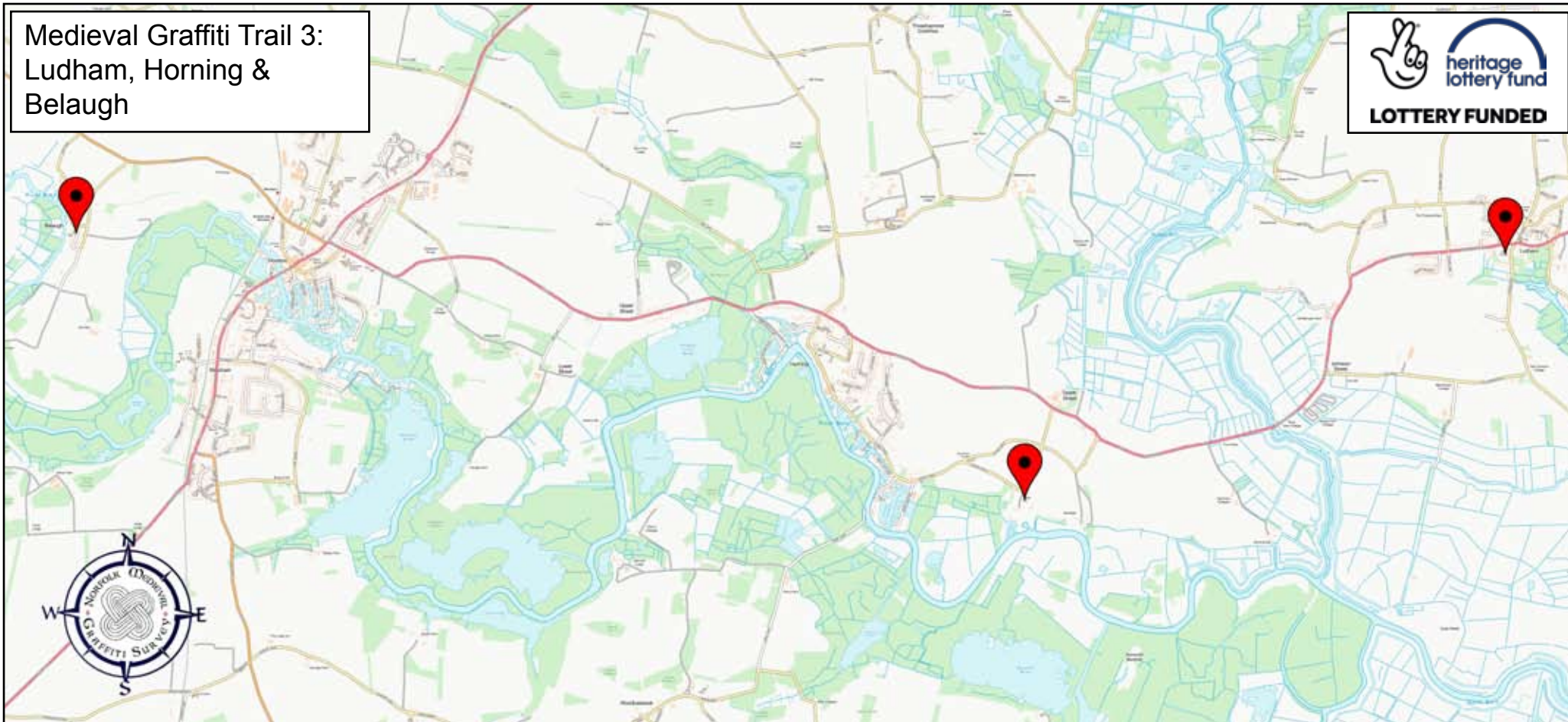
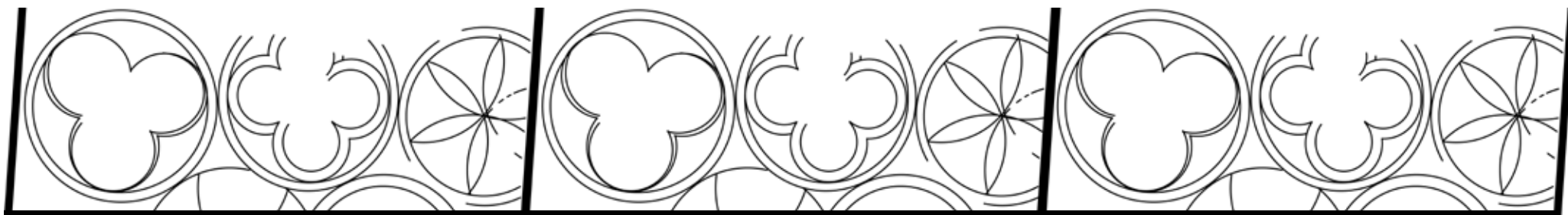


Medieval Graffiti Trail 3:
Ludham, Horning &
Belauham



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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.

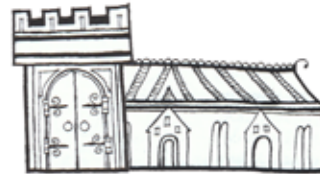
Although a great many of these inscriptions are very like modern graffiti, being collections of names and dates, the further you back in history the more different they become. Many of the medieval and Tudor inscriptions found in these churches were created as acts of devotion. Quite literally prayers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



LUDHAM

An impressive church set in the middle of the Broadland village, and containing one of the finest medieval wall paintings in Norfolk. The early graffiti inscriptions are to be found all over the church, with elaborate compass drawn designs on the tower arch, medieval text high up on the north arcade, and a number of beautifully inscribed crosses around the main door. If you look very closely you may also spot a nice example of medieval heraldic graffiti.



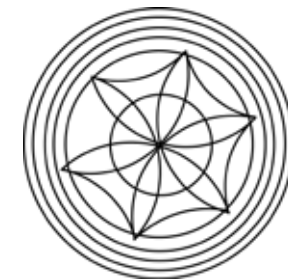
HORNING

There really isn't a great deal of early graffiti at St Benedicts church in Horning. However, what is there is rather special. As well as containing a fine selection of compass drawn motifs the church boasts of the finest examples of medieval musical graffiti anywhere in the region. Graffiti of musical notation is exceptionally rare, and there are many theories as to why it was made in this remote Broadland church.



BELAUGH

The Poet Laureate John Betjeman described Belaugh as one of his favourite Norfolk churches, and it's hard not to agree. It's a distinctive church, that contains a unique and distinctive collection of early graffiti. Many of the designs to be seen on the pillars are probably architectural in nature, being made by medieval craftsmen working in the church - but exactly what they relate to remains a mystery...



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