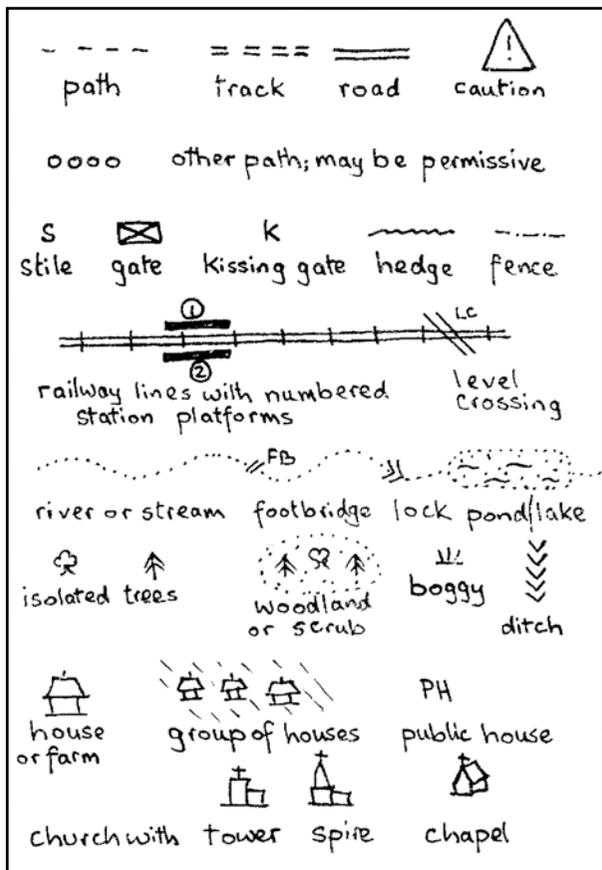


# Key to landscape features



## PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

The information in this publication was, so far as known, correct at the time of publication. The publishers accept no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes in the information given.

## ROUTE FINDING

You will need a basic understanding of maps and the ability to follow them. The walks can be followed in either direction, but if you go in the same way as the arrows, you won't have to turn the map around to fit the landscape. Parts of the Gipping Valley River Path may be flooded in exceptionally wet weather, so you may need to find an alternative route. Make sure you have a good map of the local area.

## TIME

Allow about 2½ hours for the Gipping route; about 3 hours via Badley, but add on time for refreshments, visiting nature reserves and churches.

## MAPS

OS Explorer sheet 211 Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket.

## REFRESHMENTS

Plenty of choice in Needham Market and Stowmarket.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

National Rail Enquiries [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)  
 08457 48 49 50  
 Traveline [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) 0871 200 22 33  
 Suffolk Wildlife Trust [www.suffolkwildlife.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwildlife.co.uk)  
 River Gipping Trust <https://rivergippingtrust.org.uk/gipping-valley-walks>  
 Churches Conservation Trust [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk)  
 020 7213 0660  
 Museum of East Anglian Life [www.eastanglianlife.org.uk](http://www.eastanglianlife.org.uk)  
 01449 612229

## OTHER WALKS IN THIS SERIES

All the stations on the Mid Anglia rail route between Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge and Ely provide useful gateways to the countryside of Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. Visit [www.marpa.org.uk](http://www.marpa.org.uk)

and select Walks from the menu, then click on any of the stations shown on the route diagram to see what walks are available for free download.

**MARPA** works to promote and protect services on the Ipswich to Cambridge/Peterborough rail route. Contact: The Secretary, 51 High Street, Cheveley, Newmarket CB8 9DQ. email: [secretary@marpa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@marpa.org.uk)

**MARPA** is affiliated to the campaigning group **railfuture** [www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk)

**The Ramblers** protect rights of way and defend the beauty of the countryside. Suffolk Area has seven local groups including Ipswich, Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds. Contact [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) 020 7339 8500

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# Marpa

STATION TO STATION WALKS

WALK  
2

## NEEDHAM MARKET to STOWMARKET

4½ miles - 2½ hours

6½ miles - 3 hours



BADLEY CHURCH

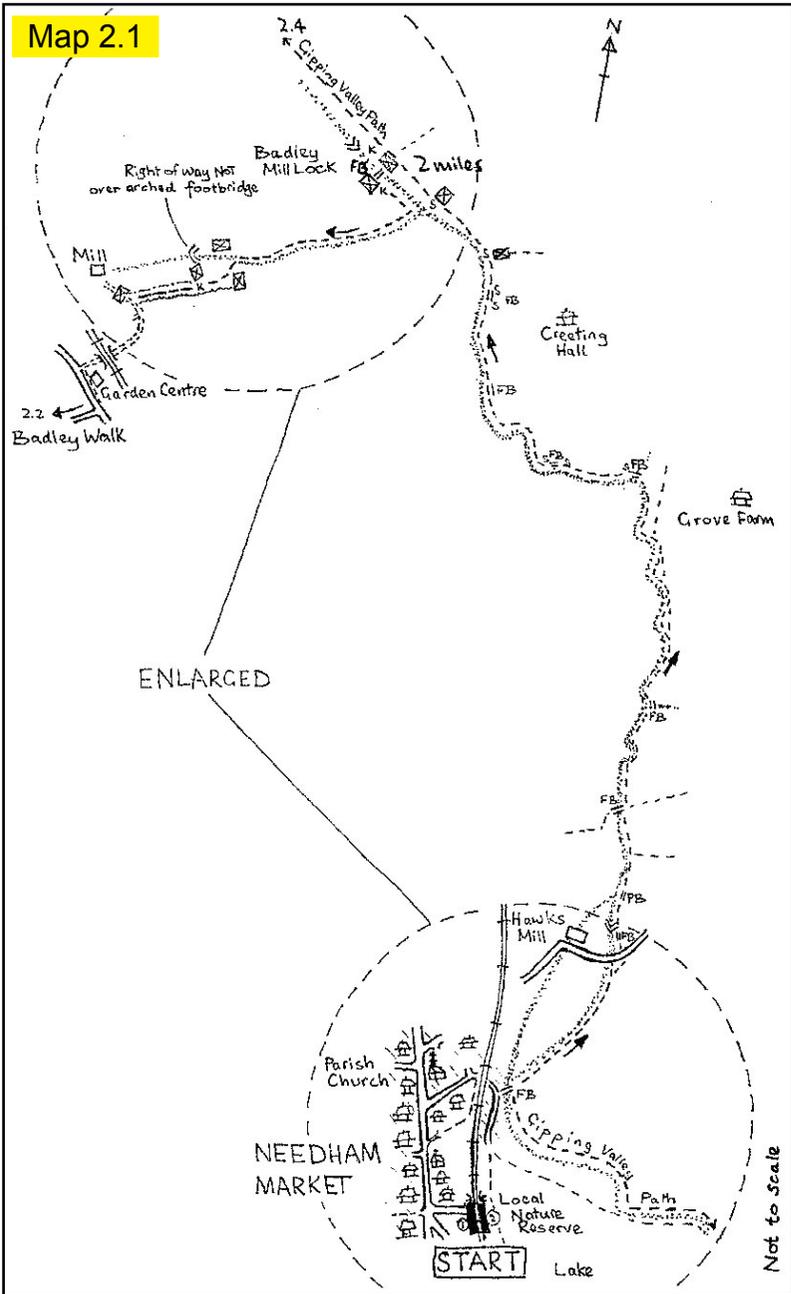
The Gipping Valley River Path provides an easily followed route, much of it along the towpath of the former navigation. Many old mills and the remains of locks often enhance the scene, but north of Badley Mill lock (TM 074568) walkers may prefer to deviate from the industrialised section of the canal to visit Badley church, idyllically located in remote countryside. Elizabeth I may have ridden along Badley Walk when visiting the nearby hall.

Combs Wood, recorded in Domesday, is now a Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve of great interest, noted for oxlips, orchids and wood anemones. Charcoal burners help maintain traditional management. Attractive vernacular buildings line Needham's main street, where the church of St Mary has a spectacular late 15th century timber roof.

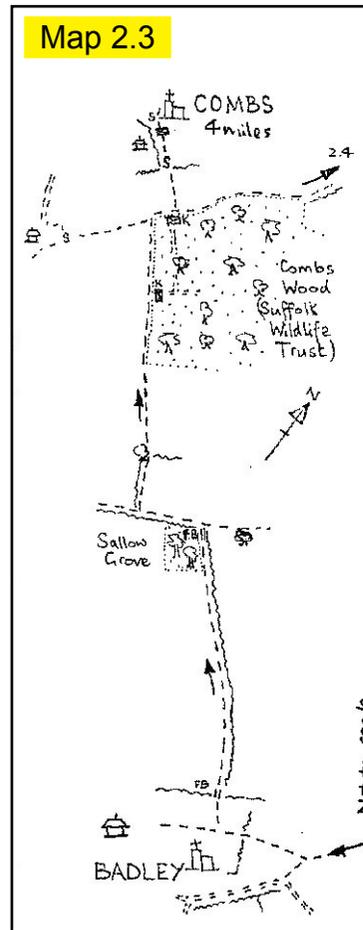
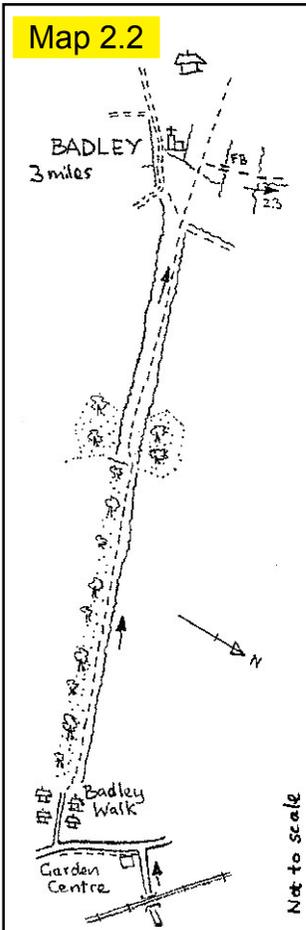
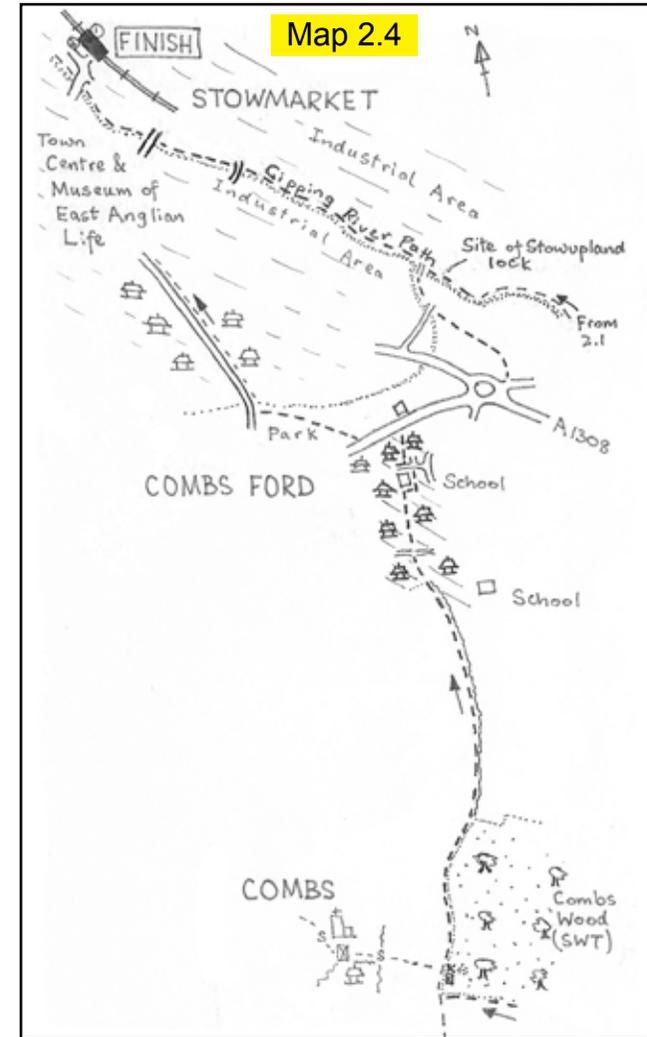
Stowmarket is the home of the Museum of East Anglian Life.

Mid-Anglia Rail Passengers' Association Walks

Selected by Roger Wolfe, The Ramblers volunteer



HAWKSMILL, NEEDHAM MARKET



THE PATH TO COMBS CHURCH

Map 2.1

Map 2.4

Map 2.2

Map 2.3

Mid-Anglia Rail Passengers' Association Walks

**NEEDHAM MARKET to STOWMARKET**

4½ miles - 2½ hours 6½ miles - 3 hours

[www.marpa.org.uk](http://www.marpa.org.uk)