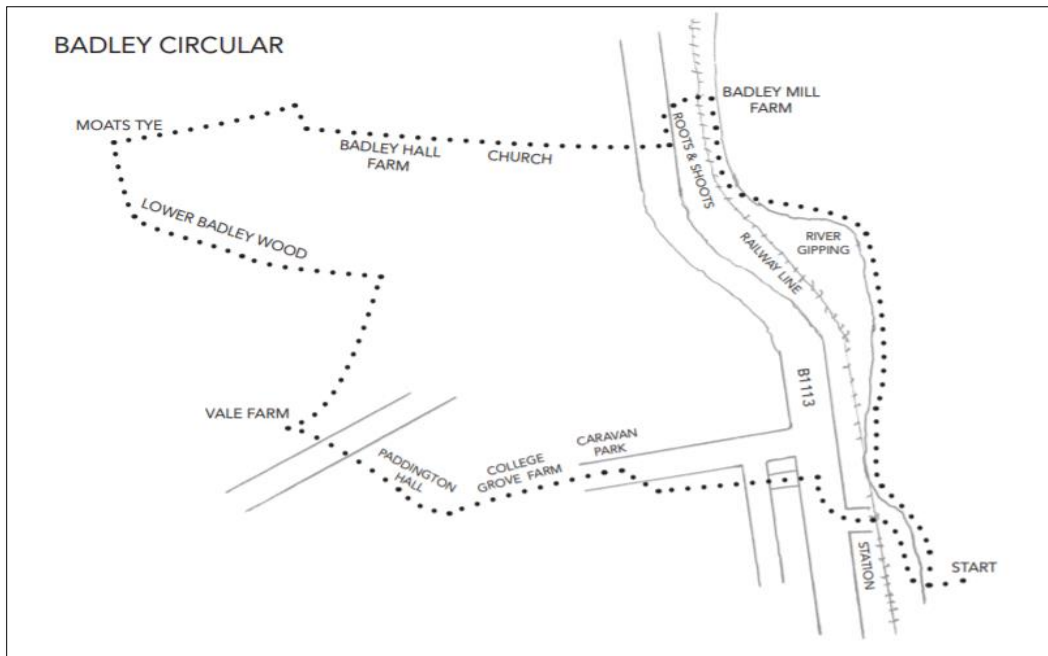


Badley Circular - 9 miles by Derek Magnall



St Mary's Church, Badley

Leaving Needham Lake Information Centre head towards the footbridge and turn right onto the path (do not cross the footbridge) with River Gipping on your left. Path keeps close to the river (ignore any paths going off to the right). Ignore bridge and path joining from the left, continue straight ahead keeping the River Gipping on your left. Fork left to take dirt path passing under road bridge. Continue along path, River Gipping on your left, over footbridge and passing Hawks Mill Lock. Continue straight ahead over second footbridge.

Continue along the path, River Gipping always on your left, ignoring path going off to the right and footbridge on the left. Continue along the path crossing several footbridges and stiles. On reaching a bridge over the River Gipping turn left through a gate and cross the bridge over the river. Turn Left immediately through gate. Follow path bearing right round edge of the field, stream on your left. Turn left over grass

bridge. Turn right through small gate, continue along path. Turn Left along track under railway bridge, continue up along track to main road B1113. Turn left, garden centre Roots & Shoots on your left. Continue along footpath beside main road.

After ~250m cross main road to bus stop sign/post box. Walk up wide track, Badley Walk, with bungalows on both sides. Track winds round to the right and continues through Royal's woods. Continue on path through field towards Badley Hall, passing under pylons. Continue through gap in hedge with Badley Church on your left. Continue with Badley Hall Farm on your left. Follow footpath, crossing the field, hedges now on your left. Path now goes through the hedge, turn right along the wide track with hedge on your right. After gateway, at footpath sign, turn left with hedges on your left, eventually passing a house on your left. Continue on through gateway, ignoring path off to the left. Pass through gateway to reach enclosed footpath leading to houses. Turn Immediately left at footpath sign, along wide track with hedges now on your right.

Continue down track, reservoir on your left to T junction. Turn left, hedge on your right. After a short time turn right through the hedge over a footbridge. Turn left, over another footbridge. Continue along path around field edge, hedges and trees on your left for about a mile. Turn left through opening,

then turn right along grass track through woods, hedges and trees now on your right. After a time hedges and trees both sides. When the track becomes firmer continue dropping down. Turn left along track. When meeting minor road turn left. After 25m turn right along grass track, climbing steadily, hedges on the right. Continue along path crossing field, then with hedges on your right and then bearing left. Taking footpath on the right, through the hedge, over stile, across field, over next stile. Continue crossing the field and over the next stile. Paddington Hall on your left.

Continue along enclosed narrow path bearing right, then through the hedge. Turn left along grass track, then immediately right. Continue along grass track, Bungeon's Farm on your right, hedges on your right. Continue along the path, straight ahead, hedges on your left, go through gap in the hedge. At the bottom of the field turn left, hedges on your left, continue round the field, passing College Grove Farm on your left. Join cinder track towards the caravan site. On reaching caravan site, follow footpath sign directing you ahead through the passage fenced both sides into caravan site. Continue through caravan site to the minor road, continue down minor road to the bottom of the hill. As the minor road starts climbing, turn right at the footpath sign. Continue crossing field to far right corner to hedges. Turn left and continue along enclosed path to meet road. Cross road and continue down The Causeway. Continue to main road, B1113. Turn right and cross at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and continue to Station Yard.

Turn left in Station Yard, keeping to the left to return to the Cattle Tunnel. Pass through the tunnel and turn right. Bear left along the grass track and left again along the path circling Needham Lake and Nature Reserve. Continue along the path till you see the footbridge. Turn left over the footbridge back to the Information Centre.