

CHARCOAL & CHURCHES

A CIRCULAR WALK
OF 6¹/₂ MILES STARTING
FROM STOWMARKET
RAILWAY STATION



STOWMARKET RAILWAY STATION



Stowmarket Railway Station is one of the finest Victorian country stations in England. Frederick Barnes designed this ornate red brick and stone building in 1849.

STOWMARKET TOWN CENTRE

Stowmarket is a lively market town in the heart of Suffolk. The town centre is a few minutes stroll from the start of the walk. All types of refreshment can be bought here.

GIPPING VALLEY RIVER PATH

In 1793, 200 men built 16 locks along the River Gipping. These improvements allowed barges to travel 17 miles to Ipswich, and industries in Stowmarket developed rapidly. The Gipping Valley River Path follows the route of the old tow path to Ipswich. The waterside area is still an important industrial location. You will pass by ICI Paints, one of the world's major paint producing plants.

COMBS CHURCH

Separate from the main village, this parish church was restored by the Victorians.

Take a look at the north door, with its medieval ironwork.



COMBS WOOD

Combs Wood is an excellent example of an 'Ancient Woodland'. The earliest record of this wood is in the Domesday Book (1086). In



Oxlips at Combs Wood

spring, take a short cut along a woodland ride to see the wild flowers. Blue smoke drifting through the trees may indicate that charcoal burners are working nearby. This age-old skill now produces charcoal for barbecues.

THE VILLAGE OF COMBS

In the 1700's there were 2 windmills standing on the hill crest at Combs. The tanning of animal skins was another important industry in this village.

PIKE'S MEADOW

The River Rattlesden, a tributary of the Gipping, runs through this meadow. Why not rest for a while under the willows on the river bank.

BADLEY CHURCH AND HALL

Follow the field edge path to the isolated church at Badley.

Peer through the old grill in the rough wood door, to see the sunlight dancing on the silver toned pews.

The timber framed Badley Hall has an atmosphere of past splendour.

Time has passed this hamlet by, leaving it virtually untouched.



WALK INFORMATION

This 6½ mile walk starts and ends at Stowmarket Railway Station. For times of trains to Ipswich and beyond, contact Anglia Railways (01603 764776). For timetable information on buses please call the National Traveline on 0870 6082608 (local call rates). This walk is waymarked with 'Charcoal and Churches' discs. The additional link to Badley Church is two miles long.

THE GIPPING VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

The Gipping Valley Countryside Project is the result of close co-operation between Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council.

The Project also provides;

- Countryside management services at local picnic sites & nature reserves.
- Environmental education advice & assistance.
- Environmental advice & practical assistance to landowners.
- A programme of guided walks, talks and events.

If you would like to try one of the other self guided trails in the Gipping Valley or require further information on the work of the Project, please contact us at;

The Gipping Valley Countryside Project,
Suffolk County Council, Environment & Transport
St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich. IP4 1LZ

Telephone: 01473 583174

Email: gipping.project@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Website: www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/countryside/projects/



Suffolk County Council



This leaflet has been sponsored by ICI PAINTS and printed on paper from sustainable sources.



CHARCOAL & CHURCHES



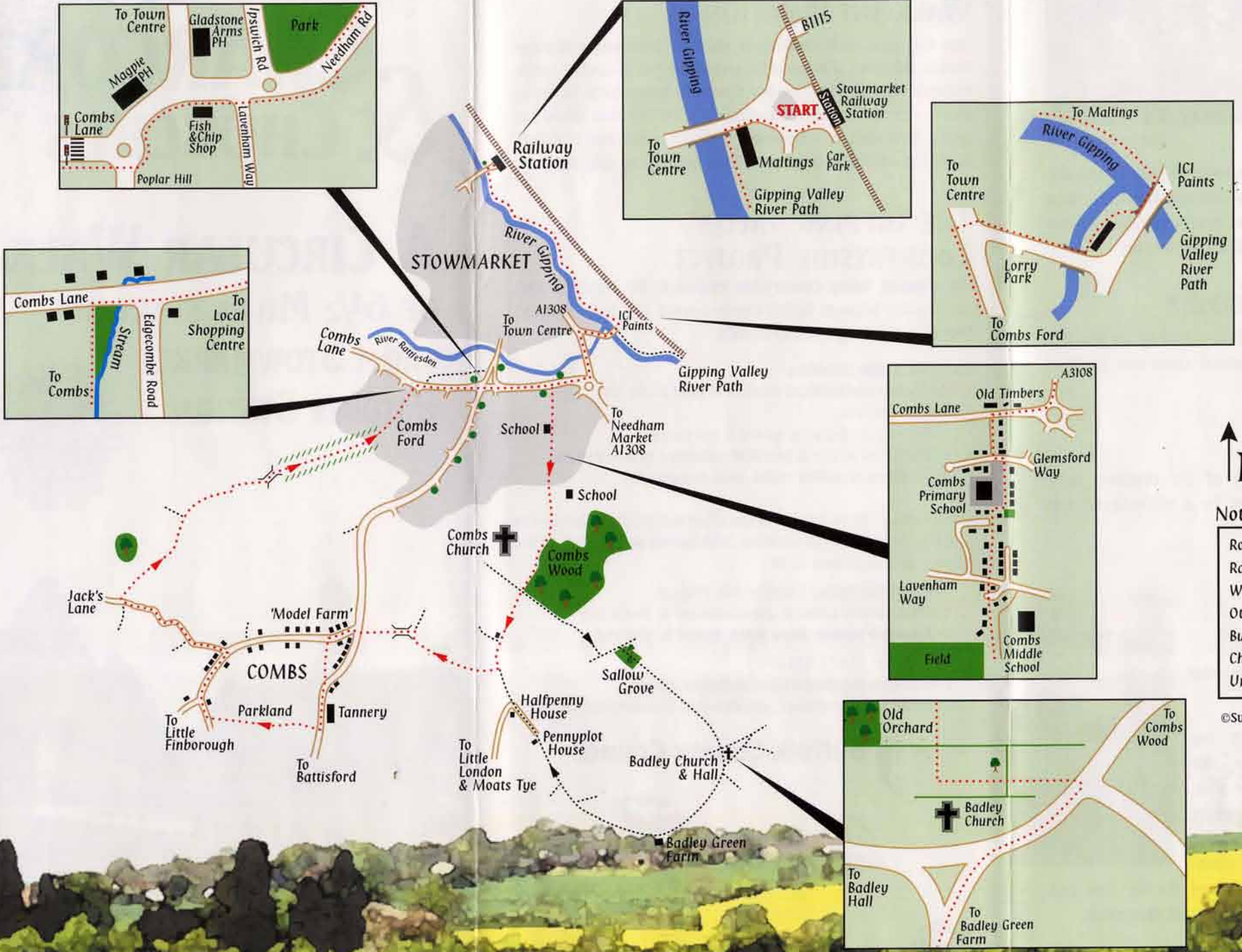
Former Stowmarket Maltings



Cottage in Combs



Weir, Stowmarket



Not to Scale

©Suffolk County Council

