



RAMBLE NUMBER 6

Chappel Station to Marks Tey
Station: 6 miles

This walk passes through the water meadows of the River Colne before climbing through ancient woodland and fruit farms to the wide expanse of the Essex uplands.

Alighting at Chappel station you may wish to spend a little time looking around the East Anglian Railway Museum which is progressively restoring the station and surroundings to their former glory.

Pass down the station approach and turn left towards the village. At the main road, cross over and pass 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

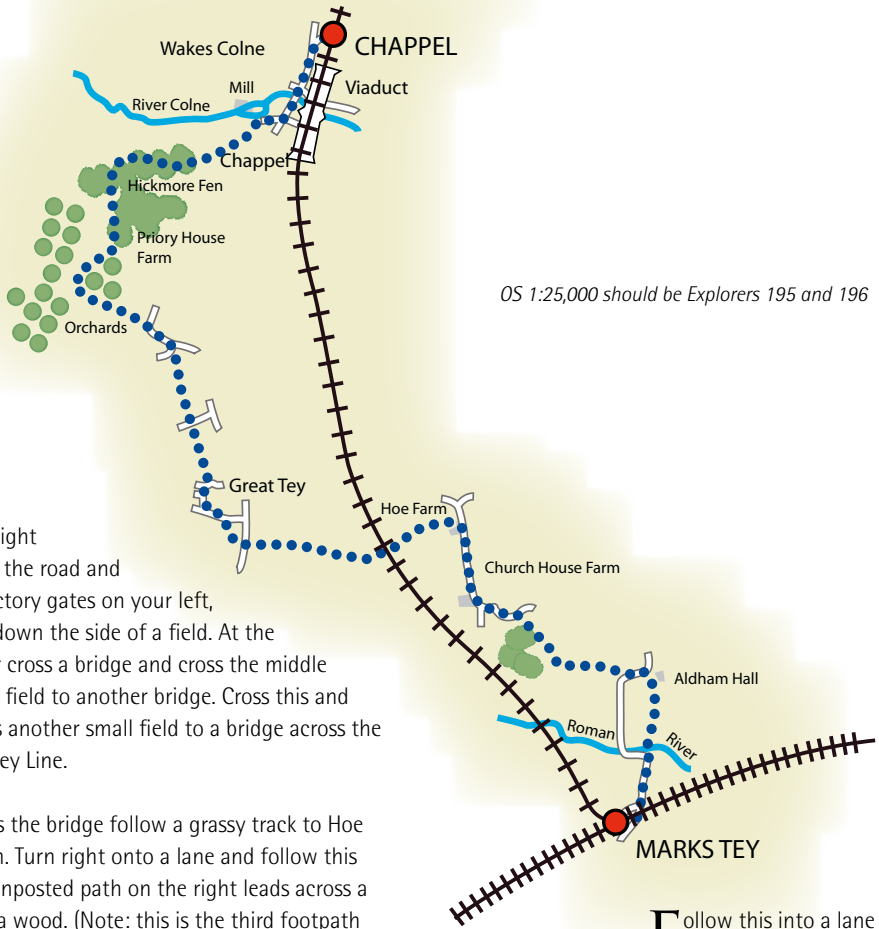
around the boundary fence. The lake will be on your right and a boggy area to your left (note: this section of the footpath can be very boggy, especially as you exit into the field). At the corner of the wood where footpaths meet, go left through a gate into the trees and climb uphill along a sunken path. Follow the longish path through the wood until the end. Where this joins a grassy track (with stables on your left), turn right through the hedge line and then left up the hill alongside the fruit fields and follow a winding track along the hillside, offering fine views over the valley and Chalkney Woods.

At the top of the hill bear right, keeping the tall hedge to your left (actually you can go either side of the hedge).

Where another track intersects turn left into another field of fruit bushes, keeping the ditch to your right. Pass through a windbreak of trees and continue down the side of the field. At the far corner of this field, bear right onto a grassy track leading ahead to a lane.

Turn right and follow the lane to a footpath signpost on your right. Enter the field and cross diagonally to the far corner. Pass through the hedge and continue on a well marked path towards the tower of Great Tey church. Cross a lane onto a well trodden path through the middle of a field leading to a gate onto the recreation ground. Cross this and pass between the houses ahead into the village of Great Tey.

Turn right and follow the road through the estate turning left at the main road. Follow this into the village until reaching the Chequers Inn. Turn right by the Inn and cross the churchyard to the road, pausing to admire yet another church dedicated to St Barnabas, this time with a unique central tower.



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Turn right onto the road and at the Rectory gates on your left, turn left down the side of a field. At the far corner cross a bridge and cross the middle of a small field to another bridge. Cross this and cut across another small field to a bridge across the Stour Valley Line.

Across the bridge follow a grassy track to Hoe Farm. Turn right onto a lane and follow this until a signposted path on the right leads across a stile into a wood. (Note: this is the third footpath sign on the right, past Church House Farm and the bend after it). Where the track ends at the edge of a field, pass straight on following the boundary of the wood, and then straight across to the further edge via some solitary trees.

At the hedge turn right and in about 50 yards turn left through a gap in the hedge and follow a path straight on alongside a ditch onto a grassy track.

Follow this into a lane and turn left. Shortly after this turn right by Aldham Hall (Hodgkyns) along a signposted field path. Turn the corner at the bottom of the field and cross left through the hedge on to a bridge into a small meadow. Cross the bridge spanning the Roman River and through another small meadow onto the road.

Follow this uphill past the houses to Marks Tey station. (The Stour Valley line may be accessed by a side road on your right just before the rail bridge.)