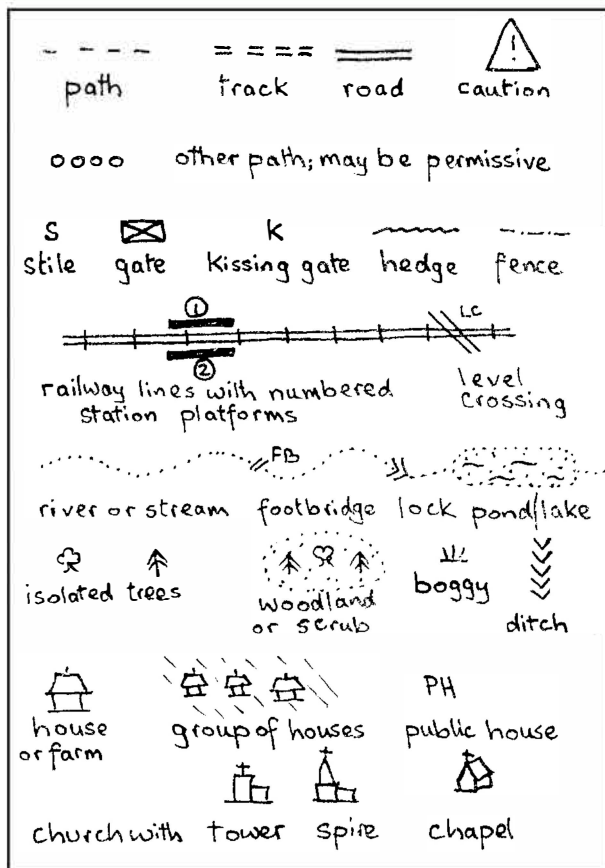


# Key to landscape features



## 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 or 3 hours via Badley but add on time for refreshments stops and visits to reserves and churches.

## MAPS

OS Explorer sheet 211 Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

## REFRESHMENTS

Plenty of choice in Needham Market and Stowmarket

## USEFUL INFORMATION

<https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk>

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

<https://www.travel-galloway.com/Local-Bus>

<https://eastanglianlife.org.uk/>

## WALKS IN THIS SERIES

- 1 Ipswich to Needham Market
- 2 Needham Market to Stowmarket

**The River Gipping Trust** is preserving the historic heritage of the Stowmarket Navigation by restoring the structures that enabled the navigation of the River Gipping from Stowmarket to the docks in Ipswich. It also cares for the flora and fauna of the Gipping Valley. New members are always welcome. See our website for more details -

<https://rivergippingtrust.org.uk>

Tel: 03303 308531

email: [secretary@rivergippingtrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rivergippingtrust.org.uk)

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

This edition published 2018 by the River Gipping Trust with financial assistance from the Needham Market Town Council and Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities



# RIVER GIPPING

TRUST

## NEEDHAM MARKET to STOWMARKET

4½ miles - 2½ hours

6½ miles - 3 hours

WALK

2



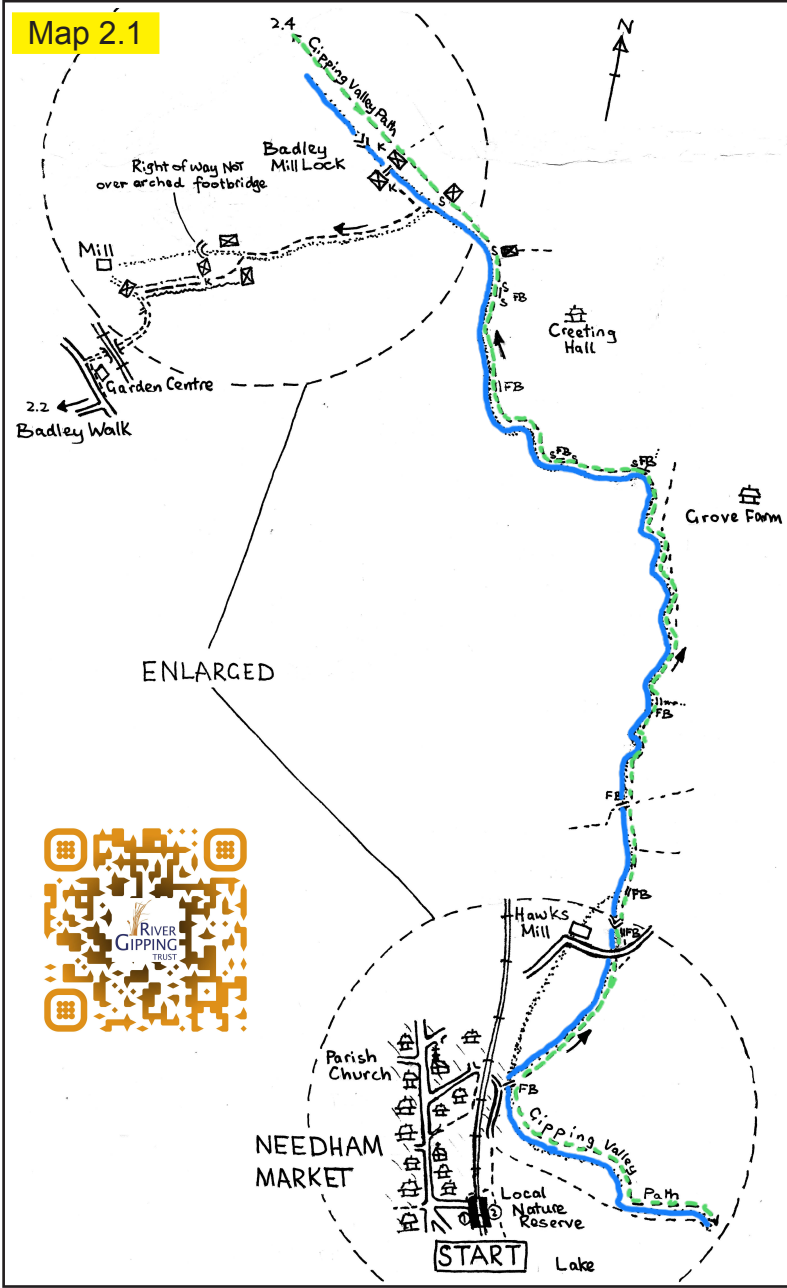
BADLEY MILL

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.

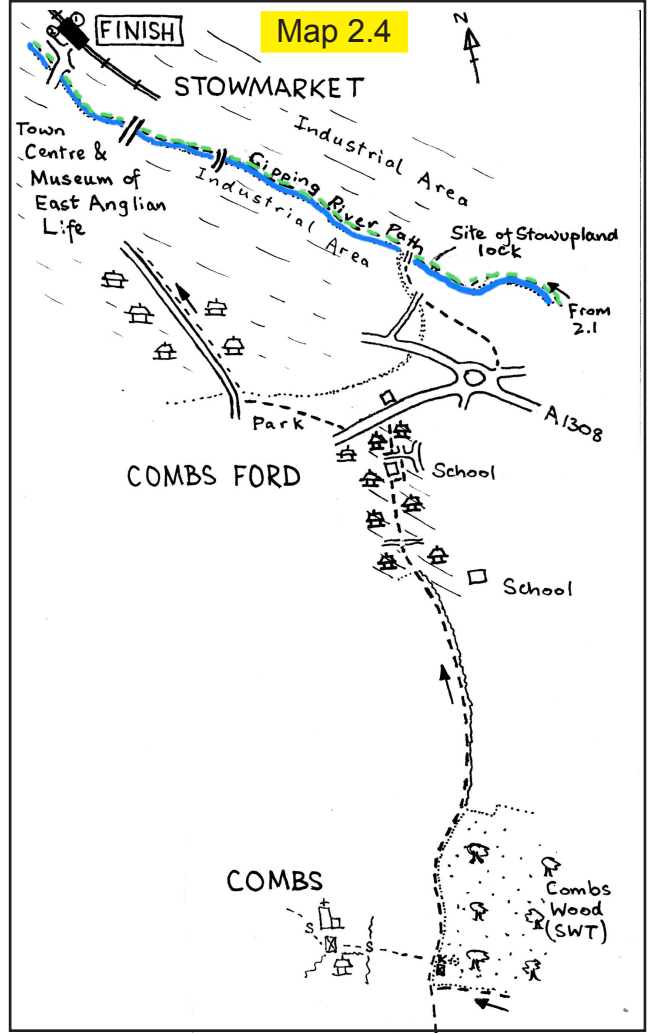
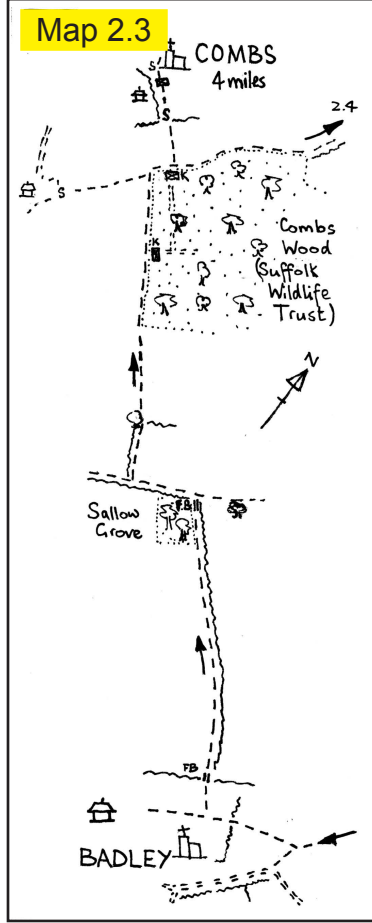
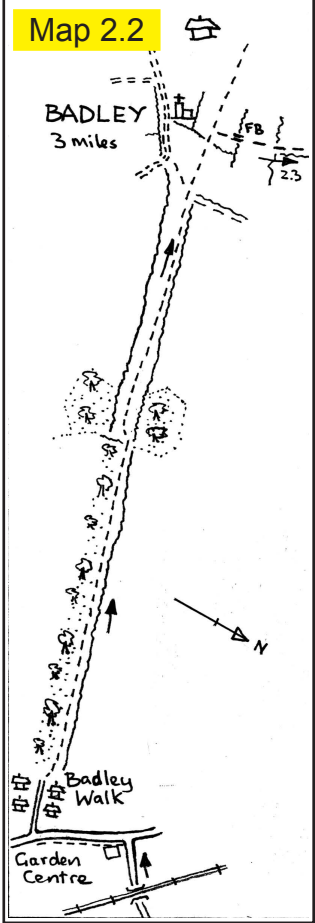
Combs wood, recorded in Domesday, is now a Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve of great interest, noted for oxlips, orchids and wood anemones. Charcoal burners help maintain traditional management. Attractive vernacular buildings line Needham's main street, where the church of St Mary has a spectacular late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

This walk has been designed to link in with public transport (bus and rail) at Needham Market and Stowmarket.

Map 2.1



HAWKSMILL, NEEDHAM MARKET



THE PATH TO COMBS CHURCH

**NEEDHAM MARKET to STOWMARKET**

4½ miles - 2½ hours 6½ miles - 3 hours

<https://rivergippingtrust.org.uk>