

Bures Walks 5: Windwhistle Ridge – about 4k



This is an absolute classic village walk, and one of the shorter options, although it does involve climbing a hill. One of the subsequent routes will be slightly shorter (about 3k) and stay lower.

From Bures church follow the church wall into Church Square and pass the Post Office and Surgery. Ahead is a path, with the Three Horseshoes on the left. Follow the path up to Pikes Marsh and turn left into Friends Field. Follow the road uphill. Where the road bears left towards Cuckoo Hill take a path up a grassy bank ahead to join a field-side permissive path.

The path to your right runs along the top of Pikes Marsh and Tawney's Ride, emerging by the Community Woodland, but our route follows the left-hand option, following the top of the bank above Cuckoo Hill up to the hilltop, from where there are beautiful views of Mount Bures and beyond.

Emerging onto the track turn right. You are now on Windwhistle Ridge which you follow until it meets Nayland Road. As you pass along the ridge you will see wide views, commemorative woodland, and tantalising glimpses of the dragon!

Cross Nayland Road to a gate giving access to another permissive path and bear right, downhill, hedge on right. At foot of hill turn right, cross road, and join a further permissive path just inside the field boundary, running parallel with the road.

Follow this path to its end where it emerges onto Claypits Avenue. Turn left and cross road into the lane which goes towards Bures Mill. After a hundred yards or so go through a kissing gate on your right. You can follow the waymarked path to the school, and shorten your walk, but our described route using yet another permissive path, bears left across the field corner, and continues along the field side, hedge on left, to reach the river (lovely view downstream under an impressive weeping willow).

Enter the sports ground and pass the Millennium Bridge (left). Continue ahead, river on left, into the Rookery plantation and continue to follow riverside. As you near the road bridge the path veers

right to re-enter the sports ground. Turn left along the hedge, and then left again into Wharf Lane which will lead you back to the church.

Much of this walk uses permissive paths generously provided and maintained by the Bevills Estate. These greatly enhance our local walking opportunities, and we should be grateful. Please use the permissive paths on foot only, and with due care and respect. Thank you.

If you find any of these directions inaccurate, or encounter any problems, please let me know at hughturner447@gmail.com. Thank you.