*

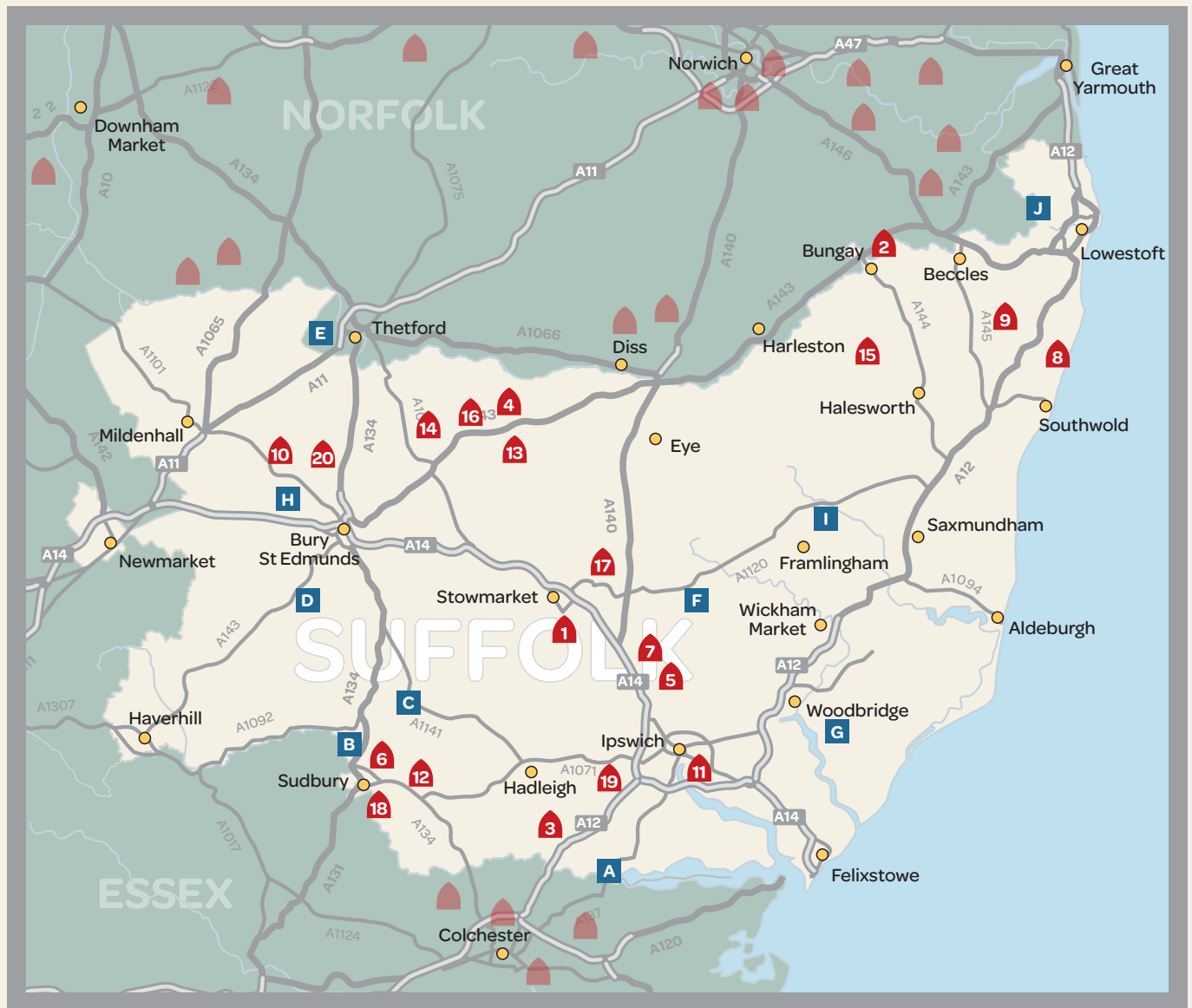
Finding our churches

The map opposite shows the location of each of our churches in Suffolk, together with other nearby attractions and CCT churches in adjoining counties.

Our website, visitchurches.org.uk, has much more detailed information to help you plan your trip.

		Ordnance Survey ref
	1 Badley, St Mary	TM 062 559
	2 Bungay, St Mary	TM 337 898
	3 Little Wenham, All Saints <i>(cover image)</i>	TM 081 392
	4 Redgrave, St Mary	TM 057 782
	5 Akenham, St Mary	TM 147 489
	6 Chilton, St Mary	TL 889 423
	7 Claydon, St Peter	TM 137 499
	8 Covehithe, St Andrew	TM 523 818
	9 Ellough, All Saints	TM 443 866
	10 Icklingham, All Saints	TL 770 730
	11 Ipswich, St Mary-at-the-Quay	TM 166 442
	12 Newton Green, All Saints	TL 920 413
	13 Rickinghall Superior, St Mary	TM 041 746
	14 Sapiston, St Andrew	TL 921 743
	15 South Elmham, All Saints	TM 330 828
	16 Stanton, St John the Baptist	TL 962 738
	17 Stonham Parva, St Mary the Virgin	TM 115 601
	18 Sudbury, St Peter	TL 875 414
	19 Washbrook, St Mary	TM 110 426
	20 Wordwell, All Saints	TL 828 720

CCT churches in neighbouring counties.
For details, go to visitchurches.org.uk or see the relevant county guide.



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Other local heritage attractions

- A** Flatford Cottage & Mill – Constable country
- B** Melford Hall – house, gardens
- C** Lavenham Guildhall
- D** Ickworth – house, park, gardens
- E** Thetford Forest Park
- F** Helmingham Hall Gardens

- G** Sutton Hoo – burial grounds
- H** West Stow Anglo-Saxon village
- I** Framlingham Castle
- J** Somerleyton Hall & Gardens



Find out more

Our website has a host of additional information that will help you plan and enjoy your visit, including:

- Interactive maps
- Filterable lists of all our churches
- Up to date opening times
- Visitor comments
- Downloadable guides
- Image galleries
- Event listings

Go to visitchurches.org.uk to access all this and more.



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Welcome to a thousand years of English history

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than 1.5 million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.


Visiting information


Go to visitchurches.org.uk for detailed directions, local maps, information on disability access and up to date opening times.

For other enquiries, call us on **020 7213 0660** (Monday – Friday, office hours), or email welcome@tcct.org.uk

! Please take care when visiting our churches. Floors may be uneven/worn or slippery, and interior lighting may be low.


 Assistance dogs are welcome.

 For full disabled access information, see our website.

 Unsure about the 'keyholder nearby' access? You will find details at the church or call us in advance.

P Parking is available at most churches – see the website for more details.

 The closest station for each church is shown in the guide.

 For bus routes, see traveline.org.uk

 Cyclists welcome! For cycle routes, go to sustrans.org.uk

Help us save historic churches

The CCT needs to raise an additional £1.5million every year just to cover essential repairs. If you enjoy your visit please leave a donation at the church, or go to visitchurches.org.uk/donate for details of how you can help.



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

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