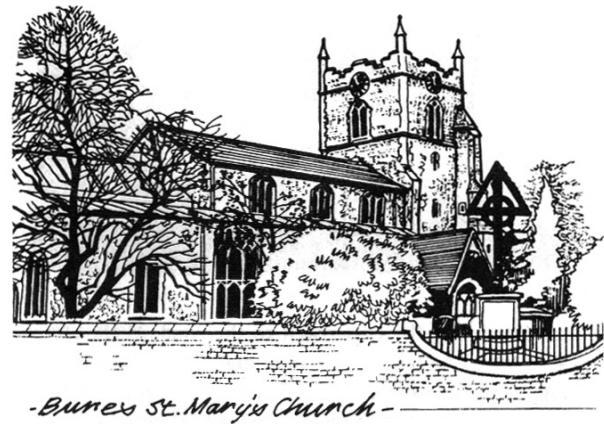
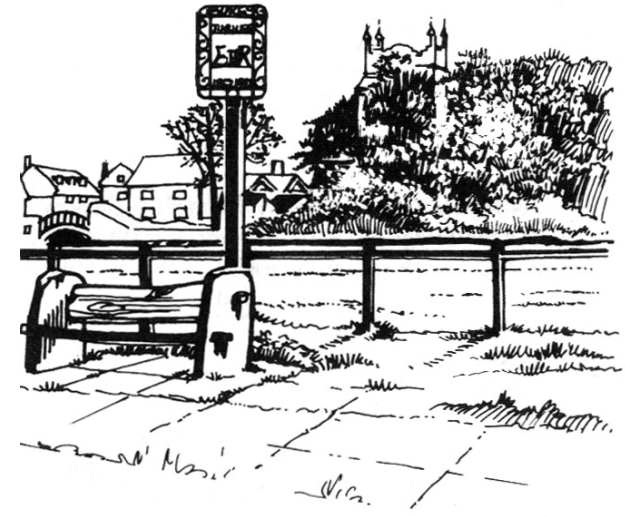


Turn right along the road, then first left down St. Edmunds Lane (11) (known locally as “Dead Man’s lane as it is thought that a gibbet stood at the top of the lane). The lane descends into the Stour Valley to Bures where the river divides the village between the counties of Suffolk (Bures St. Mary) and Essex (Bures Hamlet).



There has been a church on this site for over 1000 years. Although this magnificent building dates back to the late 13th Century, most of it is from the 14th and 15th centuries. Much of its construction is thought to have been financed by profits made in the war with France by local nobility, the Waldegraves. This is unusual as many of East Anglia's fine churches have been financed through wealth obtained from the wool trade. **This road takes you back to the car park.**

Countryside Code – Advice for the Public

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



The earliest records of a settlement at Bures pre-dates the Domesday Book of 1086. A document mentioning Bures (or Buri) signed by William the Conqueror and dated 1071 is held at the British Museum.

Turn left in Bures High Street, notice the old Maltings (12) (now refurbished as houses) on your left.

Malting in Bures was an important industry in the 19th Century. No less than six maltings produced ten tons of malt per day to supply local pubs (which made their own beer); breweries and even export trade to the continent via Colchester ports.

Continue through the village towards Nayland keeping the church on your right (13).

Information

Parking

Bures car park on the Nayland Road. Alternatively Arger Fen Wood lay-by 1.5 miles south of Assington. Please park with care and consideration

Public Transport

Bus number 753 operates a regular service between Colchester & Sudbury through Bures. There is no Sunday service. Bures train station also connects with Sudbury & Colchester.

For timetables contact Traveline East Anglia Public Transport Information on: 0870 6082608

Refreshments

Several pubs serving bar meals in Bures.

Picnic Site

There is a small picnic site in Arger Fen Wood, which is a local nature reserve owned and managed by Suffolk County Council.

Footwear

Sturdy waterproof footwear is recommended.

Maps

This leaflet can be used in conjunction with OS Explorer series map 196: 'Sudbury, Hadleigh & Dedham Vale' (1:25,000 scale).

For further information please contact:

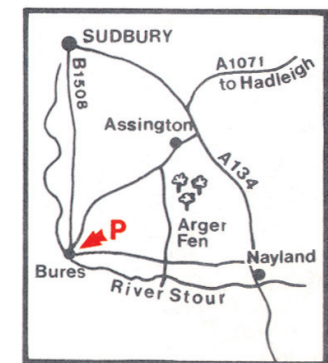
The Dedham Vale (AONB) & Stour Valley Countryside Project
 c/o Suffolk County Council
 Endeavour House (B3 F1)
 8 Russell Road
 Ipswich
 Suffolk IP1 2BX
 Tel: 01473 264263
www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org



Countryside Walks
 in the Stour Valley



Bures Arger Fen



The walk is through lowland farmland following footpaths and lanes, and passing through the historic village of Bures St Mary on the River Stour.

Allow 2 1/2-3 hours to complete the route, which can be started from either Bures or Arger Fen Woodland.

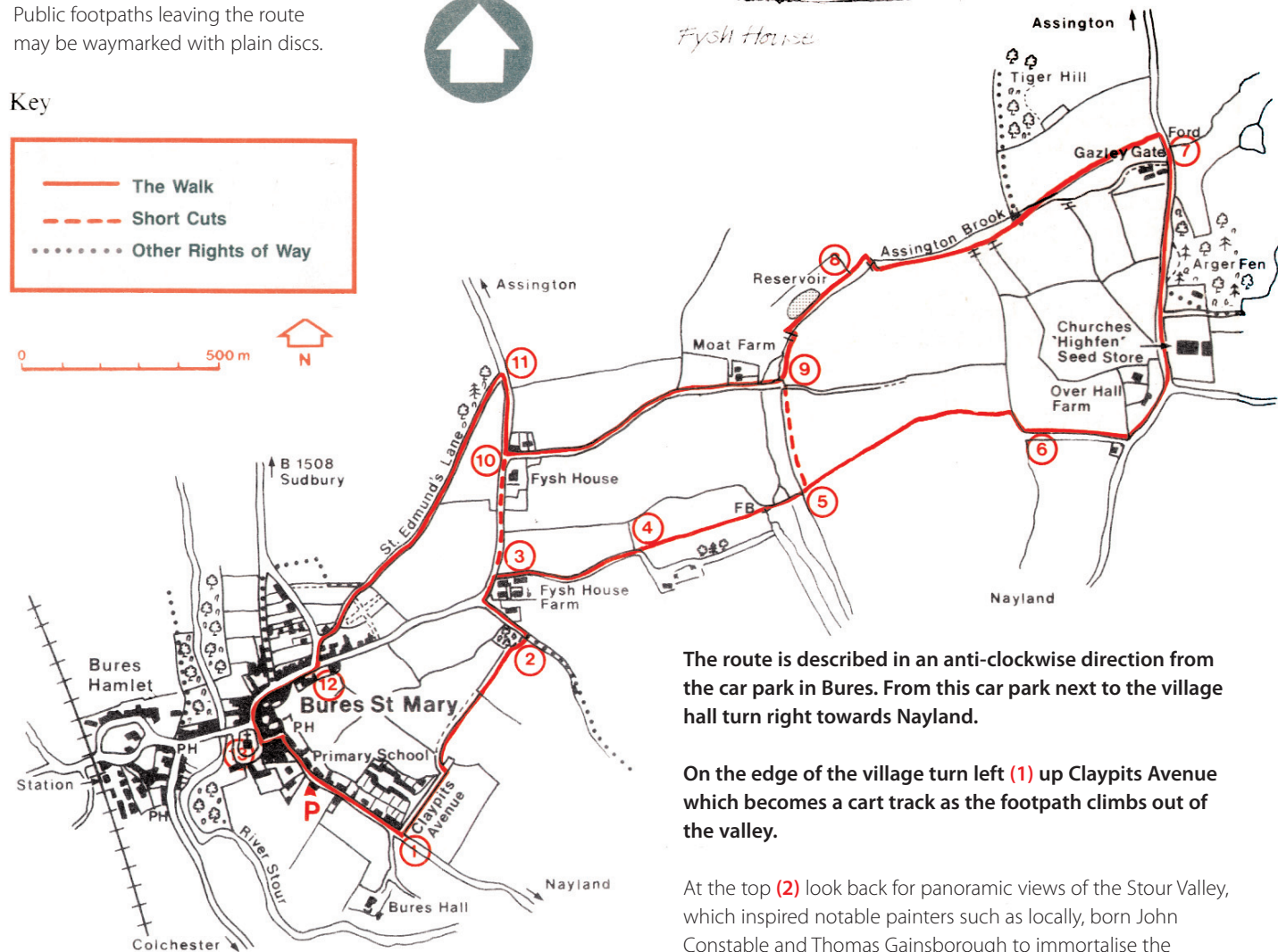
Waymarking

The route of the circular walk is waymarked in both directions to guide the walker.

Look for green discs with a yellow arrow bearing the circular walk logo.

Public footpaths leaving the route may be waymarked with plain discs.

Key



The route is described in an anti-clockwise direction from the car park in Bures. From this car park next to the village hall turn right towards Nayland.

On the edge of the village turn left (1) up Claypits Avenue which becomes a cart track as the footpath climbs out of the valley.

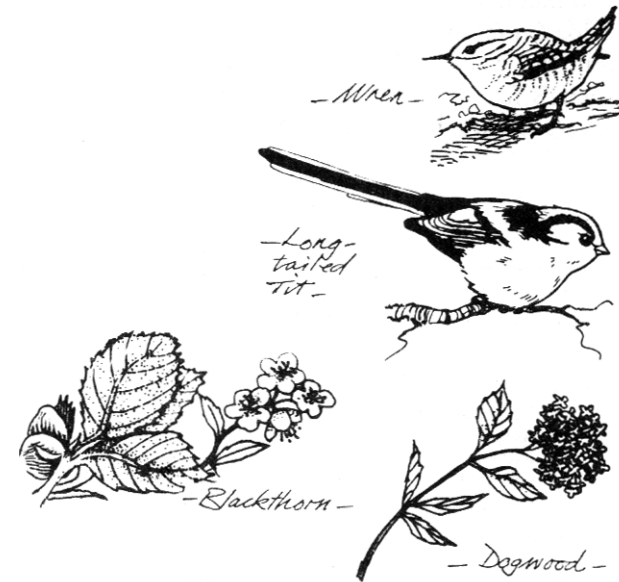
At the top (2) look back for panoramic views of the Stour Valley, which inspired notable painters such as locally, born John Constable and Thomas Gainsborough to immortalise the gentle lowland landscape in their paintings.



Fysh House



Bear left along the cart track to the road. Turn right, walk about one hundred metres up the lane and turn right into the farmyard (3) at Fysh House Farm. The walk follows a track straight ahead to open farmland. Where the track turns sharp right (4), continue straight ahead down to a stile by Assington Brook and continue across a narrow water meadow. Cross a second stile (5) and climb uphill through an arable field to a hedged "green lane" (6).



Hazel, blackthorn (sloe), dogwood, and elder are just a few of the native shrubs providing food and shelter in these hedges.

On joining the road turn left and walk along the lane past High Fen seed store and on to Arger Fen Woodland.

A ramble through the Woodland or a rest in the picnic area is a worthwhile extension of this circular walk. Arger fen is a remnant of the ancient "wildwood" which previously covered Suffolk. Cherry, Oak and Ash trees are still very evident and the spring wildflowers are a colourful treat.

From Arger Fen walk down the lane towards the ford at Gazley Gate. Cross the ford then immediately turn left onto a footpath (7). The stream, Assington Brook, is one of the few remaining unbridged across Suffolk's roads. The bed of the ford is made of granite setts, an extremely durable stone, thought to have first been laid in Victorian times.

Follow Assington Brook downstream changing sides by means of a footbridge just above the reservoir (8). Built for crop irrigation purposes the reservoir also provides habitat for wildlife. Look for the red-billed moorhen, which obtains most of its diet by diving for roots and shoots and insects.

The footpath re-crosses the stream and joins a cart track at Moat Farm (9).

The short cut takes a footpath almost directly opposite and follows a field headland to re-join the main route at a stile (5).

Follow the cart track to your right uphill to join the road at Fysh House (10). The original medieval wattle and daub farmhouse is now recognisable owing to extensive alterations made in the Georgian era to comply with the tastes of the period.

