

## The Miller's Drift Walk

The Miller's Drift 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

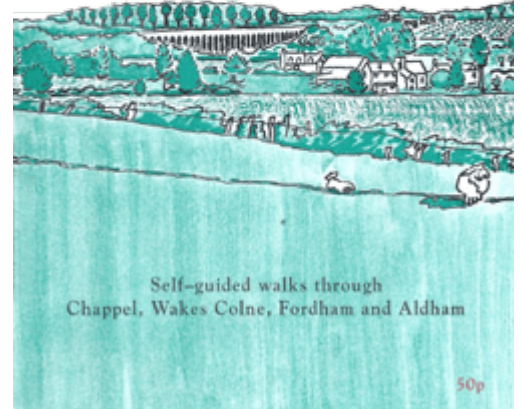
This is one of three walks that can be started from Chappel. Chappel is between Halstead and Colchester on the A604 and can be reached by bus from these towns (No. 88). It also has a station on the Marks Tey-Sudbury railway line. The walk is about 6 miles long.

The other two walks are:

- The Fair Maid Walk, and
- The Marjory Allingham Walk.

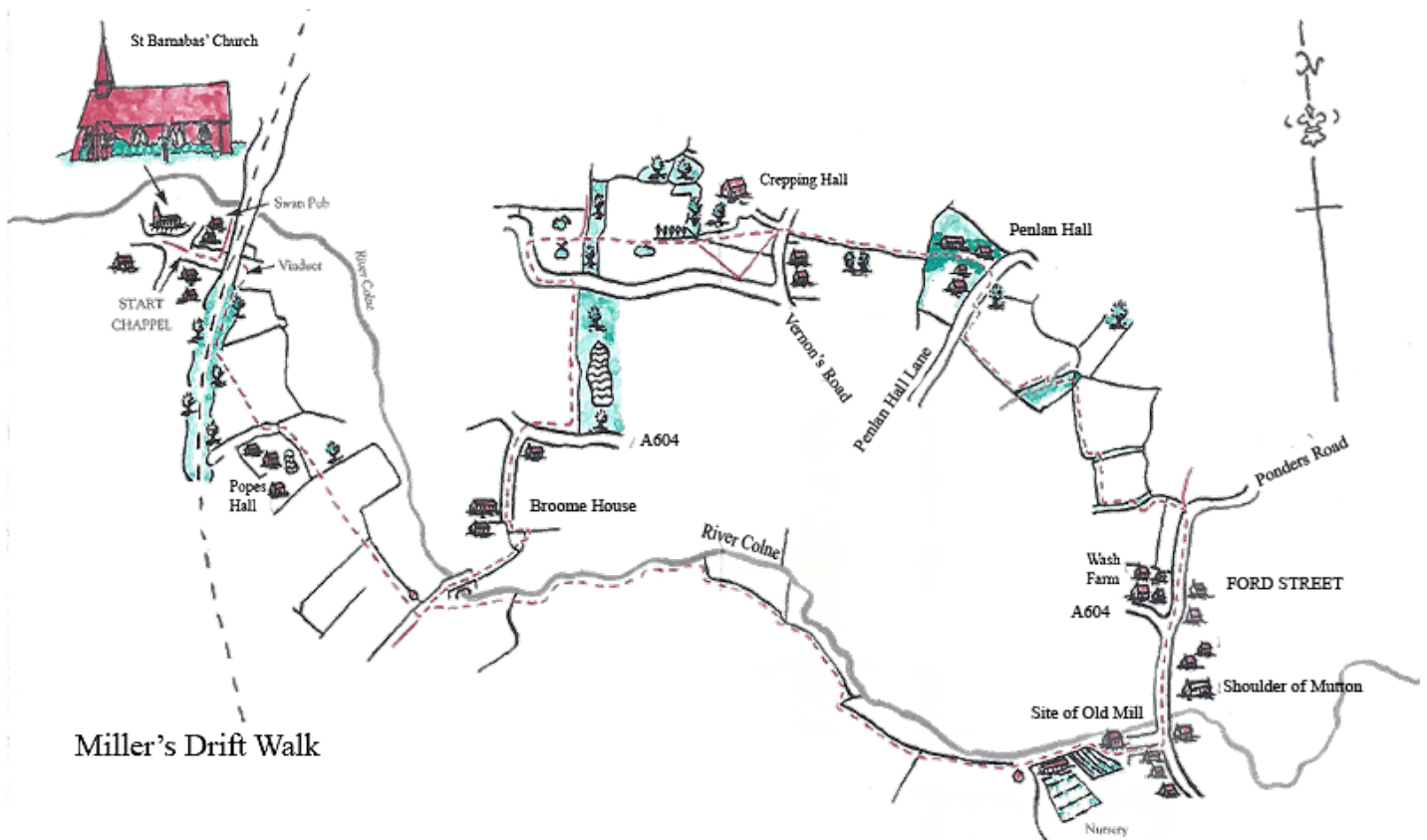
River Colne  
Countryside Project

### Colne Valley Trails



#### KEY TO MAP

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



Miller's Drift Walk

## The Text & Original Images to Accompany the Walk

This walk can be started at either Chappel or Ford Street. Parking is available at the Shoulder of Mutton in Ford Street, the Swan at Chappel or just up the road at the edge of the "Playfield". The name Miller's Drift refers to the Old Mill at Ford Street in Aldham Parish., the 'Drift' being the old word for a place where livestock would cross the river. This walk was named by Aldham Parish Council.

### St Barnabas' Church

St Barnabas', a single cell church with a wooden turret, dates from the 14th Century. The church is just as attractive on the inside, visitors being rewarded with the sight of fine mediaeval craftsmanship, particularly in the roof.

### River Colne

The Colne Valley is a typical example of those formed by the effects of glaciation . The valley is one of several in North East Essex that have been carved out of the original plateau that was here before the last ice age. The river rises south of Steeple Bumpstead and flows out into the Blackwater Estuary.

In between, the Colne runs through diverse and attractive landscapes; here, east of Chappel, the surrounding floodplain is pasture land and Cricket Bat Willow plantation. Further up river, arable farmland comes right down to the riverbank.

In summer, Dragonflies and Damselflies patrol the river and its banks, whilst Kingfishers can occasionally be seen . In winter, the skies above the valley are filled with Fieldfares and Redwings from Scandinavia and other parts of Northern Europe .

