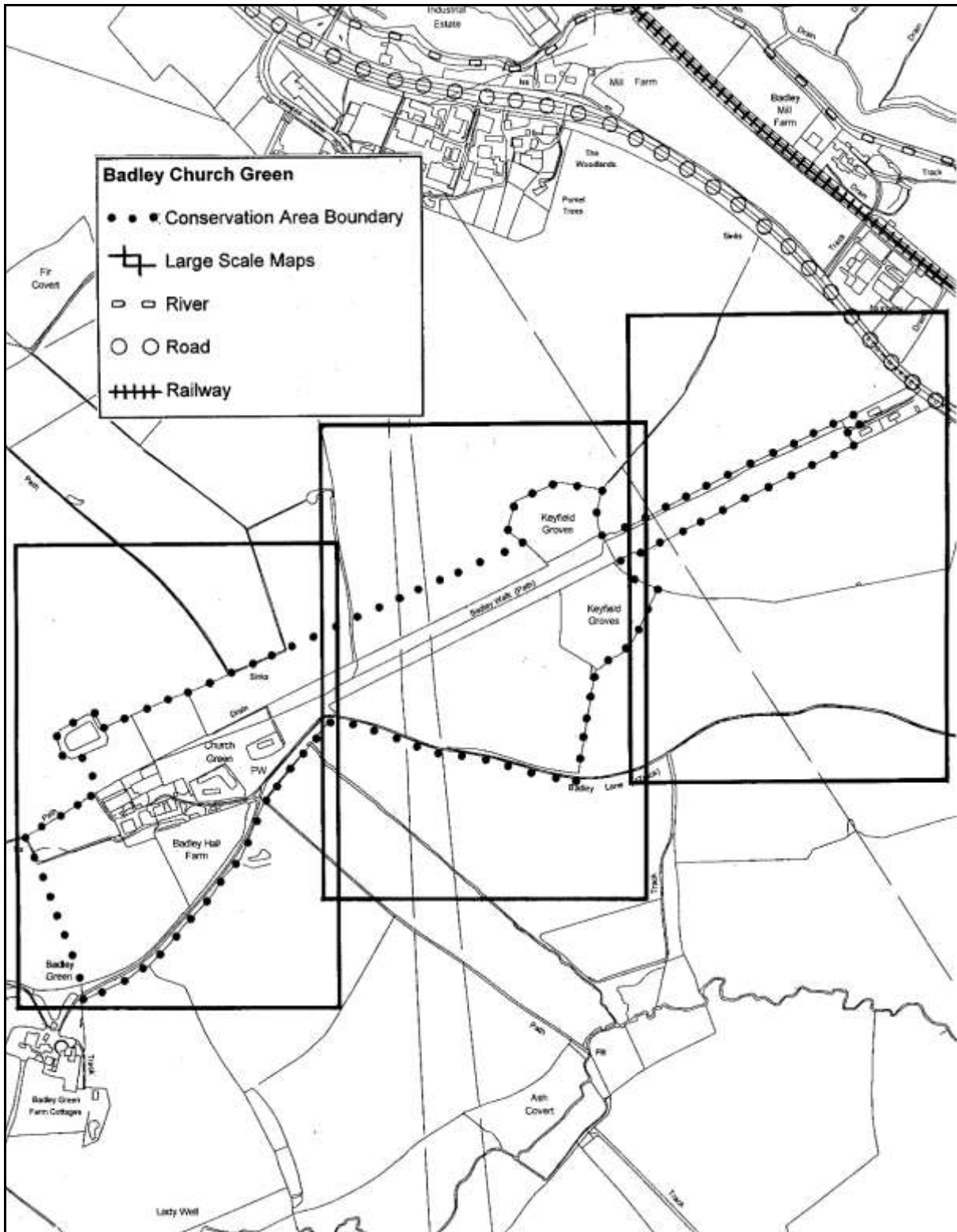


Badley Church Green



CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL



INTRODUCTION

The conservation area in Badley was originally designated by Mid Suffolk District Council in 1998.

The Council has a duty to review its conservation area designations from time to time, and this appraisal examines Badley under a number of different headings as set out in English Heritage's 'Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals' (2006).

As such it is a straightforward appraisal of Badley's built environment in conservation terms.

This document is neither prescriptive nor overly descriptive, but more a demonstration of 'quality of place', sufficient for the briefing of the Planning Officer when assessing proposed works in the area. The photographs and maps are thus intended to contribute as much as the text itself.

As the English Heritage guidelines point out, the appraisal is to be read as a general overview, rather than as a comprehensive listing, and the omission of any particular building, feature or space does not imply that it is of no interest in conservation terms.

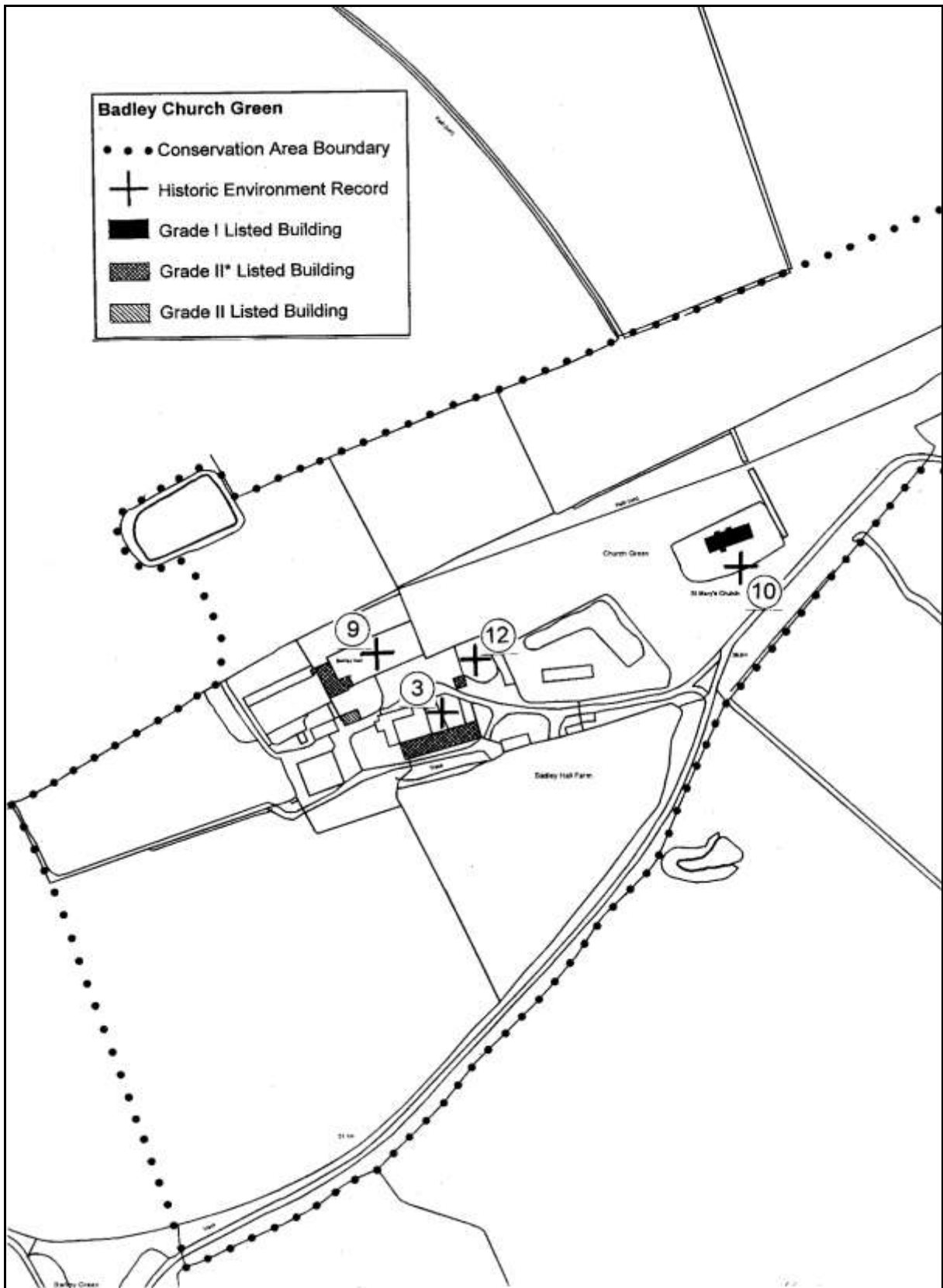
Text, photographs and map overlays by Patrick Taylor, Conservation Architect, Mid Suffolk District Council 2012.



Badley Hall



Badley Church



TOPOGRAPHICAL FRAMEWORK

The parish of Badley is situated in central Suffolk roughly midway between the two small towns of Stowmarket and Needham Market.

The gently undulating countryside there rises from 40 to 50 metres above OD on the south-west bank of the River Gipping. The river passes through both towns before continuing south-eastwards to Ipswich, the Orwell estuary and eventually the North Sea.

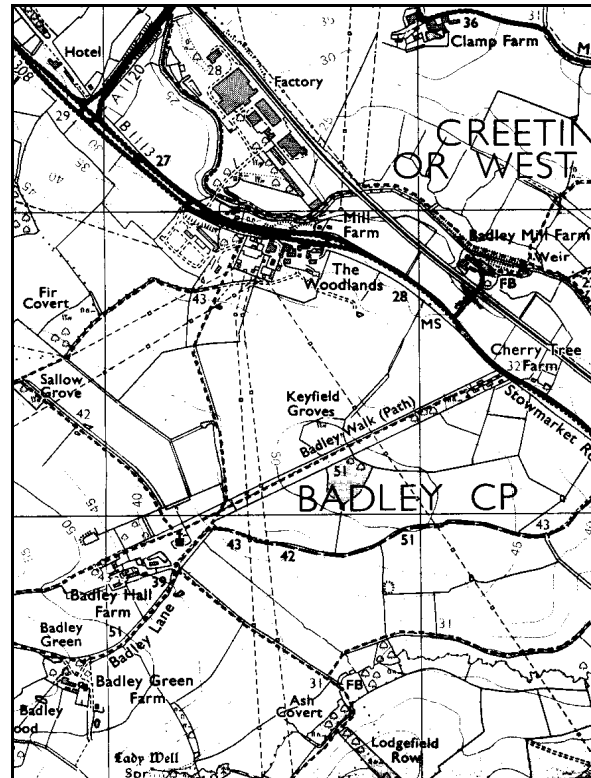
The settlement lies away from the alluvium of the river valley, on the boulder clay of 'High Suffolk', a recent glacial deposit over chalk at greater depth.

The river continues to be the main corridor for communications, the valley containing both the A14 trunk road that now bypasses both towns and the railway line from Ipswich to both Norwich and Cambridge which has stations in both towns.

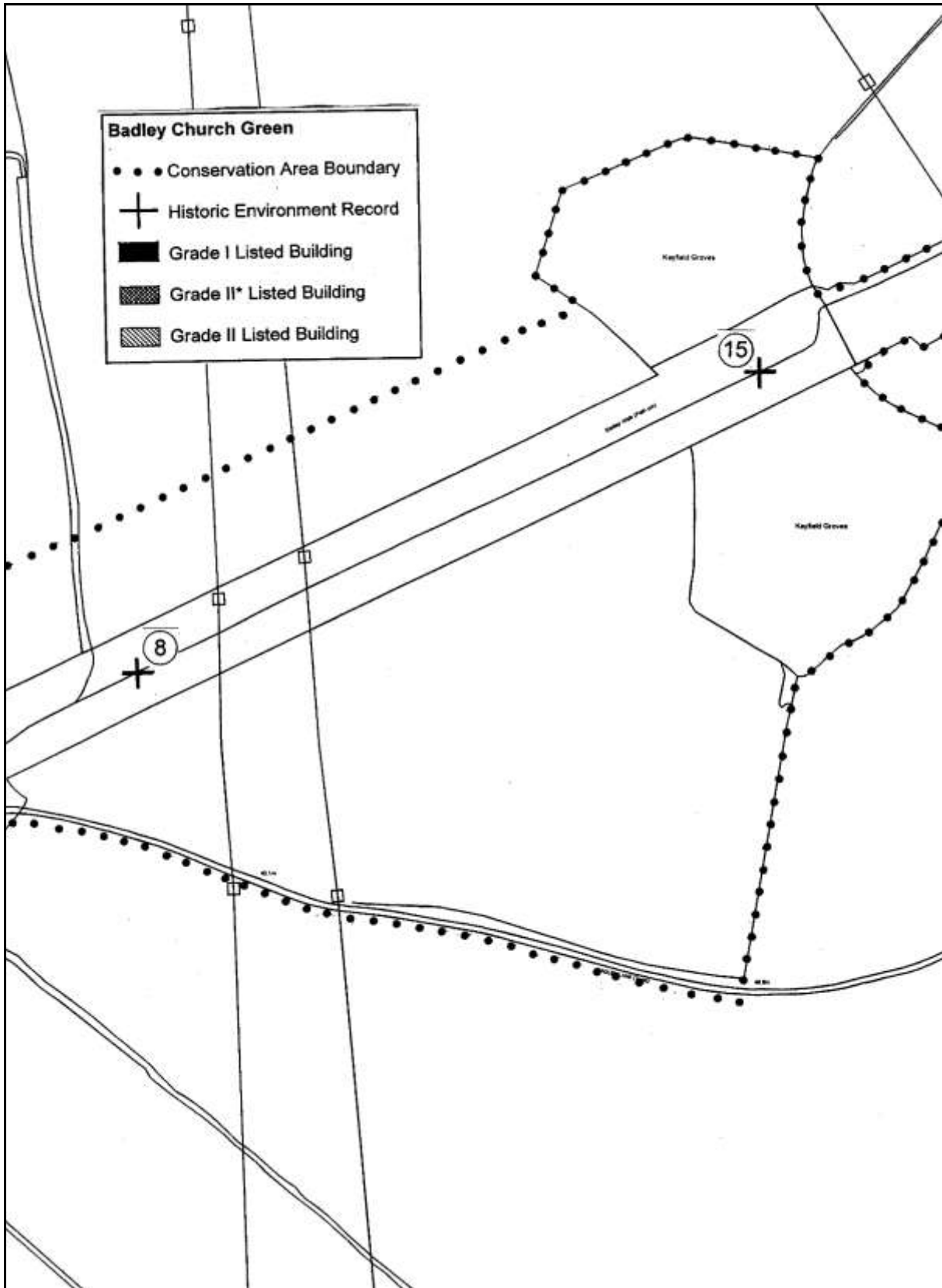
The river was canalised as the Gipping Navigation in 1793, the road was originally part of the Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds route turnpiked in 1711 by the Ipswich to Scole Turnpike Trust, whilst the railway first came through in 1846 as the Eastern Union Railway.



Aerial Photograph



OS Extract



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Suffolk's County Historic Environment Record lists about twenty sites in the parish. The earliest of these are actually undated, but cropmarks indicate a possible Neolithic long barrow site and a couple of probably Bronze Age ring ditches. Definitely from the Bronze Age are some beaker fragments and flint flakes.

A number of Roman remains are listed including a coin hoard and there have been some Saxon bronze bowls found.

Medieval remains include the eight-bay timber-framed barn adjoining Badley Hall with its flint rubble plinth walls, believed by some to have been a Chantry, endowed by Edmund Alcock and accordingly listed as a Scheduled Monument. The Church is also included from this period and two areas of ancient woodland either side of Badley Walk are undated but probably contemporary.

Post Medieval remains include Badley Hall and Badley Walk leading to it, a dovecote, Badley Bridge over the river and a milestone on the turnpike road.

When Edmund Alcock died in 1491, parts of the manor passed to his daughter Margery who had married Simon Poley. The Poley family eventually owned it all and in the 16th Century, Edmund Poley is credited with the rebuilding of the Hall and creation of the Park and Walk leading through it.

Badley was listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 as 'Badeleia', part of the lands held by Richard from the King with mention of a church with 14 acres, and intriguingly half a mill. Presumably the other half of the (water)mill was across the river in the adjoining parish of Creeting.



St Mary's Church

*BOSEMARA. H̄. Badeleia tē Afchil. t. r. e. modo. R. in d̄io
p. 11. car. terræ. 7 xx. ac. p. man. semp. 1111. uill. 7. 1111. bord. 7. v. feru.
7. 11. car. in dominio 7. 11. car. hominū. v. 111. ac. p̄i. 7. diu. molin. 7.
11. runc. & xx. vi. ania. 7. xxx. 11. porc. Tē. Lx. oūs. modo. c. Ecelia. x1111.
ac. Tē. ual. Lx. fol. modo. 1111. lib. Ex hac t̄a calūpnia. AN̄ d̄iū. car.
tefle. h̄. Rex & comes focū. Huic manerio additi s̄. t. r. xx. vi. uill.
libi. h̄os. 1. car. terræ 7. xl. v. ac. hos oūs tē Ricar. ad hoc maneriū
quod tenuit finit. 7. ip̄e phin tenebat eos p. accommodationē. | Tē 7. p̄.
v. car. modo. 11. Tē. ual. xl. fol. modo. xl. v. 11. Rex 7. comes focū & facū.
ht. x. q̄ in longo. & v. in lato. 7. x. deū de gelto.*

BOSMERE Hundred

Askell held BADLEY before 1066, now Richard [holds it] in lordship, for 2 carucates of land and 20 acres as a manor.

Always 4 villagers; 4 smallholders; 5 slaves.

2 ploughs in lordship; 2 men's ploughs.

Meadow, 8 acres; ½ mill. 2 cobs, 26 cattle, 32 pigs; then 60 sheep, now 100.

A church, 14 acres.

Value then 60s; now £4.

Of this land, the Abbot claims ½ carucate as the Hundred testifies.

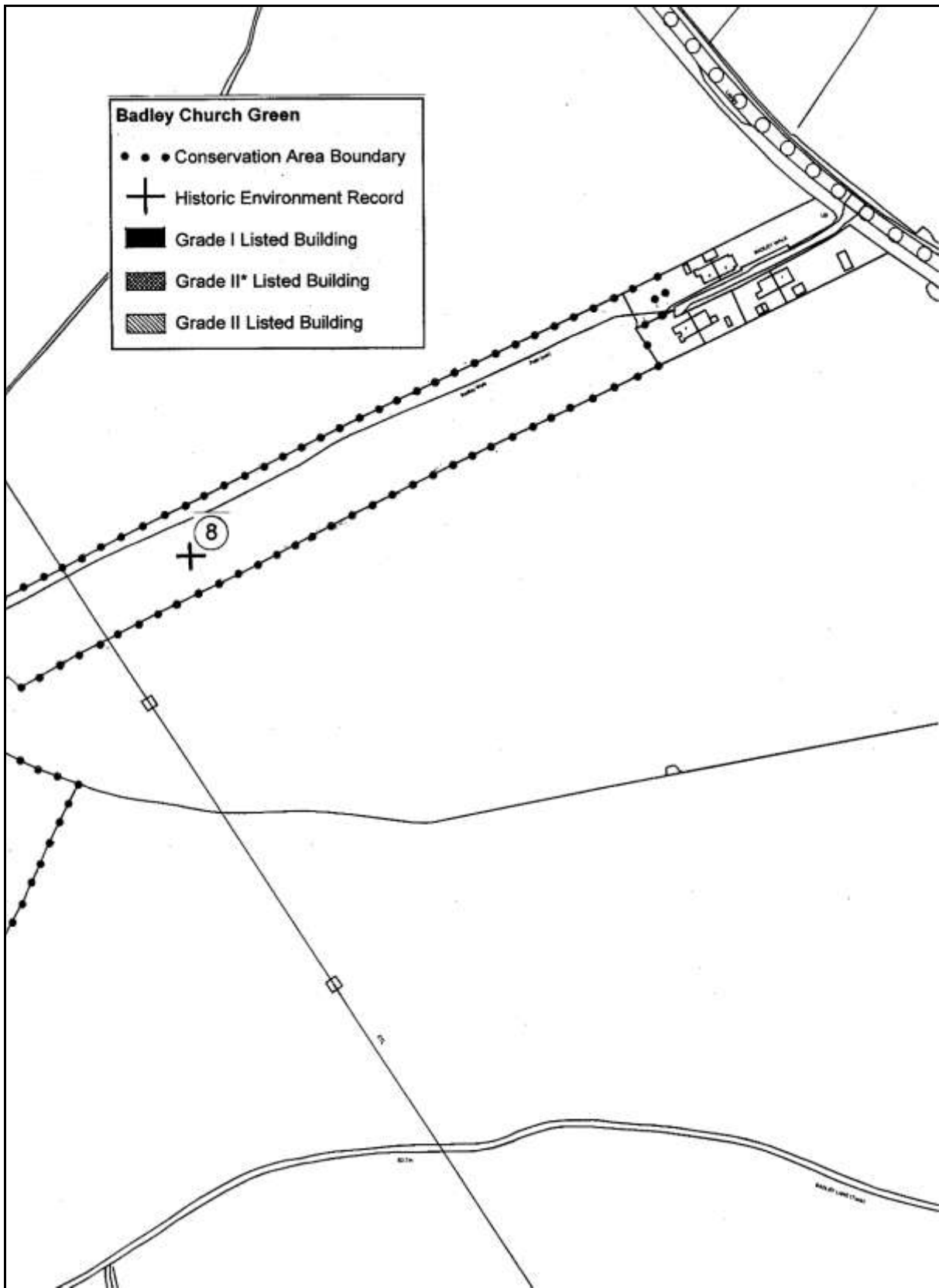
The King and the Earl (have) the jurisdiction.

To this manor 26 free men were added after 1066; 1 carucate of land and 45 acres. Richard holds all these men for this manor which Finn held. Finn himself held them on lease from the Sheriff, as the Sheriff himself says. Then and later 5 ploughs, now 2.

Value then 40s; now 47[s].

The King and the Earl (have) full jurisdiction. It has 10 furlongs in length and 5 in width; 10d in tax.

Domesday Extract



QUALITY OF BUILDINGS

Badley's buildings are mainly agricultural in nature, a typical small settlement cluster with a church and hall with associated barn, bakehouse and dovecote.

The medieval Church of St Mary is listed grade I and dates mainly from the 15th Century. Built of flint rubble, now rendered in places, it has limestone dressings and a plaintile roof. It has a brick stage to the top of the tower and the south porch is interestingly timber-framed, originally 14th Century but largely rebuilt in the 20th Century. It suffered badly in the hands of William Dowsing and his 'puritanical vandals' in the 17th Century, when 34 'superstitious pictures' were destroyed. Fortunately the 19th Century restoration did not much affect the exterior and to this day it retains its box pews and pulpit inside.

The parish also boasts three grade II* buildings in the form of Badley Hall and its adjoining dovecote and chantry barn. All three of these are timber-framed, the first two rendered with plaintile roofs, the last black weather-boarded with assorted corrugated iron and asbestos now replacing thatch.

The Hall was originally much larger, built to a traditional quadrangular plan, until 1759 when the northernmost two thirds were demolished following storm damage.

Other listed buildings, grade II, include the bakehouse adjoining the Hall and a number of other 16th Century farm buildings elsewhere in the parish. 17th Century Badley Mill House adjoining the old mill by the river is also grade II listed and later additions to it may contain timbers re-used from the old Hall following its partial demolition in 1759.



Gatepost to Hall



Badley Hall



Dovecote



Carved Bresummer



Chantry Barn



Asbestos Roofing

TRADITIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS

Although limited in number, the settlement's buildings are fairly demonstrative of Suffolk's mixed palette of vernacular materials.

The older domestic buildings around the parish are generally of timber-framed construction with applied lime render finish, occasionally with exposed timbers. The dovecote is similarly constructed with a plaintile roof, but the exposed timbers here are due to failed render. The Hall is also timber-framed and plaintiled, but of higher status with a decoratively carved bressumer along the east front above some brickwork with painted on brick patterning.

In contrast the Church is of flint and septaria with limestone dressings and brick to the top of the tower. The barn has a high flint built plinth with red brick dressings topped by black feather-edged weather-boarding on a timber-framed construction. Unfortunately the barn's thatched roof has been lost and replaced with corrugated iron and asbestos.

The only apparently missing material is Suffolk White brick, presumably scarce because not much was built here in the early 19th Century when this brick became the fashionable material.



Bakehouse



Flint, Brick and Plaintile

HIERARCHY OF SPACES

The group of buildings comprising Church, Hall and associated farm buildings defines a space by itself.

Within the area there are different spaces which vary greatly from the intimacy of small enclosed yards in the farm group, through the domesticity of spaces between the Hall and bakehouse, to the green adjoining the Church, the nearest Badley has to an open space.

Badley Green is a second small triangular open space, surviving about a quarter mile south-west of the larger Church Green.

The most impressive space, however, is perhaps the former avenue, Badley Walk, now enclosed by reduced and sometimes scrubby trees, but nonetheless still a reminder of the procession required to approach the Hall which faced down this axis in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

The full extent of the original Hall would have filled the width of this avenue, which has interestingly been set to pass by just clear of the north side of the Church.

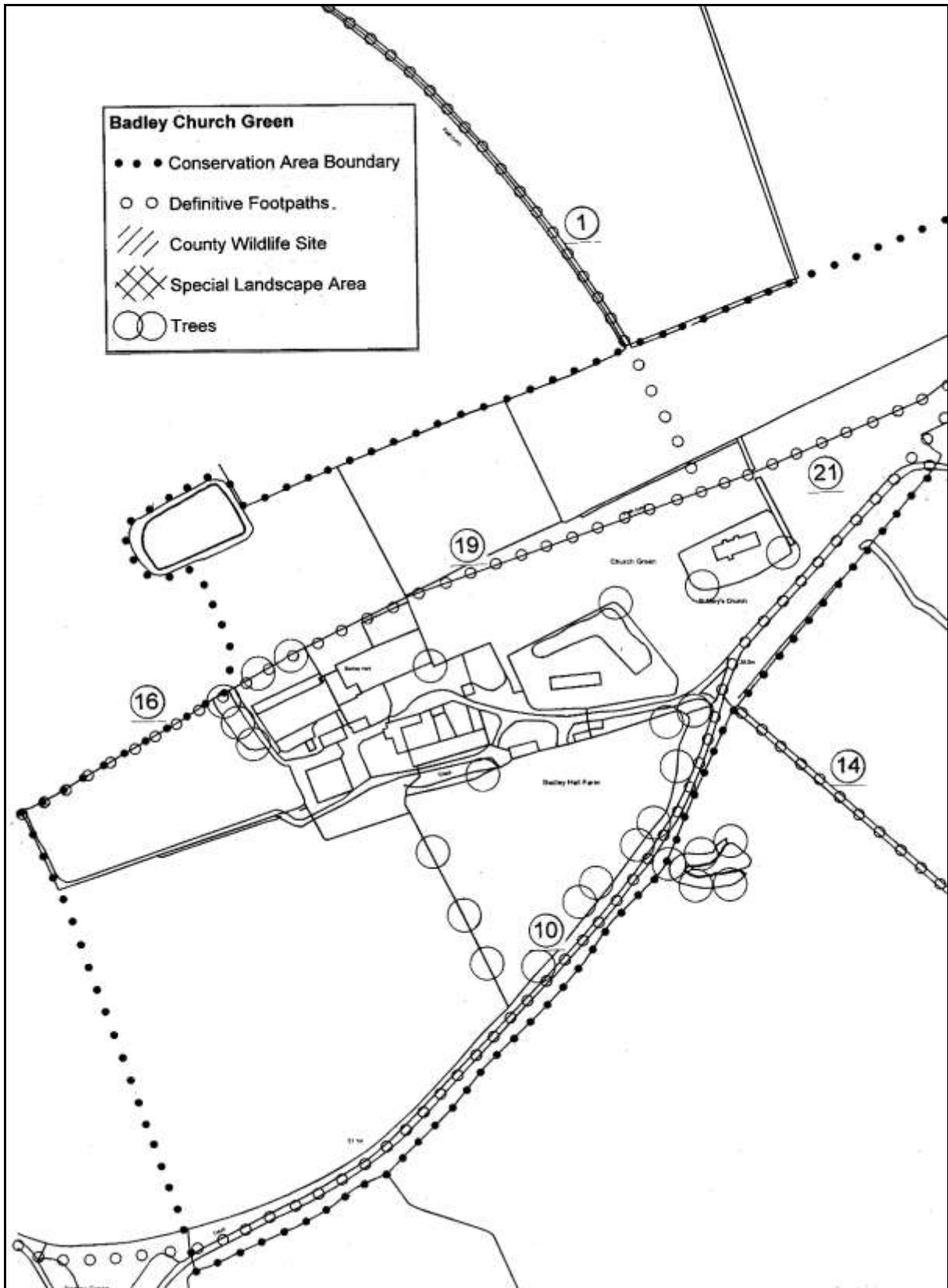
Badley Lane, the current approach to the settlement from Badley Hill off Stowmarket Road, a circuitous and very uneven track, is but a poor relation of what once was.



Hall and Bakehouse



Church Green



TREES AND PLANTING

The avenue, now known as Badley Walk, was once a long open greensward which rises in its central section to pass between two groups of trees known as Keyfield Groves.

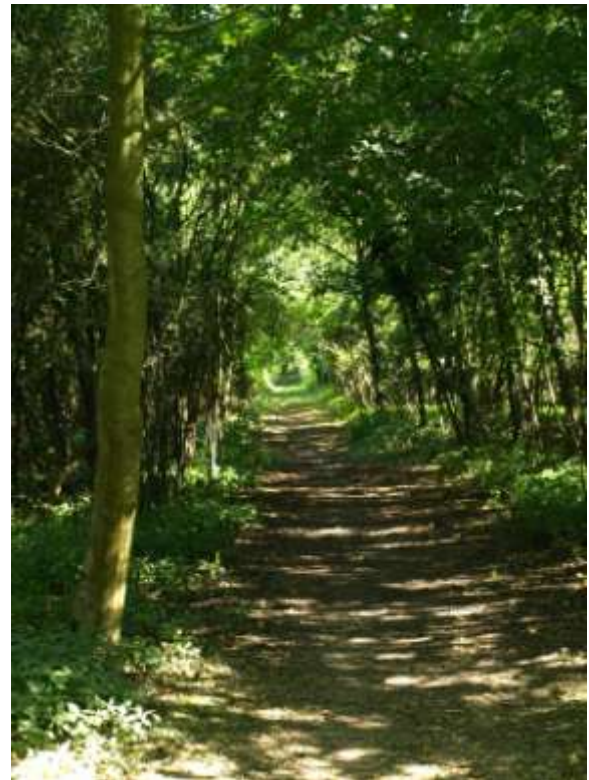
These two areas are now designated as County Wildlife Sites and sit on the northern edge of the Gipping Valley Special Landscape Area. They are mixed woodland and include remnants of ancient woodland, which may have been augmented or reshaped to form these two formal groups of trees on this highpoint in the landscape, thus framing a view of the front of the former mansion.

Unfortunately none of these areas have been properly managed in recent years and the section of avenue closest to the Stowmarket road has become infilled with thorn and other scrub.

Between Church Green and Badley Green to the south-west there is a green lane, but the trees and hedges there are similarly unmanaged, not enhancing the setting of the listed buildings.

There are some notable trees around Church Green: several large Ash and a pair of large Austrian Pines adjoining the church.

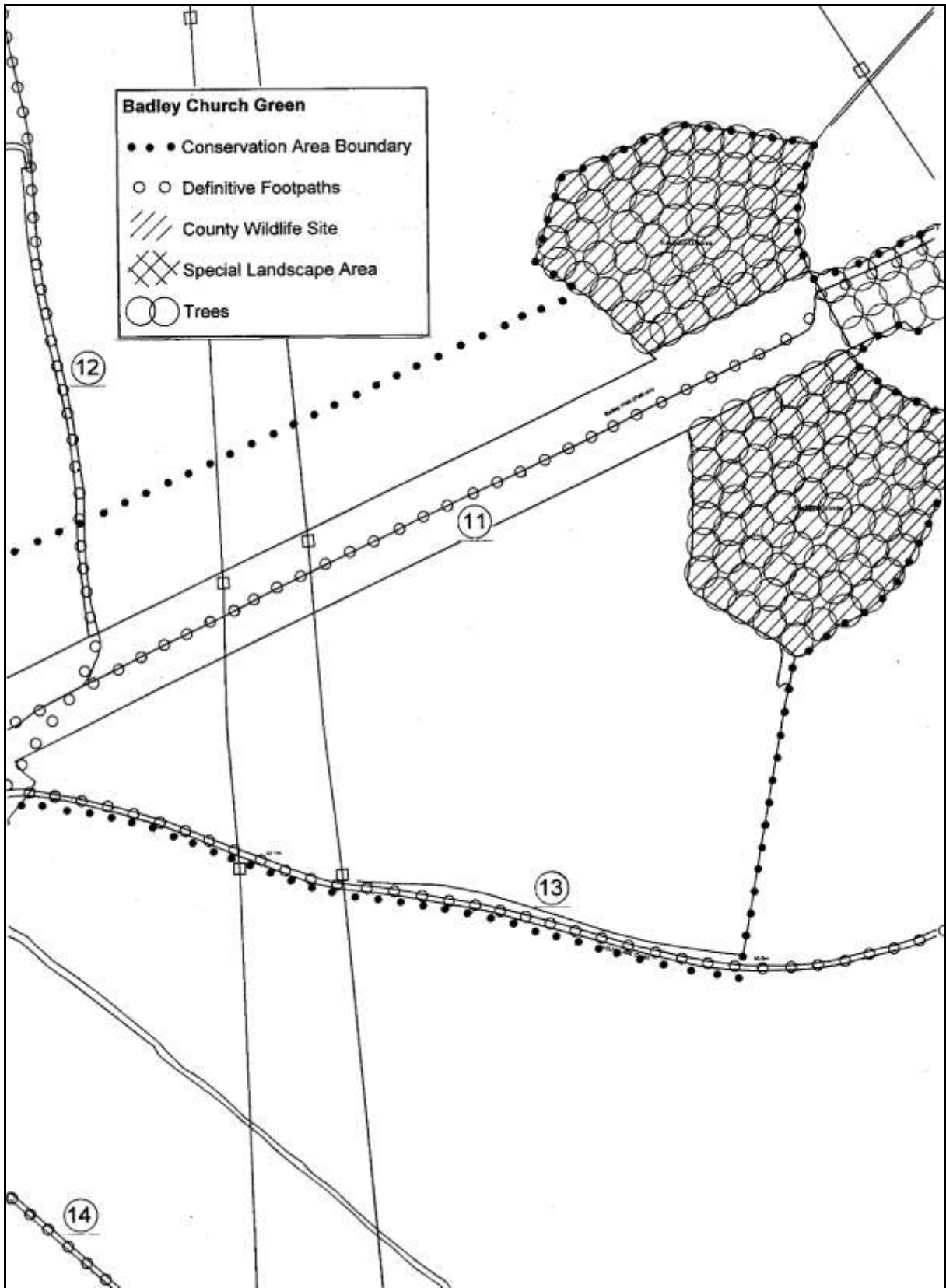
The only trees within the parish felt under sufficient threat were given the protection of TPO 57 in 1982. This covers a large area next to the river at Badley Mill Meadows containing mainly Ash, Alder, White Willow and Hawthorn.



Badley Walk



Churchyard Pine



COUNTRYSIDE SETTING

Badley Church Green is very much a part of the countryside and there are large rolling farmland views out of the area in most directions. Conversely views into the area are curiously well screened: its 'secret' nature not being visible from any main road.

The settlement seems to have been sited with this in mind, making the most of the undulating countryside and using prominent areas of woodland to screen views, in particular towards the south-west with Needham Market's still growing urbanization.

Unfortunately one feature, which continually contradicts the village's apparent isolation, but does provide a useful reference point for walkers, is the group of overhead power lines which converge to a point north of Church Green. Three of these actually cross the avenue, east of the Church.

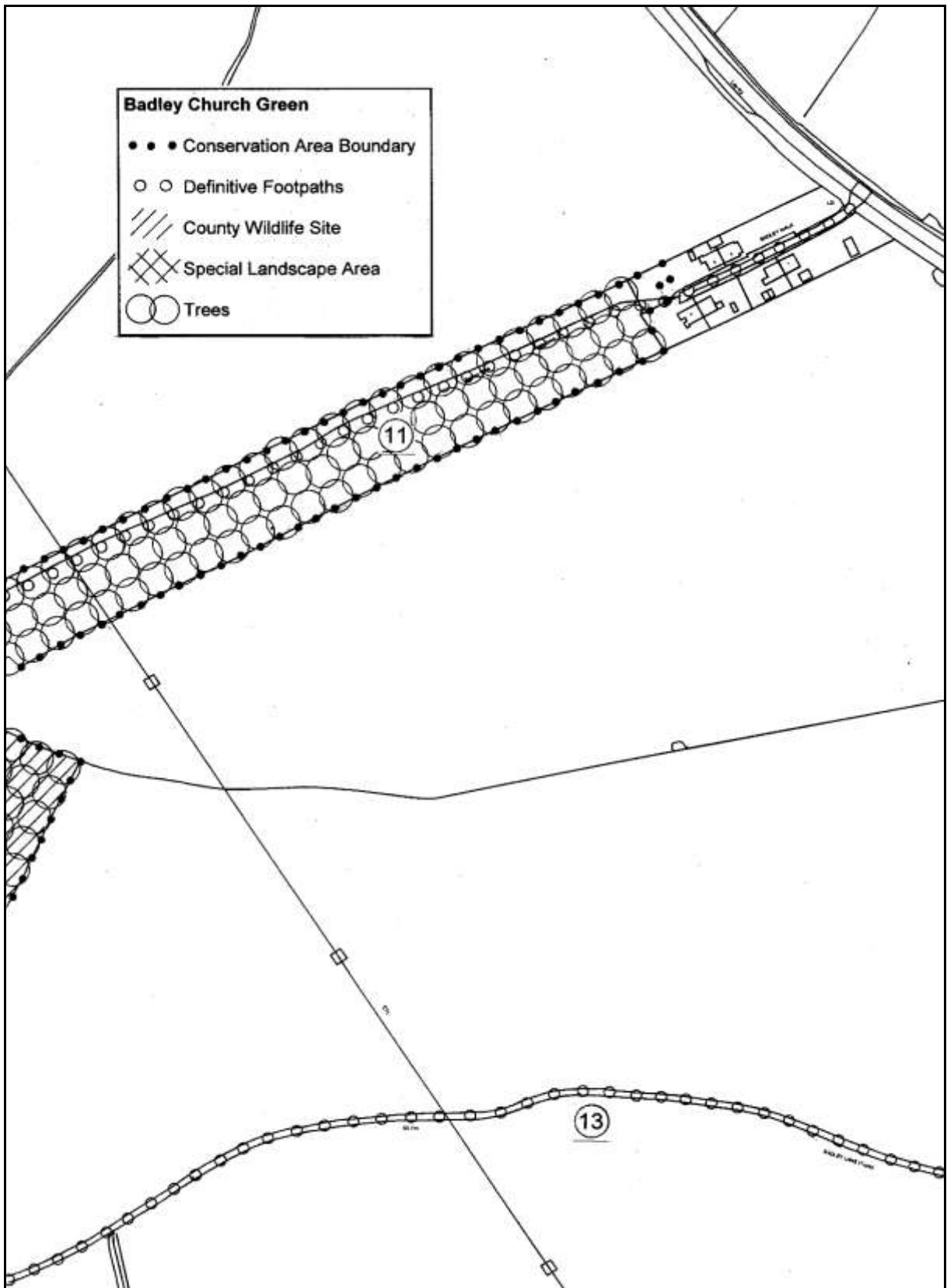
With no proper roads in the area, the seven paths that radiate from Church Green do present some idea of the settlement's former importance. Definitive footpaths nos. 1, 12, 14 and 16 remain essentially field paths, whilst footpath 10 follows the green lane to Badley Green, 11 follows the avenue of Badley Walk and 13 Badley Lane, the uneven track that currently serves as vehicular access. Had further growth taken place many of these paths would have evolved into roads.



Start of Footpath 10



'Grand' Entrance



PREVAILING AND FORMER USAGE

The major land uses in the vicinity are agriculturally based and seem to have always been so. The Hall had its own bakehouse, dovecote, fishpond and probably a brewhouse, stables and workshops in addition to the granaries, barns and animal quarters one would expect. It was thus a good example of a self contained manorial settlement, the survival of a sawpit being further testament to this self sufficiency and use of managed woodlands.

Early 17th Century records show 7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 cooper and 1 spinster there, whilst later that century there were 4 yeomen and 1 cordwainer. Much the same picture is given by directory entries in 1844 showing the presence of 5 farmers and a corn miller.

Rather like Lavenham, it is decline that has made Badley what it is. The lack of growth has meant that the Hall was not worth rebuilding after suffering its 18th Century damage and nothing newer has come along threatening the continued existence of the other now historic buildings.

Today an economic use is difficult to find; modern agriculture with its large machinery, has outgrown the historic buildings, whilst conversion of the Hall to other uses is somewhat limited by the need to preserve historic fabric.



Making Hay



Dovecote



Old Farm Building



Corrugated Roofing



Sawpit Barn



Buttressed Walls

LOSSES AND POSSIBLE GAINS

Now that it has been repaired, Badley Hall itself has been taken off the Suffolk County Council register of Buildings at Risk. However its barn, bakehouse and dovecote remain on the register in view of their continuing poor condition. Recent frame and render repairs to the dovecote are a step in the right direction, but the others still remain in need of works. The corrugated iron and asbestos roof to the barn is intrusive, but at least keeps the weather out.

St Mary's Church is now redundant and in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust, a charitable organisation dedicated to the upkeep of such fine medieval buildings now without a use.

Whilst the gentle decay of these listed buildings is visually pleasing, it should not be allowed to progress to the point where their existence is threatened.

Less visually pleasing are some of the modern additions around the former farmyard and indeed the three lines of pylons that march across the landscape without respect to the linear axis focusing on the Hall.

The whole area could be improved by the implementation of an ongoing management plan for the trees to emphasise this axis. The access road along Badley Lane could also be repaired and improved in a suitable low key way to maintain a rural feel.



Modern Barn



Pylons over Badley Walk

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