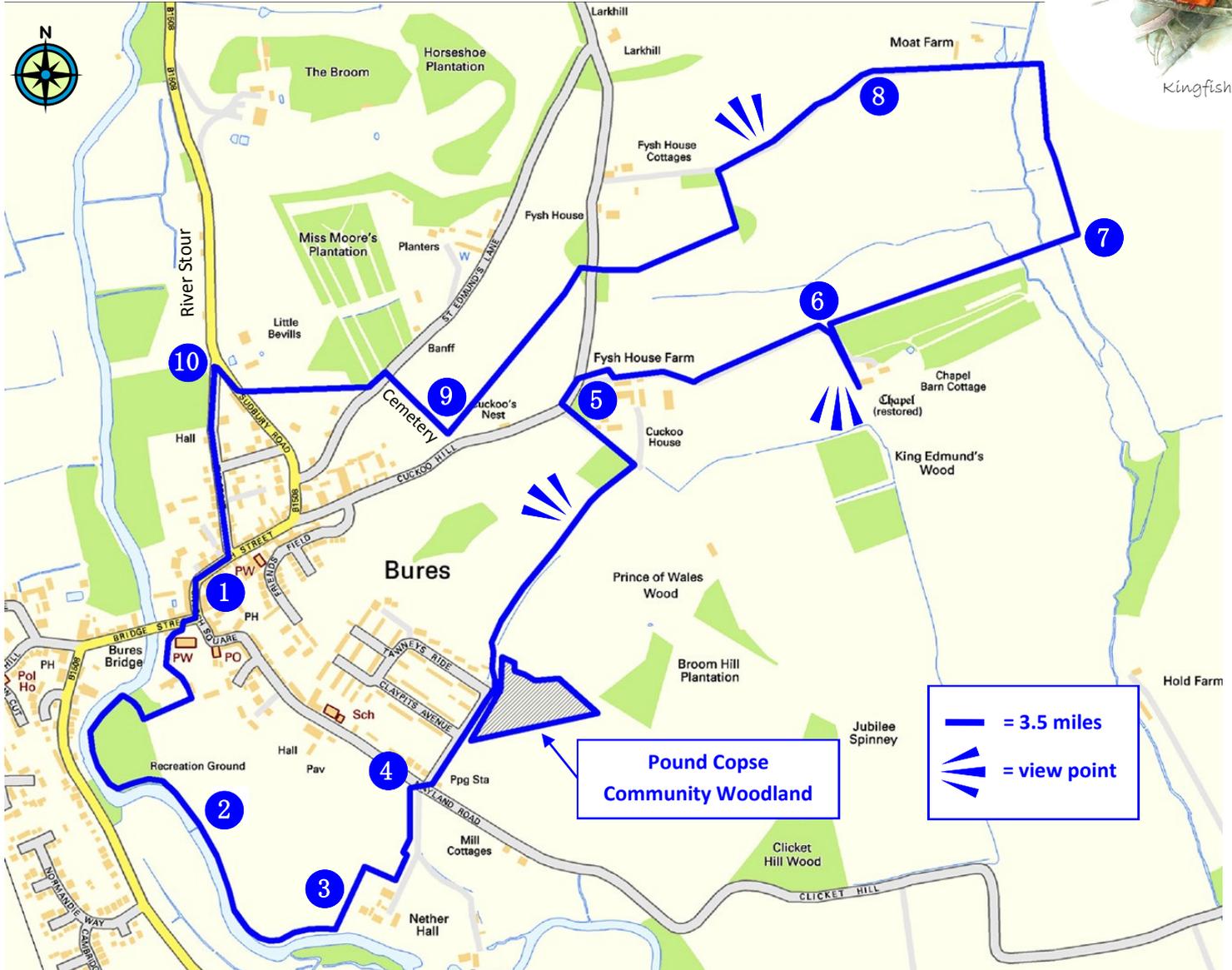


Bures Wildlife Trail



1 Leaving the church, turn left out of the gate and left down Wharf Lane. Turn right into the recreation ground, follow the edge of the field and right into the Rookery. The path leads along the riverbank and back onto the recreation ground. Look out for kingfishers, water voles and otters, which all regularly use this stretch of river.



2 Continue past Millennium Bridge, along the riverbank and through the gate in the corner of the field (please close gate – livestock!). The long vegetation here is a popular nesting site for reed warblers in the spring. Look out too for the banded demoiselle and yellow flag irises in early summer. Follow the fence, past the footpath sign, to the gate in the corner of the field.



3 Follow the fence, past the footpath sign, to the gate in the corner of the field.

4 Cross the road to a small entrance in the fence past the pumping station (next to the tree stump). Follow the path uphill where the early nectar sources in the hedge on your left attract brimstone butterflies in June. Brown hares are often seen 'boxing' in the field to your right in the spring. Pass the Community Woodland on your right and go through the wooden gate on your left. Turn right onto the track and head uphill along 'Sloane Avenue', lined



Brimstone

with mature small-leaf lime trees. At the top of the track turn left to the road. (For a shorter walk, turn left here down Cuckoo Hill to the High Street)



Brown hare

5 Turn right then right again into the farm yard. Follow the track to the end, noting the mature native hedge on your right containing species such as hazel, hawthorn, ash, oak, blackthorn and bramble, which provides fantastic habitat for wildlife all year round. Turn right along the signed detour to see the Bures Dragon, visible on the opposite hillside behind the Chapel.



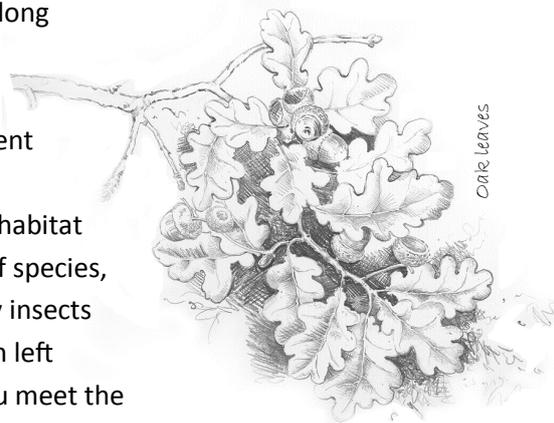
Bramble

6 Re-trace your steps, turning right onto the grass footpath when you reach the track. In the summer the grass margin along this path is alive with bees, butterflies and other insects attracted by the white clover, ribwort plantain, germander speedwell and rough hawkbit. Go over the stile and stream, then across the stile on the opposite side of the field. Listen for the beautiful song of the skylark overhead in the spring and look out for red kites and buzzards who are regularly seen hunting over these fields.



Skylark

7 Turn left along the field edge, which contains some magnificent mature oaks, providing vital habitat for hundreds of species, but particularly insects and birds. Turn left again when you meet the next track, following it uphill then turn left when you see a footpath sign, taking you through some trees.



Oak leaves

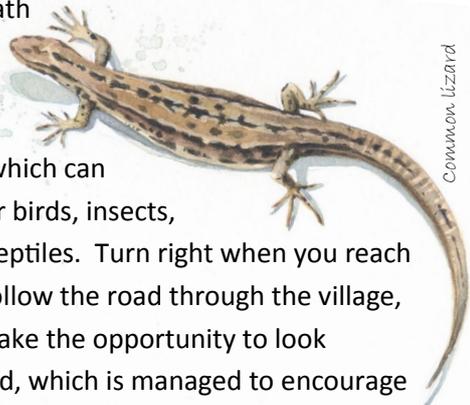
8 Go through the gate and diagonally across the field (please close gate – horses!) to the far edge of Fysh House walled garden. Go through the gate and across the road. Follow the footpath diagonally across the cultivated field. An area is left uncut at the bottom of this field to provide a feeding and over-wintering area for wildlife. Flocks of goldfinches can often be seen feasting on the teasle heads.



Goldfinches by David Daly

9 Turn right, past the cemetery, then left onto St Edmunds Lane. Follow the road for a short distance and turn right at the footpath sign. Through the conifers, turn right when you reach Sudbury Road and cross with care. Take the footpath on your left.

10 Follow the path past the allotments, which can be a wildlife haven for birds, insects, small mammals and reptiles. Turn right when you reach the High Street and follow the road through the village, back to the church. Take the opportunity to look around the churchyard, which is managed to encourage wildlife.



Common lizard



Bee

Managing a Masterpiece:

The Stour Valley
Landscape Partnership