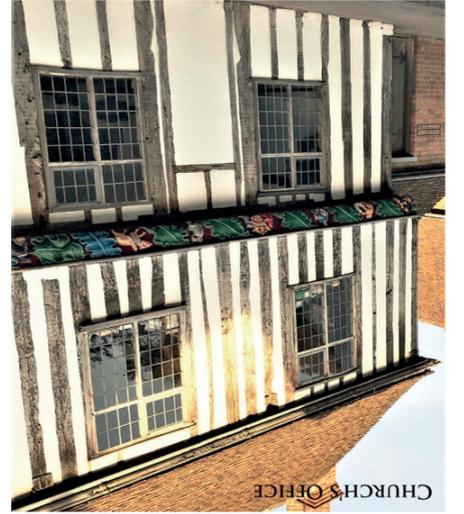


# BURES Highlights

**1** BURES was a wealthy industrial town in the Middle Ages, specialising in the manufacture of woollen cloth. It retains many timber-framed houses from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries including The Old Bakery. Later facades of plaster and brick now disguise many timber framed buildings, such as Church House. The carved jettty bressumer (see below photograph) at the High Street office of W.A. Church Ltd. dates from the



early-16th century and is among the best of its kind in the country. This building belonged to a wealthy tanner and depicts both a merchant on horseback and a butcher at his block. These are probably portraits of his neighbours. Dancing bears would have been a common sight at the time, but

**2** ST MARY'S CHURCH dates mainly from the 14th century and contains numerous impressive features including one of the finest timber-framed porches in East Anglia. The roof of the nave was destroyed by lightning in 1733 but a rare wooden effigy of a medieval knight survives inside, along with a series of monuments to the Waldegrave family of Smallbridge Hall. In the 11th century the church was known as All Saints and, until the 16th century, St Mary's was a chapel in the churchyard. The parish was previously called Great Bures in Essex (now Mount from Little Bures in Essex) but adopted the dedication of Bures), but adopted the dedication of



The ecclesiastical parish is still known as its Norman church in the 13th century.

**3** THE RIVER STOUR was, until the Danish conquest in the ninth century, the boundary between the Kingdoms of the East Saxons to the south and the Angles to the north, but by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the parish straddled the border with approximately a third of its land in Essex. The river split into two channels to form a natural crossing. The smaller channel bisected the medieval Common on the Essex bank but was filled in when the predecessor of the present Victorian iron bridge was built in the 17th century. Bures Mill, an attractive weatherboarded building of the 18th and early-19th centuries with a rare fragment of a 16th century predecessor to the north.



as Bures St Mary, but the section on the Essex bank of the Stour forms the separate Civil Parish of Bures Hamlet. The River Stour was, until the Danish conquest in the ninth century, the boundary between the Kingdoms of the East Saxons to the south and the Angles to the north, but by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the parish straddled the border with approximately a third of its land in Essex. The river split into two channels to form a natural crossing. The smaller channel bisected the medieval Common on the Essex bank but was filled in when the predecessor of the present Victorian iron bridge was built in the 17th century. Bures Mill, an attractive weatherboarded building of the 18th and early-19th centuries with a rare fragment of a 16th century predecessor to the north.

**4** ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL on the hill to the east of the village is the oldest building in the parish and is well preserved to the north.



it was built as a private chapel in the courtyard of a manor house that was demolished during the 14th century to leave the structure isolated in a deer park. It was subsequently converted into a barn, and is still known locally as Chapel Barn. It was restored in the 1930s when the stone and alabaster effigies of the Earls of Oxford were brought here from Earls Colne Priory for safe keeping. These monuments are among the best of their kind in Britain. It is one of several sites in Suffolk laying claim to be the site of the crowning of St Edmund on Christmas Day 855. The outline of a dragon has been cut into a nearby hillside to commemorate the appearance of a dragon in Bures as recorded in the Chronicle of John de Trokelowe for the year 1405. The dragon is said to have killed some sheep before being chased into a mere by the armed men of Sir Richard de Waldgrave. Menageries of exotic beasts were highly fashionable in aristocratic circles during the late Middle Ages, and if this event really occurred it may perhaps relate to the escape of a Nile crocodile from the documented example upstream at Clare Castle.

## THE STOUR VALLEY

Picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows, ancient woodlands and a wide variety of local wildlife combine to create what many describe as the traditional English lowland landscape on the Suffolk-Essex border. The charm of the villages, fascinating local attractions and beauty of the surrounding countryside mean there's no shortage of places to go and things to see.

### VISITING BURES & THE STOUR VALLEY

- Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No 196: Sudbury, Hadleigh and the Dedham Vale.
- By Car - Bures is on the B1508 between Colchester and Sudbury.
- There is FREE car parking at the Recreation Ground in Nayland Road.
- By Bus - Bures is on the route between Colchester and Sudbury. Details at [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)
- By Train - main line London Liverpool Street/Norwich, change at to Marks Tey. Bures is on the Marks Tey/Sudbury line. Details at [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk)

Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project  
Tel: 01394 445225

Email: [dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org](http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org)



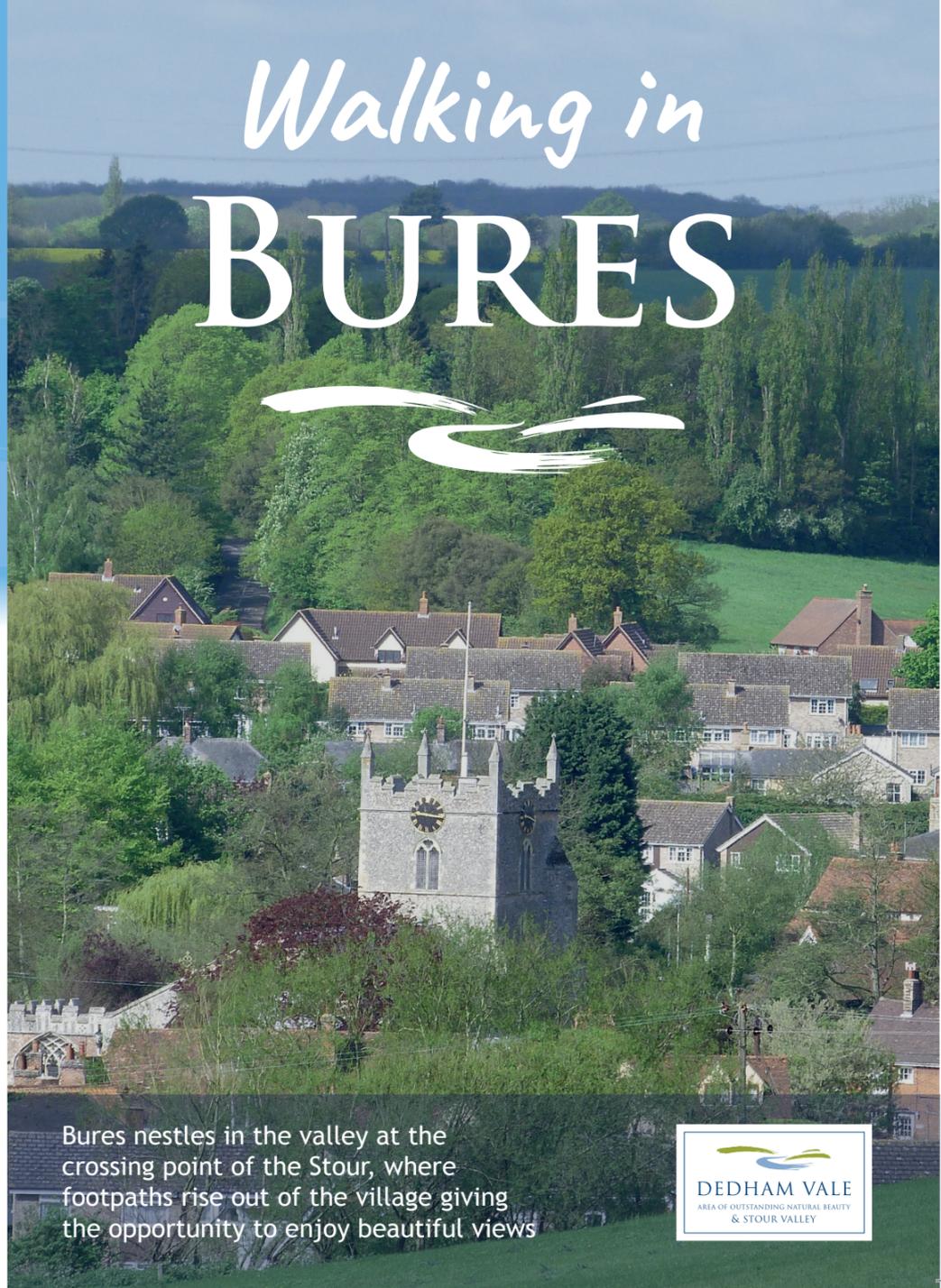
Leaflet produced November 2019 and funded by:



Content and images provided by Bures St Mary Parish Councillors Leigh Alston, Jan Aries and Gill Jackson.

Printed on Recycled, FSC, ECF, Carbon Balanced Paper

# Walking in BURES



Bures nestles in the valley at the crossing point of the Stour, where footpaths rise out of the village giving the opportunity to enjoy beautiful views



# Walking in BURES

DEDHAM VALE  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
& STOUR VALLEY

WALK 1  
- AN ESSEX ESCAPE

WALK 2  
- A SUFFOLK STROLL  
- EXTENDED WALK

Map based on Ordnance Survey  
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## Countryside CODE

The area has a network of footpaths and bridleways. We have marked suggested routes on this map and have a few simple suggestions to help you enjoy the area safely and assist our work to care for it.

Please follow the Countryside Code:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code)

- Plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave things as you find them.
  - Take your litter home.
  - Help look after our plants and wildlife by keeping to footpaths and not trampling verges.
  - Dogs are welcome, but please keep them under close control at all times, especially when amongst farm animals and in bird nesting season (March-September). Release your dog if chased by cattle.
  - Always clean up after your dog.

### EXTENDED WALK

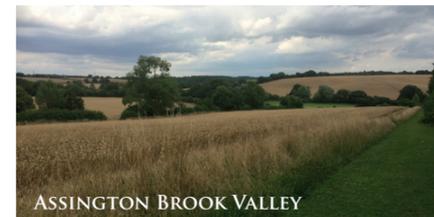
**TO VISIT ARGER FEN AND TIGER HILL**  
Follow the path opposite the stile, which leads up over the brow of the hill. At the top, **turn left, then right** shortly afterwards, following the waymarked path down to **Over Hall Cottages**. When you reach the road, **turn left**. Continue along the road, passing High Fen Seed Store on your **left**, until you reach the parking bay and entrance for **Arger Fen**.

Once you have visited Arger Fen, continue along the road, **crossing over** a small brook via a wooden footbridge at the side of the road. Almost immediately after the brook, **turn left** through the large gate and follow the footpath along the edge of the field, **passing through** another large gate, and **continuing along** the edge of the next field.

During this section, **Tiger Hill** can be seen to your right. You can visit by **heading up** through the field, and simply **retracing** your steps back to the footpath to continue onwards.

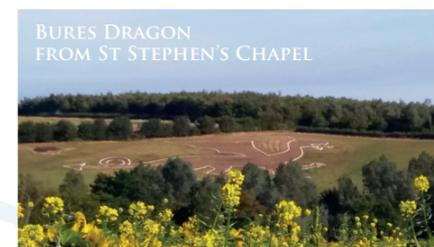
Follow the path to the gated wooden bridge on your **left**. **Cross over** and follow the footpath off to the **right**, with the brook on your right. Follow this path along the field margins, occasionally crossing over the brook as waymarked, all the way back to the track from **Moat Farm**. **Cross** this track to retrace your steps back along the field margin to the stile with the dog shutter on your right.

**Cross over** the stile, and walk, across the flood meadow to the next stile over **Assington Brook**.



ASSINGTON BROOK VALLEY

**Climb up** the cart track, **turn left** to St Stephen's Chapel. Behind the thatched chapel, you will find St Edmunds Stone and see the Dragon.



BURES DRAGON FROM ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL

**Return** to the track, **turn left** and continue up the track to Fysh House Farm. At the road walk about 25m down Cuckoo Hill. **Turn left** onto track. **Cross over** the track and take the grassy path down the hill with the field on your left.

Reaching Friends Field **bear left** and continue around the edge of the field - with the field on your left - until you meet St Edmunds Way.

**Turn right**, go through the gate on the left to visit the Community Woodland before continuing down the edge of the field, crossing Nayland Road. Take the path around the school playing field, **bearing right** at the corner. Head for the kissing gate, follow the fenced corridor with a **right turn** to the Nayland Road by the Old Police House on the left. **Turn left** along Nayland Road to the car park.

### Maps

This walk can be followed in conjunction with OS Explorer series map 196: Sudbury, Hadleigh and Dedham Vale (1:25,000 scale)

Two of the paths used within this route are not Public Footpaths but Permissive Footpaths that the Bevills Estate are pleased to allow walkers to enjoy. The Bevills Estate is in a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme with conservation areas for wildlife, so would be grateful if walkers stick to the paths & keep dogs on leads.

## WALK 1 AN ESSEX ESCAPE

Bures Hamlet and Mount Bures

**Walking Distance:** 2.9 miles

**Time:** 1 hour 45 minutes (not including stops)

**Start/ Finish:**

Bures Community Centre Carpark

**Terrain:** Paths and tracks, some B roads. Gentle inclines.

**Turn right.** Pass the Old Police House. **Take the footpath** on the right around the school field. From the **kissing gate** go straight to the gate across the field. With Nether Hall on your right, go along Walnut Tree Walk to Bures Mill, to the right of the mill, over a footbridge crossing the River Stour and through a kissing gate.

**Diagonally cross** the field to a kissing gate and onto a cart track. Follow the track to the B1508. **Cross to Hall Road**



PAULINE PHILLIPS WALK



MOUNT BURES CHURCH

and walk a short distance towards **Mount Bures** passing Brook House on the right. Opposite Brook House Barn take the footpath behind some trees, dedicated to Pauline Phillips, which

leads up to the level crossing on the Marks Tey/Sudbury railway line.

**Go over the railway** and cross to the village sign. **Turn right** along Craigs Lane to the last house on the right. Just beyond the speed restriction sign **take the footpath on the left**. Go through a kissing gate, up the bank, across the meadow to Mount Bures Church and the Mount.

**Retrace your steps** to the village sign. Take the valley footpath **on the left**, bear right at the bottom, left over the Cambridge Brook. **Follow this path** through the gate, up the field margin with the hedge and ditch on your right to Masters Farm on Balls Road. Turn right onto Balls Road. Pass Bakers Hall Farm on your left.

At Colne Road, **turn left** and walk past the farm on your left. **Take the footpath on the right**, along the field margin with the hedge on your right and down to a small stream. **Cross over** the footbridge.

**Turn right** and follow Ferriers Lane to its junction with Lamarsh Hill. **Walk under** the railway bridge, right into the Paddocks and walk to the very end of the cul-de-sac. **Bear left**, follow an alleyway down to the Colchester Road. **Turn right** then over the road to the footpath to the Millennium Bridge and recreation field. **Walk across** the field back to the car park.

### Maps

This walk can be followed in conjunction with OS Explorer series map 196: Sudbury, Hadleigh and Dedham Vale (1:25,000)

## WALK 2 A SUFFOLK STROLL

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DENNIS AMBROSE 1945 - 2019

Bures St Mary

**Walking Distance:** 2.4 miles or 4.3 miles if adding the extended walk.

**Time:** 1 hour 20 minutes, or 2 hours 20 minutes if adding the extended walk.

(Not including stops).

**Start/Finish:**

Bures Community Centre Carpark

**Terrain:** Paths and tracks, some minor roads. Gentle inclines.

**Turn left** out of the carpark. Walk along Nayland Road to Church Square and turn right towards Sudbury. Pass The Old Bakery on your **left** and Church's Office on your **right**. **Take a right** up Cuckoo Hill past the cemetery entrance, and when the pavement finishes there is a footpath to the **left** up a bank cut in with a few steps. **Turn right** at the top of the steps. **Continue** on this path a short distance and take a **cross-field direction** to the top of the hill. The path cuts through a wooded area before opening onto the Assington Road.

**Turn left** along the road, past Fysh House. **Take the first right** turning after Fysh House down a track. **Follow track** down to Moat Farm. Just beyond Moat Farm, at the footpath junction, **turn right**. Walk along field margin with trees and a ditch on your right. You will reach a stile with a dog shutter on the **right**. At this point, you have the option to extend your walk to visit Arger Fen and Tiger Hill.