



## Bodham via Baconsthorpe Castle

Discover Baconsthorpe Castle, an exciting ruin hidden in the rural Norfolk countryside, appreciated at its best by approaching across low-lying meadows on foot

### Getting started

Catch *Sanders bus* service 44 between Cromer, Sheringham and Holt which stops next to the old school on the A148 Cromer Road at Bodham. Depending on the day other services may also be available—timetable information can be found on the [Traveline website](#) or telephone 0871 200 22 33.

If following the Explore More tip (below) you can find the opening times for the *North Norfolk Railway* between Holt and Sheringham by visiting their [website](#) or ringing 01263 820800.

Ordnance Survey Norfolk Coast East Explorer map number 252 covers this area.



Baconsthorpe Castle

### What to expect

Allow approximately 2.5 hours for this 5 mile walk, plus time to explore Baconsthorpe Castle and Bodham Church and a little longer to explore St Mary's Church at Baconsthorpe. There is a short-cut that still includes Baconsthorpe Castle and Bodham Church reducing the walk to 3.3 miles and taking around 2.

Please keep dogs on leads in a couple of meadows which are grazed by horses. This gentle walk is a mix of rural footpaths, country roads and stiles.

### Refreshments

*The Red Hart Inn*, on The Street in Bodham is close to the start and finish of the walk. This old fashioned village pub, with a log fire in the winter, offers a range of food from snacks to a full menu. Dogs are welcome.



Field edge footpath, Bodham

Explore More tip . . . Why not make a day of it? Catch the bus from Sheringham to Bodham and enjoy a walk to Baconsthorpe Castle. Take a picnic and enjoy the peace of this lovely quiet castle or treat yourself to a refreshment stop at the Red Hart Inn. Then catch the bus to Holt before returning to Sheringham via the North Norfolk Railway.



## Along the way . . .



Bodham

## The landscape

Bodham is on the edge of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This walk takes you through open and gently rolling farmland which is sprinkled with mature, semi-natural woodland such as Baconsthorpe Wood. This organically shaped woodland is typical of those linked to older field boundary patterns.

The fields in this area are mostly arable with some areas of grassland in the smaller fields around Baconsthorpe Castle.

## Along the way . . .

All Saints Church, Bodham is an interesting building dating mainly from the 14th Century. Mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086, the church is a little distance from the village and has a tall west tower with battlements.

Inside, there is a medieval font with several memorials and nave benches that originally came from Beckham Workhouse chapel.



All Saints Church, Bodham

## Explore more . . .

The extensive ruins of **Baconsthorpe Castle**, a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the care of English Heritage (free entry). This moated and fortified 15th Century manor house is linked to the rise and fall over 200 years of the Heydon family. They first made their fortunes through the law profession and later from wool. Baconsthorpe Castle was built as their principal residence in about 1450, becoming larger and more ambitious as the family's wealth grew.

Nearby **St Mary's Church** dates from 1260 and has close links with Baconsthorpe Castle. There is stained glass in the church windows moved from the Castle. Originally these shields were in the windows of the banqueting hall. When the hall was largely pulled down in 1650 these stained-glass shields were removed and placed in the windows of south aisle of Baconsthorpe church. Also, in the south aisle there is a large monument to Sir William Heydon and his wife. Sir William Heydon completed the building of Baconsthorpe Castle. They are kneeling beneath arcades, facing the sunshine, in the proper attitude of late Elizabethan piety.



Baconsthorpe Castle

## Walk instructions

**1** From the bus stop on the A148 Cromer Road in Bodham, walk in a westerly direction towards Holt for a short distance before turning left onto School Lane just after the old village school. There is a public footpath fingerpost indicating the way along this vehicle track. Ignore the right turn to the allotments and continue ahead crossing the ditch via a concrete footbridge. Walk up the hill on a farm track.

Stay on this track to the end, turning left on reaching the road in Lower Bodham opposite Manor House. Cross the road at the T-junction onto the grass field edge public footpath and walk over the hill, keeping the hedge on your right.

Just after following the track through Baconsthorpe Wood, climb the stile into the meadow: please keep dogs on leads in this meadow which is grazed by horses. Walk beside the right hand edge, crossing another stile in the corner. The public footpath passes Hall Farm on your left and continues straight on towards Baconsthorpe Village. To visit Baconsthorpe Castle turn left through the car park at the farm, and left again.

Explore More tip . . . for a shorter walk, after visiting the fabulous castle ruins, turn left, then left again after 100 metres through the kissing gate and follow the instructions from point 3

**2** To continue the walk return to the original path and continue walking (south) towards the Baconsthorpe village. This is Hall Lane. Follow this public footpath for approximately half a mile. Turn left at the end onto The Street and walk through the village.

Explore further . . . instead of turning left onto The Street cross over The Street and follow the path highlighted in green on the map to visit St Mary's Church, Baconsthorpe before returning to to the village and rejoining the route

Turn first left, signposted to Baconsthorpe Castle, continuing ahead at the corner on the concrete farm track towards the castle, passing Breck Farm along the way.

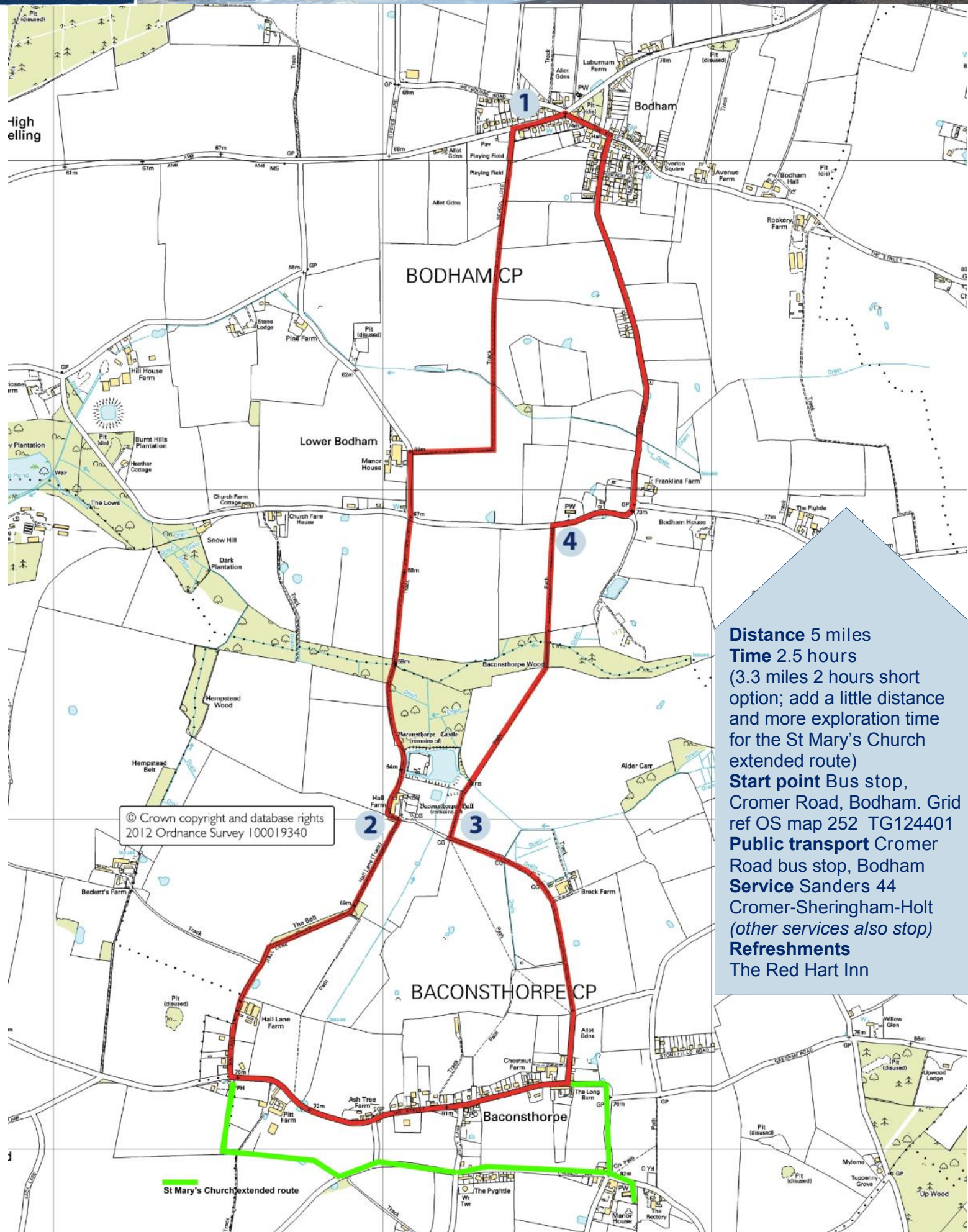
**3** Just before reaching the castle, go through the kissing gate on the right to enter another meadow. Please keep dogs on leads: horses also graze in this field. Keep to the right and walk to the corner, climbing the stile to leave the meadow.

After walking through the trees and crossing a wooden footbridge, cross the arable field to Baconsthorpe Wood opposite – a waymark disk indicates the direction.

Continue ahead on the track through the wood at the next waymark post and then walk up the hill on the wide grass field edge path towards the church with the hedge on your left. Cross the road to visit the peaceful Bodham Church.

**4** On leaving the church turn left and walk along Church Road for a short distance. Turn left onto Hart Lane, signposted 'Bodham ½ mile'.

Turn left at the T-junction in Bodham. To reach the bus stop, pass the Red Hart Inn and turn left at the T-junction onto the Cromer Road, the bus stop is a short distance along the road.



**Distance** 5 miles  
**Time** 2.5 hours  
 (3.3 miles 2 hours short option; add a little distance and more exploration time for the St Mary's Church extended route)  
**Start point** Bus stop, Cromer Road, Bodham. Grid ref OS map 252 TG124401  
**Public transport** Cromer Road bus stop, Bodham  
**Service** Sanders 44  
 Cromer-Sheringham-Holt  
*(other services also stop)*  
**Refreshments**  
 The Red Hart Inn