

BURES

Bures which lies just beyond the western end of the Dedham Vale AONB, consisting of the two parishes of Bures Hamlet (Essex) and Bures St Mary (Suffolk). These parishes lie either side of the River Stour, which is the county boundary between Essex and Suffolk.

One of the oldest buildings is St Stephens Chapel found on the edge of the village which dates back to 1218 when it was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It predates St Mary's Church in the village centre, by some 150 years. In 1659 the village was also known as "Bewers" before it gained its modern title of Bures.



St Mary's Church, Bures

During the Victorian era, Bures was an Industrial village, completely self sufficient with its own Tannery, Maltings, Brickworks, Abattoir, Gas Works, Electricity Generator and many other small industries and eight public houses.

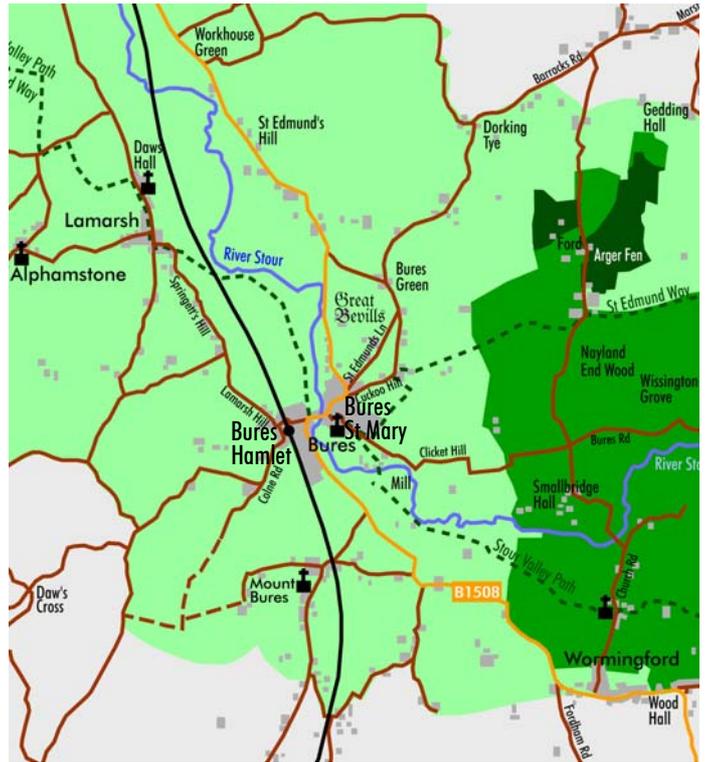
Before the coming of the railway in 1849 the transportation of heavy goods such as Bures bricks and malt was undertaken by barge (lighter) along the River Stour down to Mistley. This was immortalised by some of the paintings of John Constable.

As time progressed, the railway had gained a foothold in speed and reliability, causing the slow river traffic to decline and eventually come to a halt in the early 1900's.

Today, the section between Sudbury, Bures and Marks Tey is still intact, where it links up with the main line inter-city services to London.

Bures has two Nature Reserves, Arger Fen a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the adjacent Spouses Vale owned by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Sadly, like many villages Bures has witnessed a decline of shops over the years and now there are only two retailers and a Post Office.



Sudbury Road, Bures

The centre of the village has many old historic buildings, some dating from the 16th and 17th century. Currently Bures has registered 75 listed buildings.

In the Domesday records, the village is referred to as "Bura" or "Bure", it's documented to have a church with 18 acres of free land. The name "Bures" could be derived from either an Old English word "bur", meaning a cottage or bower, or from a Celtic word meaning a "boundary". If the village was not named until after the Norman Conquest, (circa 1066) it could have been called after a French village of the same name, of which there are at least eight.

For more information visit:

www.bures-online.co.uk