

Walk 2: Badley Moor - 8 miles, allow 3¼ hours

Before starting this walk, please read the general leaflet

This walk can be shortened by missing out the sections in the town - see instructions on the map: bus stops are marked as ● in the text.

1 Leave the town centre by passing the cinema on the right, to walk down High Street (under the Dereham sign). Pass the library on your left, and go ahead along London Road. Just past the petrol station, opposite Station Road, turn right down **Footpath 24**. At the bottom, turn left on South Green then turn right to join the main road and go under the A47.

● Take the first turn left on to Rash's Green; follow this round to the right and turn left down Charles Wood Road (which is also **Footpath 11**).

2 As Charles Wood Road turns right, turn left to cross the **Mid Norfolk Railway** line and continue to Yaxham Road.

*[Note: the path emerges next to what used to be the **Jolly Farmers**, a Grade II Listed thatched building.]* Cross the road to **Footpath 26** - legally a footpath but a track throughout its considerable length, and known here as Dumpling Green.



Continue ahead, passing **Borrow Hall**, birthplace of George Borrow, on the left.

3 Continue ahead, ignoring any side turns. The track can be rutted and muddy in places, especially after wet weather.

*[Note: The 'crossroads', a few yards on, is the junction with Footpath 25 on the left, after which the second track on the right, after ¼ mile, is Dereham's newest path, **Footpath 35**, which leads down to **Badley Moor Common**. This is Open Access Land and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, to which there should be public access; a kissing gate is planned for autumn 2015.]* Continue to Ivy Farm on the

right. *[Note: **Footpath 4** runs from here down to Mouse's Bridge: this leads across the stream that marks the parish boundary and on to Yaxham Footpath 1.]* Footpath 26 continues as a hard surface track past Whitehouse Farm. *[Note: to the left is the route of **Restricted Byway 3**, not presently available.]* Continue to Mattishall Road.



4 Turn right and follow Mattishall Road, turning up the first track on the left. **!!! Take extra care along here - traffic can move quickly.** Walk up the track and at the end turn left and follow this new track, ignoring all side tracks, until you reach some tall trees with a building largely hidden behind them. Turn left and follow the track back to Mattishall Road **!!!**. Go up the road and just past the bungalow on the right, turn left along the hedge on to **Footpath 2**. This starts as a field edge path, then continues across the field. At the end, turn right on the track (Cherry Lane) and shortly right again, and follow it to the 'crossroads' at Cherry Tree Cottage. Continue ahead on the track (now called Hall Lane).

5 Leave the track to follow the first line of trees on your left, on **Footpath 25**. This runs into woodland, then rejoins **Footpath 26** at a crossroads (**3** on the map). Turn right to retrace your outward route back to and across Yaxham Road, along Footpath 11, across the railway line, and up Charles Wood Road. At the top, go ahead across the road (Rash's Green), to follow Footpath 11 over the footbridge and on to reach Westfield Road. ●

6 Turn right and immediately left into Sheldrick Place. As this bends round to the left, take the pathway to the right, to come out on to Shipdham Road. Turn left, then cross the road, and look out for a track on the right between numbers 35 and 37 Shipdham Road: this is **Footpath 12a**. Cross the culverted stream, then bear right (not on the open grass) between the houses, to Old Hall Road. Turn right then left up Farmway; immediately after it bends to the left, turn right up the footpath (still Footpath 12a). This continues to cross Middlemarch Road, where it also becomes part of Route 13 of the National Cycle Network. A little further on, it goes beneath the A47, to emerge as **Footpath 12**, passing the Town Council's new play area and allotments to reach South Green.

7 Cross slightly to the left - the path continues behind the wall: there is a metal fingerpost to point the way. The path then runs ahead between the houses to come out on to Gilpin's Ride: turn right. This soon becomes Littlefields and is still Footpath 12. *[Note: There are a number of places where you can turn right and cut though to Baxter Row and thus reach High Street: two of them, not named, are **Footpath 16** and **Footpath 15** (see map.)* A better route, however, is to continue ahead into St Withburga Lane to pass first **Bishop Bonner's Cottage**, then **St Nicholas Church**, and go up Church Street to get back to the town centre.



KEY

- direction points 1
- road
- path or track
- path or track (inaccessible)
- pond
- woodland
- bus stop
- !! additional care needed

This walk can be shortened, missing out the sections in the town, by taking the Konect 8 or 11 bus from the town centre (use the stop outside Barclays Bank): alight at the stop at *South Green, opposite Toftmead Close*. Take the first turn left on to Rash's Green; follow this round to the right and turn left down Charles Wood Road to 2.

On return, at 6 turn right to catch the Konect 8 from the stop on Westfield Road to return to the town centre. (This service runs as a circular service in one direction only.)

Car users can park at 2 to start and end there.

