

## 7. Along the River Ter to Little Baddow (rev 3)

3½ miles

The walk starts at the former Sportsmans Arms in Sportsmans Lane, Nounsley.

Cross the road, from the Priory gates, and take the grassy path between the bungalows. Turn right down Nounsley Hill to the ford. Cross the River Ter and turn left along the bank with the river on the left. Look out for Kingfishers and some good specimens of spindle bushes along here. Note that the river twists and turns, but follow for over a mile. At Bumfords Bridge turn right. Where the lane bends sharply right below Cardfields, take the path on your left, go over the ditch, and head diagonally towards to an arching concrete bridge over the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation. Note that this is completely obscured by vegetation. The far side of the river here is in Little Baddow and the towing path is a public right of way from Chelmsford to Heybridge.

Our route continues straight on along a bridlepath across the water meadows. Continue with the hedge on your left and aim for, and go through, a gap in the crossing hedge. Follow the farm track past Bassett's Farm (on your right) to the road. Turn right along Tofts Chase as far as the Lodge at the end of the drive to Tofts. Turn right opposite the Lodge and keeping the ditch on your left. At the bottom of the slope, turn right. Keeping the trees on your left, walk back to the river. Turn right along the towing path back to the concrete bridge near Cardfields. Cross back to Hatfield Peverel and walk up the hill to Nounsley Ridge, passing Cardfields on your right. Fork right and walk down to the ford and retrace your steps to the start.

