



# RAMBLE NUMBER 4

## Marks Tey Station to Chappel Station: 5-6 miles

This Walk has an inauspicious start, but persevere! It improves considerably after Motts Lane. It follows a succession of green lanes and field paths into the Colne Valley with panoramic views over Chappel Viaduct, and finally diving under the viaduct itself for a close up view of the longest such structure in East Anglia.

Turn right out of the main exit to Marks Tey station (over the footbridge if arriving at platform 2 or 3), and walk to the roundabout. Turn right onto the A120 and continue along this, past the Indian restaurant and petrol station, until

Reaching the Red Lion public house. Turn right into Motts Lane. Follow Motts Lane to the bridleway at the end, and the converted barn at

Motts Barn, and turn right around the perimeter on a gravelled track. Follow this as it turns into a green track by Motts Farm and turn sharp left, following it across the fields.

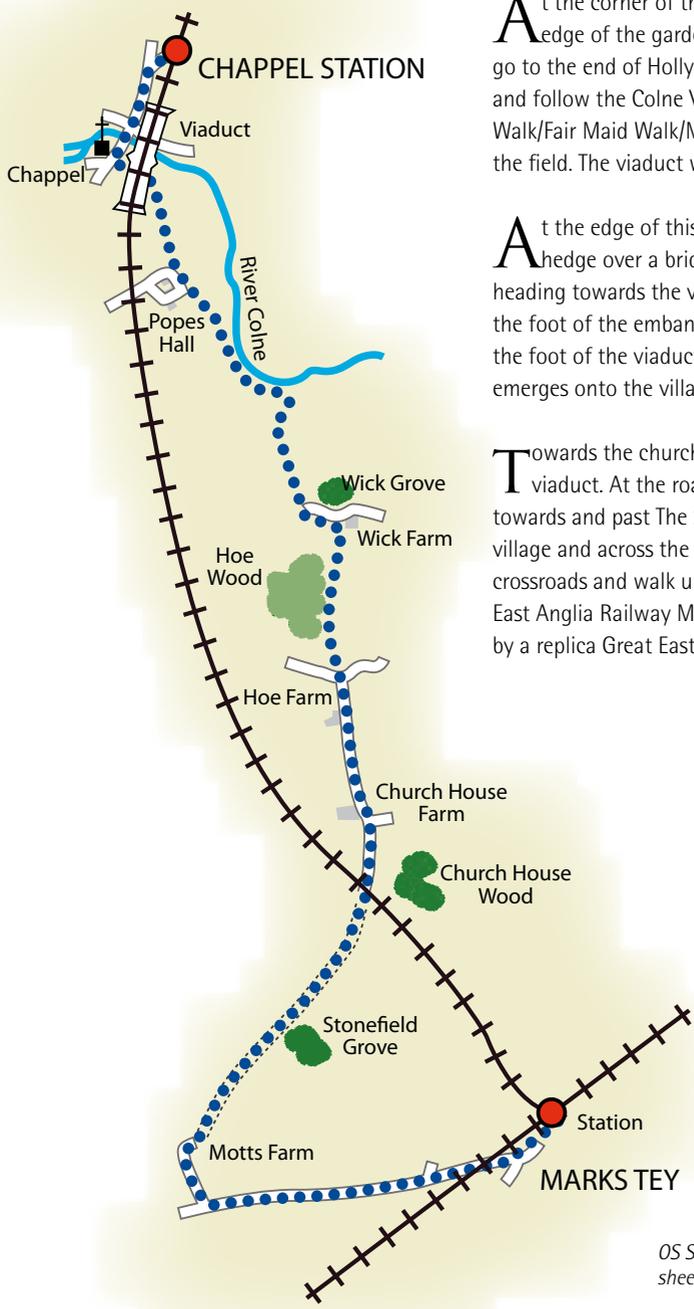
Head towards Stonefield Grove, an ancient reminder of the old wildwood that once stretched unbroken from London to the Fens. Carry straight on towards the wood ahead of you (Church House Wood), ignoring footpath signs to right and left. Follow the track along the side of the wood. Ahead lies a crossing cottage on the Sudbury-Marks Tey branch line.

Head uphill to this cottage and the level crossing by it, and cross the railway onto a gravel track. Follow this to the road and go up the road past Church House Farm.

At a T junction just past Hoe Farm Barn, cross straight over onto a signposted field path. Head towards Hoe Wood ahead of you. At the entrance to the wood turn to follow its right hand edge. [However, you may instead enter this Woodland Trust wood to explore it, or to follow its right hand side to pick up the path again further on.]

Where the field ends, pass through a gap in the hedge and carry straight on. Good brief views of Chappel viaduct are obtained at this point. Follow the track downhill towards Wick Grove, keeping the hedge to your right. At farm buildings (Wick Grove Farm), turn sharp left along the edge of the wood on another grassy track. At the edge of the wood pass on through the dip in the fields along the grassy track coming out onto the crest of a ridge offering views across the Colne Valley. Follow this track to the right keeping the hedge to your left as it skirts the fields and heads downhill towards the river Colne. At the river turn left over the wooden footbridge, through the hedge and a gate. Follow the river through a meadow towards a brick bridge (but don't cross it!).

Go through the gate to the left of the pillbox and walk down the edge of the meadow towards Pope's Hall. You are now following the Colne Valley Path. Go through another gate into a field and, keeping the hedge to your right, walk on towards the viaduct (note: field(s) may well be ploughed and a bit muddy). Where the field boundary turns right towards the river, press straight ahead across the field towards the right of Pope's Hall and Holly Cottage.



At the corner of the field turn left around the edge of the gardens into a narrow lane and go to the end of Holly Cottage property. Turn right and follow the Colne Valley Path/Margery Allingham Walk/Fair Maid Walk/Miller's Drift Walk signs across the field. The viaduct will be slightly to your right.

At the edge of this field turn sharp left into the hedge over a bridge, then turn right once more heading towards the viaduct, down a leafy path at the foot of the embankment. This brings you out at the foot of the viaduct. Under the viaduct the path emerges onto the village green at Chappel. Head

Towards the church spire by going left under the viaduct. At the road turn right into the village, towards and past The Swan pub. Go through the village and across the Colne, pass straight over the crossroads and walk uphill to Chappel station and the East Anglia Railway Museum. The entrance is marked by a replica Great Eastern Railway signal.

*OS Sheet 168 is correct, but 1:25,000 sheets are Explorer 184 and 195*