

# 7 GREAT HENNY TO WORMINGFORD

6 miles (9.7km)



## POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG YOUR WALK



**1. Lamarsh Church** – with its tall Grade I listed Norman round tower has served the community for 900 years. Above the brick porch via a trap door is a space where visiting priests would crawl and sleep. Inside is a delicate 15th century oak rood screen funded by Margaret Beaufort, Lady of the Manor and mother of King Henry VII.



**2. Pillboxes** – sited along the riverside meadows they formed a continuous line from the coast around Colchester up to Sudbury, and beyond, and were part of the defensive network known as the Eastern Command Line. The first 'stop line' to any German force driving in from the North East Essex coast. There were 198 boxes only 90 remain. Several have been turned into bat hibernacula as they provide ideal conditions for hibernating bats.



**3. Local Industry** – during the 19th Century Bures had several maltings and a tannery. The malt was of high quality and some was exported to Dublin for the production of Guinness. The tannery employed 25 men who converted animal skins to leather by soaking them in a liquid made from crushed oak bark and the contents of local chamber pots! Remnant flax seeds found at an archaeological dig indicate there was a textile industry here in the later medieval period.

**4. Wormingford Dragon and Church** – there are many theories about this legend, but the most credible appears to be that the 'dragon' was a crocodile, brought back from the Crusades to the Tower of London for Richard I and then escaped into the marshlands of rural Essex, eventually making its way to the River Stour, feasting on sheep along the way! Wormingford village is said to derive its name from the giant worm-like creature that once terrorised people in these parts, and is depicted in the east window of the north aisle of the parish church.



### Walk Highlights

Quiet lanes and paths lead to Lamarsh where the conspicuous Norman round tower was given a stucco rendering in 1869. Together with little hooded dormers the church adds a European feel to the landscape. Bures has a country railway station as well as a direct bus service to Colchester and Sudbury; very useful for planning walks along the valley.

The Path crosses briefly into Suffolk before returning to Essex adjacent to attractively sited Bures Mill. The route rises steeply up to Wormingford, passing through the churchyard where relatives of John Constable are buried as well as artist John Nash. Inside the church the east window of the north aisle has a scene depicting the legendary 'dragon' which once terrorised the neighbourhood.



Wormingford Church



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### ROUTE KEY

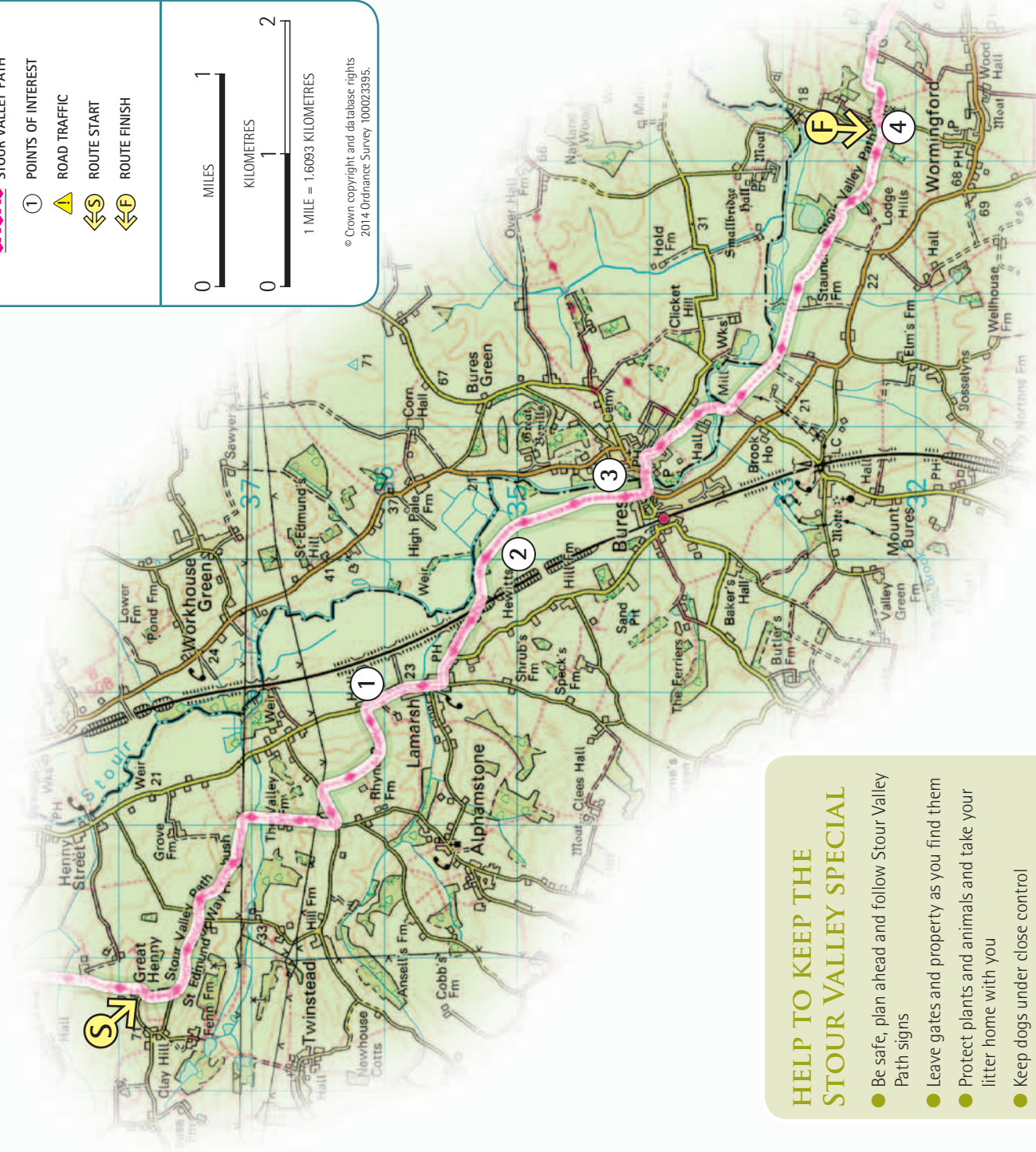
- STOUR VALLEY PATH
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- ROAD TRAFFIC
- ROUTE START
- ROUTE FINISH

0 1 2  
MILES

0 1 2  
KILOMETRES

1 MILE = 1.6093 KILOMETRES

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### HELP TO KEEP THE STOUR VALLEY SPECIAL

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow Stour Valley Path signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home with you
- Keep dogs under close control
- Buy local and support local businesses
- Use public transport whenever possible