

Route 2 via Ravensfield, Polstead's and Garland's Farm – about 6km from Bures Station

Leave Bures, either by the footpath which crosses the railway line from the top of The Paddocks, or under the railway bridge, turning left onto Parsonage Hill. From either approach follow Parsonage Hill / Colne Road uphill, way from the village, until you reach a sharp right-hand bend by Bakers Hall.

Here leave Colne Road and continue ahead along a minor road, with Bakers Hall and Master Farm to your right. Stay on this minor road, ignoring two footpaths which leave to the left. When you reach a valley, just before a concrete track leaves to the left, take a track to your right, hedge on left. Continue ahead when this becomes a green lane, hedge on right and eventually pond on left (don't be tempted to follow concrete track uphill to left).

As you approach Butlers Farm turn right onto the drive, and follow it to Colne Road. Turn left onto the road and follow it uphill, don't take the Pebmarsh Road which leave to your right, but continue along Colne Road to the next right-hand option, just before Pricketts Hall.

Turn right from Colne Road onto this minor road. As you approach The Lodge and Ravensfield, don't take the byway which leaves to your right. Instead approach the barn ahead, leave it to your right, and pass through a farmyard, beyond which you enter a field.

Veer right, to join the field boundary (hedge on right) about a quarter of the way down the field. At the bottom of the field cross a track and take a footbridge to a footpath which crosses a small watermeadow, and then veers right through woodland eventually emerging onto a minor road. Turn right, pass Polstead's Farm, and then take footpath on left.

This path follows a field side (hedge on right) and enters the corner of a wood. Once in the wood turn right to cross a little footbridge, and then turn left to follow the outer edge of the wood (wood to your left). Go through a gap and continue ahead, hedge on right. Rounding a right-hand bend you will see Garland's Farm to your left. Join the drive and bear right, away from the house. Soon after passing a bungalow on your left you will find a footpath leaving on your right. Follow this past New Wood (to your left) and into an open field. A track ahead continues to the road junction near Stapleford's Farm.

Note: These walks were written in response to a request for routes from Bures to Stapleford's Farm. However they can easily be used to access Pebmarsh village, and particularly Courtyard Stores which has become a lifeline for some Bures residents. To do this simply continue ahead at the final junction on route 1, and follow the road, round a right hand bend, to Pebmarsh. Or, from route 2, turn left after crossing the last field. Either way, you will soon find Courtyard Stores on your right.

Obviously, with a bit of careful conversion, remembering to switch your lefts and rights on the return leg, these two walks can become one round walk of about 11.5k, a little longer with shopping in the middle!

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

The map which follows may help – please ignore the strange line which drops down from near Speck's Farm! Pebmarsh itself is just off the map, a bit further left.

