



Bures Mill

**This is a charming route past a lot of history that takes you along the lower part of the river valley with easy to moderate hills.**

The route starts (★) in Bures, where parking is available at a car park just off the Nayland Road.

Coming out of Bures head towards Bures Hamlet past Mount Bures Castle Mound (1), which may have originally been built in the Bronze Age, as a burial mound, before being enlarged in the medieval period (12th century) to make the lord's manor house next to the church look more impressive. It can be explored via the public footpath.

The route then heads through Mount Bures, across the railway line and down Pear Tree Hill towards the village of Wormingford where the two routes split.

The touring route carries on through the village and towards Little Horkesley. As you enter Little Horkesley you will see St Peter and St Paul's church (2). The old church was destroyed in September 1940 by a German bomb and rebuilt in 1958. Fortunately many of the treasures and monuments survived.

The route then heads north towards Nayland, passing the 18th century Wiston watermill (3). The mill is first mentioned in the Rolls (census) of 1352 and there is evidence of milling almost continuously until 1920. The mill can be viewed from the public footpath across the river.

As you reach Nayland you'll cross over the river Stour and pass Nayland Court Knoll (4). A scheduled ancient monument, this five-acre field was surrounded by a deep ditch and housed a settlement called Eiland, meaning island. It can also be accessed via a public footpath.

The touring route takes you back out of Nayland along the Wiston road heading back towards Bures with lovely views across the countryside and to the river.

The short route heads past the church and out of Wormingford, you soon approach Smallbridge Hall (5). This 14th century moated manor house, is believed to be one wing of a much larger Elizabethan mansion. On the opposite side of the Stour was a large Deer Park and Hunting Lodge.

The two routes join as you head back

towards Bures. Coming back into the village you pass Bures Mill (6) - erected in 1640 and then extended in 1820. There is evidence of milling on this site from the 12th century until 1990.

Also nearby is the hillside outline of the 'Bures dragon', created as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012, and can be viewed from the Cuckoo Hill to Clickett bridge way on the east side of Bures. The legendary Bures dragon was recorded in a chronicle in 1405 and you'll find a wall painting of it in Wormingford Church.

#### REFRESHMENTS

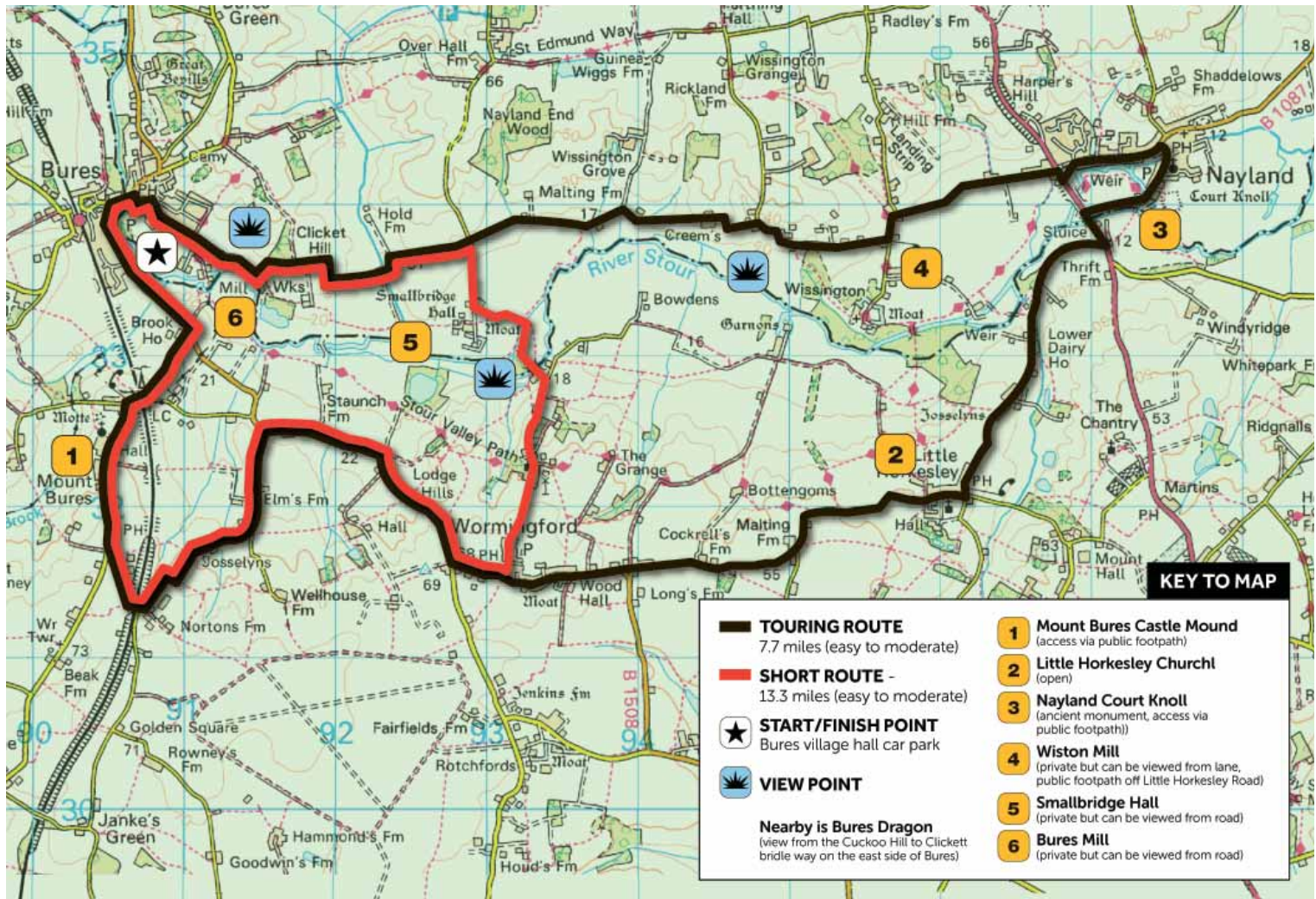
Various public houses in Bures, Wormingford, Little Horkesley and Nayland.

#### TOILETS

No public toilets.



Smallbridge Hall



**KEY TO MAP**

-  **TOURING ROUTE**  
7.7 miles (easy to moderate)
  -  **SHORT ROUTE -**  
13.3 miles (easy to moderate)
  -  **START/FINISH POINT**  
Bures village hall car park
  -  **VIEW POINT**
- Nearby is Bures Dragon**  
(view from the Cuckoo Hill to Clickett  
bridle way on the east side of Bures)

-  **1 Mount Bures Castle Mound**  
(access via public footpath)
-  **2 Little Horkesley Church**  
(open)
-  **3 Nayland Court Knoll**  
(ancient monument, access via  
public footpath)
-  **4 Wiston Mill**  
(private but can be viewed from lane,  
public footpath off Little Horkesley Road)
-  **5 Smallbridge Hall**  
(private but can be viewed from road)
-  **6 Bures Mill**  
(private but can be viewed from road)