

The Margery Allingham Walk

The Margery Allingham Walk is one of 3 walks in the first booklet produced by the River Colne Countryside Project (prior to 2013). Produced in association with local people & groups, this self-guided walk was originally marked out with way markers like those below. The River Colne Countryside Project is a joint venture between Colchester Borough Council and Braintree District Council and is a partner in the Colchester Countryside Service.

Introduction

This is one of three walks that can be started from Chappel. Chappel is between Halstead and Colchester on the A604 and can be reached by bus from these towns (No. 88). It also has a station on the Marks Tey-Sudbury railway line. The walk is about 6 miles long.

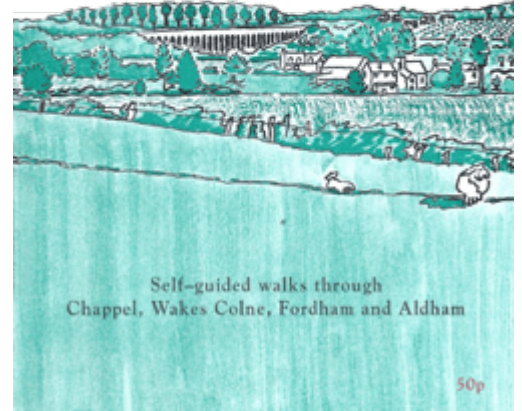
The other two walks are:

- The Fair Maid Walk, and
- The Miller's Drift Walk.



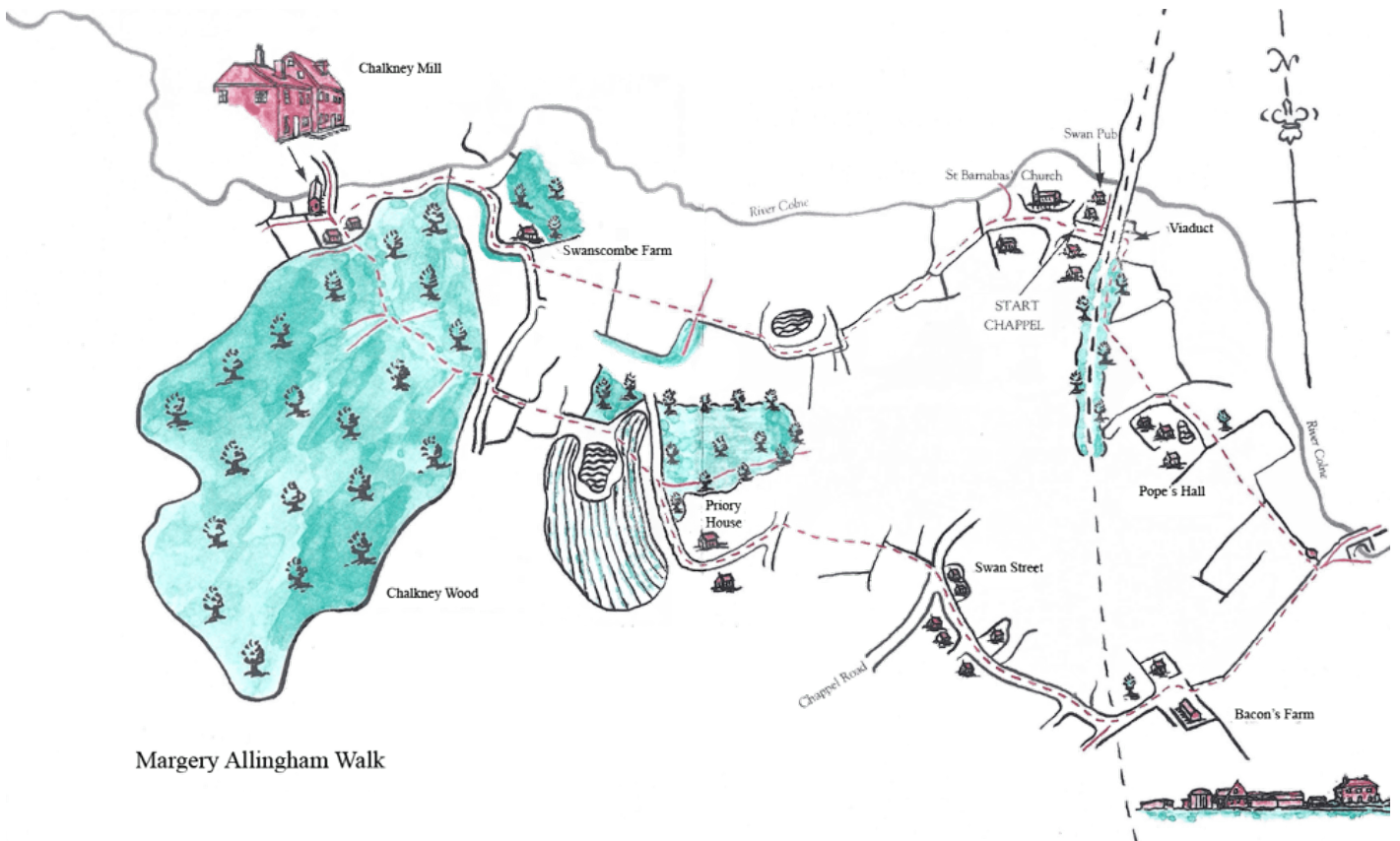
River Colne Countryside Project

Colne Valley Trails



KEY TO MAP

	Trail Route
	Other footpath
	Field Boundary
	Trees & Woodland
	Pond
	Railway Line
	Orchard
	Fruit Plantation
	Pill Box
	River



Margery Allingham Walk

The Text & Original Images to Accompany the Walk

Margery Allingham was a distinguished author who lived in Viaduct Farm, Chappel, in the early 1930's before moving to Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Her principal genre was detective fiction and Agatha Christie regarded Margery's books as superior to her own. However it was the publication in 1941 of "The Oaken Heart", which detailed life in the village of Pontisbright (the old name for Chappel) in the late thirties, which shows her deep affection for the village and its people. The book focuses particularly on the village cricket club and the annual cricket parties, instigated by her husband, Pip Carter. This walk was named by Chappel Parish Council.

Chalkney Mill

Chalkney Mill was built in the early 18th century as a Fulling Mill, fulling being a process in the treatment of wool. In the 19th century it was converted for corn milling. It was last used as a mill in the 1930's and was converted into a house in the 1980's.



Chalkney Wood

Chalkney Wood may be a remnant of the vast forest which once covered much of the country. It has been managed almost continuously: for hundreds of years, producing timber, firewood and coppice products, such as poles and rods for hurdle making and thatching. The coppice rotation is still in operation in part of the woodland, adding to its overall diversity. Chalkney Wood holds a wide variety of wildlife including deer, badgers and over 30 species of breeding birds. The plant and insect communities include a number of scarce species such as violet helleborine and five different types of hawk moth. Tree species include small leaved lime and wild service, both indicators of ancient woodland.

Bacon's Farm

From Bacon's Farm there are fine views across the Colne Valley. To the North is Chappel, with the Railway Station and Museum beyond on the northern slope of the valley. From here you can also look down-river towards Ford Street and the village of Fordham on the other side of the valley to the North East.

