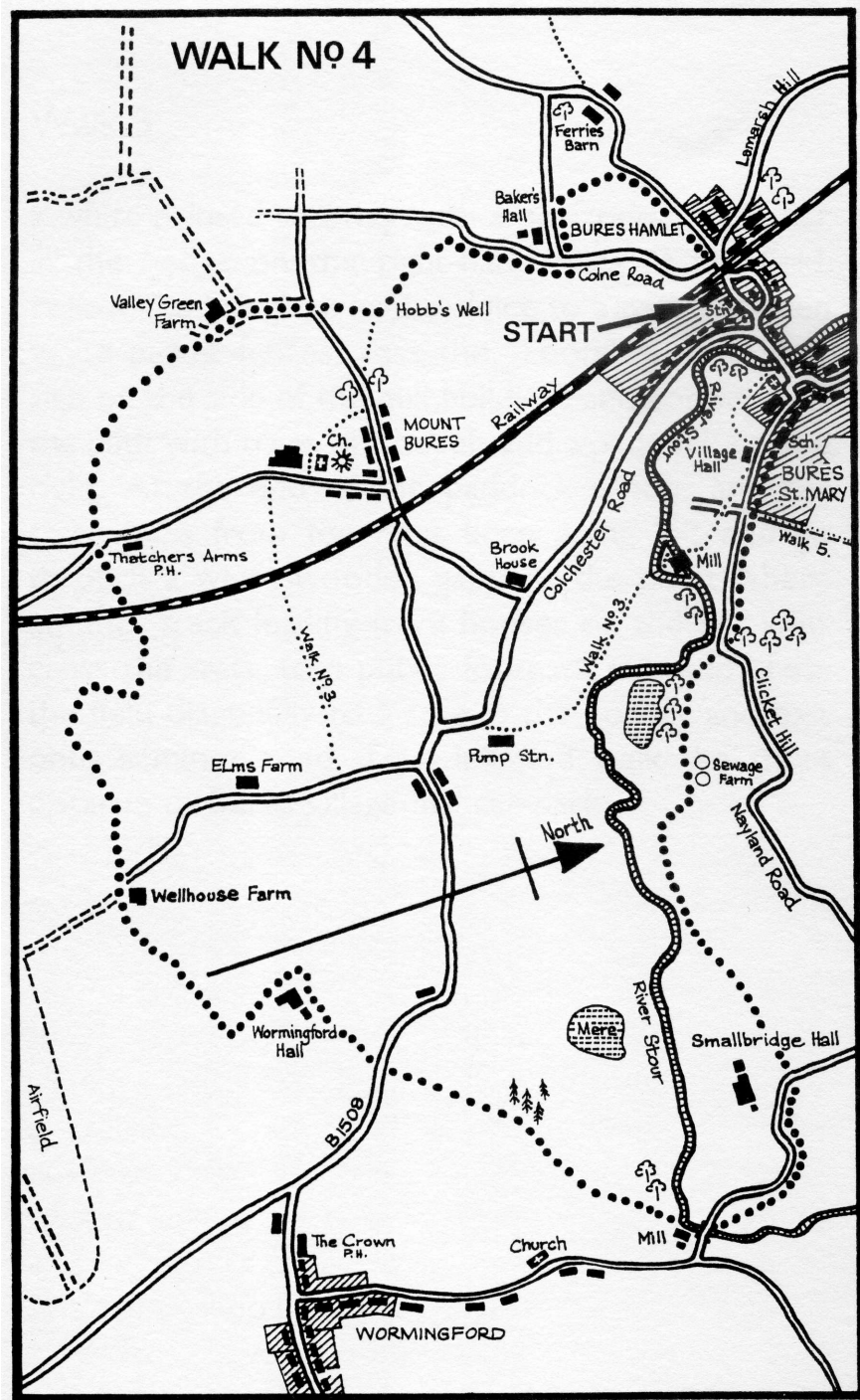


Walk 4

Distance: 9.9 km (6.2 miles)

This walk takes to the high ground to the south of Bures passing Wormingford Hall on the Essex side of the Stour and Smallbridge Hall on the Suffolk side of the river.



1. Leave the station car-park and turn left and then immediately left again into Station Hill. Go under the railway bridge and past the turning to White Colne. Turn left at Public Bridleway and No Entry signs and enter a metalled lane with trees and hedges on both sides and a stream on the left. Continue up the lane to a waymark sign and wooden footbridge on the left just before the lane curves to the right.
2. Cross the footbridge and follow the path with the hedge on the left to a gap in a hedge. Walk between a hedge and a fence to a metal gate and exit at the

corner of the field onto a minor road opposite a farmyard. Turn left past the farm buildings and turn right onto a farm road that is sign-posted for Masters Farm.

3. Continue on this road with views of Mount Bures church to the left and turn left at a public footpath sign and a sign for Hobb's Well. Walk on a path between wire fences to Hobb's Well, pass the house and cross an earth bridge over a small stream. Immediately turn right and cross a stile with a waymark sign to a path with a hedge on the right and a fence on the left.
4. After a few metres cross another stile into the corner of a field and walk ahead keeping the hedge on the right to a gate and a waymark sign. Cross the gate onto a minor road and ignoring the farm track immediately on the right go right along the road (this is effectively straight ahead from the gate). Pass Spentpenny Farm on the left and continue on the road as it curves to the right and enters the farmyard of Valley Green farm.
5. Go over a stile with waymark sign in the fence opposite farm buildings and walk across the middle of the field a short distance to another stile in a barbed-wire fence. ***This may not be a permanent fence and stile and may not be in place when you are doing the walk .***
6. Cross the stile and walk towards three large trees midway across the field. Walk between the two large oaks and continue forward to a stile and waymark sign in the hedge opposite. Cross the stile and a wooden footbridge and turn right onto a path with a tall wire fence on the left and a hedge on the right.
7. Cross the stile in the fence on the left and walk across the field to a metal gate in a wooden fence and then towards the stile on the right-hand side of the house. Go over the stile and walk with the house on the left to a track at a gap in the hedge. In front of the house turn right onto a well made track and walk between hedges to the road. (A detour to the left of about 200 metres or so will take you to the Thatchers' Arms).
8. Cross the road entering the side-road opposite. Very soon, on the left, a gap can be seen in a rail fence at the other side of a concrete yard. Enter the yard at the entrance with low brick walls and cross the stile into a field. Cross the field keeping to the left of a fenced enclosure for trees to a stile with a public footpath sign and waymark sign in the fence by an enclosure.
9. Cross the next field diagonally to the left to another stile and waymark sign in the hedge and carefully cross the railway line. At the pillbox, which in the summer is lost amongst foliage and easy to miss, immediately after the two little fences, turn right and walk between fences the short distance to a stile and waymark sign on the left.
10. Once over the stile walk across the middle of the field to a wooden footbridge with and a waymark sign and cross the into another field. Go across the centre of the field heading towards the right-hand side of the house and the public footpath sign. Turn right on the minor road and walk to another public footpath sign on the left where the road turns sharply to the right.
11. Take the direction indicated by the sign across a big field heading for the clump of trees on the left. At a dip in the field cross a wooden footbridge by a post with waymark sign and continue ahead going to the left of some trees onto an virtually non-existent indistinct track. Keep the hedge and trees on the right and walk to a minor road opposite a house.
12. Turn right onto a farm track with at first a hedge and then farm buildings (Wellhouse farm) on the left. After the last building leave the farmyard and

enter a field keeping a ditch on the left. Walk to a hedge gap and enter the next field. Walk across the centre of this field to a point where the higher part of the field on the left is separated from the field on the right by a short hedge. At the point where this hedge meets the hedge opposite cross the footbridge by a post and waymark sign.

13. Turn left and then immediately right with a hedge and a plantation of trees on the left. At the end of the plantation at a post and waymark sign walk diagonally right across the centre of the field to the right-hand end of a small wood which encloses a lake.
14. At about 20 metres to the left of the end of the wood descend the steps and cross the wood. At the waymark sign turn left and walk keeping the edge of the wood on the right and after a short distance the lake on the left. Exit the wood onto a grassy path. Cross diagonally to the left and go through a wooden gate in the fence opposite.
15. Cross the field towards farm buildings and through another wooden gate. Almost immediately go through another wooden gate in the fence on the left and turn to the right keeping the farm buildings on the right. Go through yet another wooden gate and immediately through a wrought iron gate. The path now crosses the lawn of a private residence and exits through the metal garden gate so please respect the privacy of the occupants.
16. Walk ahead to a wide roadway in front of a large house (Wormingford Hall) with ornamental iron gates. Turn right and just before an old petrol pump cross a stile with a waymark sign in a fence on the left. Descend through the field with, at first, a wall on the left. Bear to the right and head for the fence line. At a waymark sign go through the gap between a fence and a hedge and walk up the slope to its crest and then down to a stile and a public footpath sign in the hedge opposite. Cross the stile and emerge onto the B1058.
17. Cross this busy road carefully to the footpath sign and stile opposite. Once in the field walk with the barbed wire fence on the left to a stile and waymark sign in the field corner. Go over the stile and the wooden footbridge and cross the field to the stile opposite.
18. Walk straight up the steep slope to exit through a white painted metal gate in the top left-hand corner of the field. Now on top of the hill walk diagonally right to a metal gate and waymark sign in the fence opposite. Do not go through the gate but turn right and keeping the fence on the left walk to a metal kissing gate by a barred iron gate.
19. Go onto the wide grassy track and walk down the hill to a hollow. Cross the stile by a gate on the left with a waymark sign and turn immediately right over the earth bridge into the next field. Walk across the middle of this field to a wooden kissing gate and emerge onto the lawn of a private house. (If the ground is very muddy by the gate in the hollow then it is possible to cross into the field higher up by continuing on the track up the hill and crossing a stile in the fence on the left).
20. Walk across the lawn to a gravel drive and turn right, with the house on the right and the River Stour on the left. Exit the drive over a cattle-grid onto a minor road. Turn left across the bridge over the Stour and turn right at a public footpath sign immediately after the bridge.
21. Walk diagonally across the field to a hedge gap back onto the minor road by a small bridge. (If the footpath here has not been maintained then the white painted guardrail of the bridge can be used as a direction indicator when

making the diagonal crossing of the field, alternatively you can simply walk round by the road).

22. Turn right onto the road and cross the bridge and continue down the road to the junction with the drive leading to Smallbridge Hall (Walk No4). Do not follow the road as it turns sharply to the right but cross to a track on the righthand side of a house. Continue past the house and then along a hedge.
23. As the track turns left go ahead with a hedge on the left about 50 metres to a metal gate in the hedge, go through the gate into a field and continue in the same direction this time with the hedge on the right. Follow the hedge and then fence as it curves to the left. Go over the earth and concrete bridge and go through two metal gates to cross the concrete drive leading to the house on the left and enter a field with a hedge on the right and the River Stour on the left.
24. At the point where the river curves away to the left go through a hedge gap into a second field and continue along to the end of the hedge. Here cross a metal gate on the right and walk slightly uphill, with a ditch on the left, to a low embankment. Turn left and walk along the embankment.
25. Where the embankment meets a hedge continue straight ahead following a chain-link wire fence on the right. Continue past the sewage-farm on the right (anyone following this walk in September or October will find that the blackberries on this part of the path are particularly good) exiting into the corner of a field.
26. Walk ahead along the bottom edge of the field with a hedge and trees on the left eventually emerging by a public footpath sign onto a minor road. Turn left and walk back to Bures and the village hall car-park.