



RAMBLE NUMBER 3

Chappel Circular: 4-5 miles

Alighting at Chappel station you may wish to spend a little while exploring the East Anglian Railway Museum which has done much to turn Chappel station back into a semblance of its former glories in the inter-war years.

Pass down the station approach and turn left towards the village. At the main road, pass across over the river Colne and past the Swan Inn. At the village green turn right down a track past St Barnabas church, pausing to admire the Georgian plaster decoration on the adjacent mansion. The track ends in a farmyard. Pass through over a stile by the barn. An impressive water mill stands to your right on the River Colne.

Turn left along the meadow to a gate, pass through it, and onto another small meadow. Follow a well trodden path to a stile at the far end. Cross into a long meadow and, keeping the hedge to your right, go through a gate at the far end and pass through an area of scrub into a meadow containing a lake.

Follow the path straight on along the hedgerow to the edge of a wood and then follow the path around the boundary fence. The lake will be on your right and a boggy area to your left (note: this section of the footpath can be very boggy, especially as you exit into the field). At the corner of the wood where footpaths meet, follow the well marked path slightly to your right, and head towards a modern farm house in the far distance to your right, set amongst trees.

100 yards to the left of the farm house, where a ranch style fence ends at a tall hedge, cross over into a brick lane and turn right. Bear left past the farm house onto a track skirting the gardens. Follow this green lane until you reach a kissing gate. Cross the small meadow beyond this keeping the hedge to your left and join a grassy track exiting from the other side.

Follow this track alongside the Colne through the woodland until you reach the Mill yard. Pass straight through the yard but when the track turns right to cross the river, carry straight on. Shortly, the path takes you into a field, which may contain cattle. Follow the foot path through the field to the gate. Turn left along the field edge towards the wood (Chalkney Wood). Where the field meets the wood, enter the wood over a stile and turn right immediately onto a well beaten track following the inside boundary of the wood.

Where the path is intersected by a forest road, cross to the far side by a Forestry Commission gate. At the gate take the footpath signed to your right and way-marked with yellow arrows. Follow this path keeping straight on to the wood's edge, exiting via a stile. Turn left and follow the hedge surrounding the fruit field to a lane. Turn left into the lane and almost immediately right into a field by a footpath sign. Go through the gate, turn left and follow the field boundary round. Then strike straight across the fruit field. At the far edge of the fruit field turn left and keep to the fruit field edge until reaching the hedge to your right. Turn right through this hedge onto a track alongside another fruit field.

Keep the ditch to your right, and at the corner of the fruit field cross into another field and down a well-trodden path keeping the hedge to your right. At the field corner, turn right onto a track, then left down this track towards a group of houses.



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Where the track meets the lane, turn left down the lane. Bear right downhill at a triangular junction and follow this lane until reaching an isolated house to your right (Conservatory Cottage). Immediately before reaching the house, turn left downhill onto a well trodden path through the middle of a field. At the hedge bordering the bottom of this field, bear right and follow the hedge to the field corner. Turn left through a gate into a paddock. Turn right and follow the hedge towards the viaduct.

Cross a stile into the road, and turn left into the village. Follow the road through the village, past the Swan Inn and across the main road. Retrace your steps uphill to the station.