

# 3

## FINNINGHAM WALKS: TO COTTON

3.3mls/5.3km • 1hr 05 mins.

*From the Village Green ...*

Turn right beside the large white barn on to the road, taking care as vehicle visibility is restricted. Then just ahead, cross the road ① to a footpath heading south up a driveway on to open fields with a view of the *water tower* ahead.

On reaching a lane, turn left (just nearby was where the Post Mill once stood) and continue on this bridleway to cross over a *railway bridge*, ② keeping to the right and then following round to the left to pass between hedges and trees and Mill Cottage. Follow the path downwards with an open field to your left towards a plantation. (Often here, the fields are seeded with plants to attract wildlife, and sometimes herons, egrets and buzzards can be spotted.) ③ Turn right to join a small road ahead, turn left to cross a bridge and then bear right taking the road upwards past a *treatment works* on your right. Continue on this road for 0.2 mls until you reach a left-hand bend with two footpath signs to the right. Take the second of these, ④ to join a field with a wide grass headland and hedge on your right. Continue west alongside this field until you reach a footpath sign on your right with a gap in the hedge about 50 yards before the road. ⑤ Take this path which cuts downhill across an arable field with trees and a meadow ahead of you. At the bottom, cross another path and drop down into the meadow and go ahead to cross a footbridge amongst the trees. This then brings you out on to a large private meadow.

Keep ahead, with a hedge on the left to reach *Mill Road*, Cotton. ⑥ (If so wished you can take time out to visit either *St Andrew's Church* or *The Trowel & Hammer* pub. The latter in view to the left, and the church 0.4mls further to the left.) [A]

Turn right to continue your walk, using the road with the *Village Hall* ahead. ⑦ Bear right and then left on to Cotton Lane, which becomes a byway with meadows each side, to then cross over the bridged railway to reach the B1113 road, with *Finbow's Yard* opposite and *Emzo's* shop and café beside you. ⑧

Turn right and, keeping to the verge, travel a short distance to a footpath beside *Stewart Field* roadway, with the *water tower* just yards away. Take this path to your right between hedgerows and houses to reach the railway line, turning sharp left to then reach a point where you crossed the first railway bridge ② on your walk. Return via the bridleway left and then footpath right to drop back into *Finningham Village* and the *Green*.