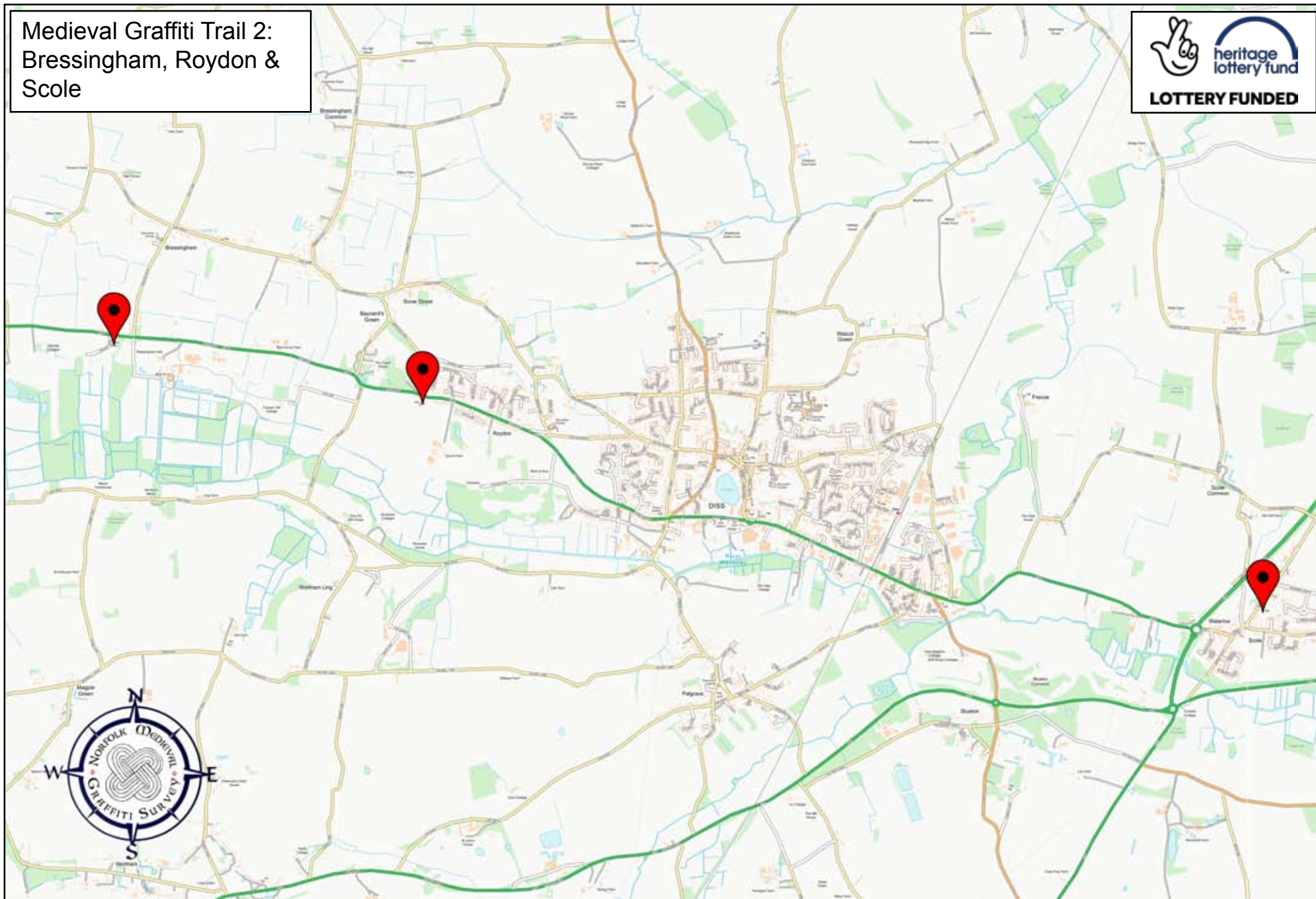


Medieval Graffiti Trail 2:
Bressingham, Roydon &
Scole





oday graffiti is mainly thought of as being anti-social vandalism, and certainly not something we would want to encourage on our ancient building. However, that really is a very modern attitude. Prior to about 1850 carving inscriptions into old buildings was seen as totally acceptable - by both visitors and locals alike.

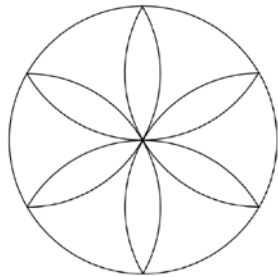
Although a great many of these inscriptions are very like modern graffiti, being collections of names and dates, the further you back in history the more different they become. Many of the medieval and Tudor inscriptions found in these churches were created as acts of devotion. Quite literally prayers made solid in stone.

This ancient graffiti most usually takes the form of images, and early text is actually relatively rare. However, the inscriptions are a unique record of peoples beliefs - their hopes and fears - and represent a revealing insight into the spiritual lives of those people who long ago stood where you are standing today.



BRESSINGHAM

Bressingham church is simply full of treasures. The 16th century carved bench ends are like no others anywhere in England. The graffiti inscriptions are to be found all over the church, on the stone and on the woodwork, and include consecration crosses, ritual protection marks and a fine selection of text inscriptions dating from the early 16th century until the present day. Look closely at the seats of the pews and you may come across a few surprises.



ROYDON

The round towered church of St Remigus (one of only two churches sharing the dedication in Norfolk) has been heavily restored. However, many graffiti inscriptions and masons marks, some of which date back to the late Middle Ages, are to be found mainly located in the porch.

Inside the church itself look for the remains of compass drawn designs on the font, and graffiti on the window glass left by 19th century craftsmen.



SCOLE

Although Scole church has been heavily restored it does contain a good number of medieval survivals, including the remains of wall paintings, and masses of early graffiti on the pillars. As well as a fine collection of post medieval names and dates, you will also found a number of high quality compass drawn designs, and two very strange faces carved into the pillar near the doorway - suggested to represent medieval bishops in their mitres.



Equipment - to see all these early inscriptions you will need to take along a torch. All these churches are normally open to the public daily.

To learn more about medieval graffiti please visit our website - www.medieval-graffiti.co.uk - or follow us on twitter - @medievalg