

Our Trees

Objective- To preserve the ancient woodland that surrounds the village and protect valued trees in the landscape.

Context Bures has two conservation areas which protect the trees within their boundaries. Outside these areas there are significant woodlands and single trees that are important to the landscape of the Bures area.



Figure 1- Maple at the entrance to Bures Community Centre (left) Ginkgo with Virginia Creeper on Bures Common (right)

55. The abundance of trees beyond the historic core is one of the village's greatest assets. They provide shading and cooling, absorb carbon dioxide, act as habitats and green links for species, reduce air pollution and assist water attenuation and humidity regulation. For people, they help alleviate stress and anxiety, help with recovery from ill-health and create a sense of positive mental health and well-being. In addition, they add life to the landscape and help shape and add character to open spaces.
56. The Braintree Local Plan (2022) Policy LLP67 requires that development proposals are sympathetic to the landscape character and should not have a detrimental impact on distinctive features such as trees and woodland. In the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Plan environmental policies aim to reduce adverse impacts on trees; proposals likely to have a negative impact may not be supported (Policy LP18). LP22 requires proposals for change of use to equestrian or other animal/rural land base uses must not adversely affect or damage any significant trees that contribute to the environmental quality and visual amenity of rural locations.

57. Bures Parish Councils signed up to the Tree Charter in 2018. Trees have been planted in Bures to mark significant events. The Millennium Oaks across the Recreation Ground are an example of such trees as is the Jubilee Oak on Bures Common planted to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. As part of the public consultation for this plan residents identified trees of particular significance to them. These trees include single trees in the landscape seen from the valued network of footpaths. The valued trees have been recorded as Locally Listed Trees.
58. Very few trees in Bures St Mary are protected in their own right through a Tree Preservation Order. The Copper beech on the corner of Nayland Road and Church Square and a Walnut in the grounds of The Three Horseshoes (WSCC301) and a small group of two Silver Birch and one Copper Beech in the grounds of Bolberry House, High Street. (BT257) have TPOs. Any other trees in the historic core are protected by virtue of being in a Conservation Area. In 2001 a small stand of trees off Tawney's Ride were protected by TPOs BT341/T1,T3,T4,T7,T8 Oak; T2 Ash and T6 Maple. They lie outside the CA. Of the eight listings in Bures Hamlet, three relate to trees listed when the maltings buildings were converted to housing, one to the conversion of the Swan PH to housing and others are at The White House, Craigs Hill and Penlan.
59. Retaining the trees and the green feel to Bures they afford is important to residents. The tree most commented on by residents is the Ginkgo tree on Bures Common. As a relatively unusual variety and with its additional striking Virginia creeper in the Autumn, it is hard to miss. The beech on the corner of Nayland Road and the maple by the entrance to the Community Centre are particularly significant to residents.
60. Arger Fen, Bures St Mary is also a significant area of ancient woodland and earthworks. It is recorded as such in the Suffolk Heritage Explorer and referenced by Oliver Rackham in 'Medieval Woods'. Both parishes have other tracts of ancient woodland and remnants of deer parks on the hills surrounding the village.
61. **Fig. 23** identifies the trees that Bures residents consider to be most important to the character and setting of the village. These were identified during consultation exercises and amongst the neighbourhood plan steering group. Many of these are mature and some have been planted more recently such as those on Smallbridge Entry by Dedham Vale National Landscapes team to replace Elms lost to Dutch Elm Disease. The Elms were featured in several paintings by John Nash. Ensuring the valued trees are protected is important to the community, as is adding new trees to enhance the setting. See **Appendix D** for the full list of trees, reasons for their inclusion and further detailed maps.



Figure 2- Smallbridge Entry Image: Bill Hiskett, 2022 and Avenue of Elms John Nash RA 1953.

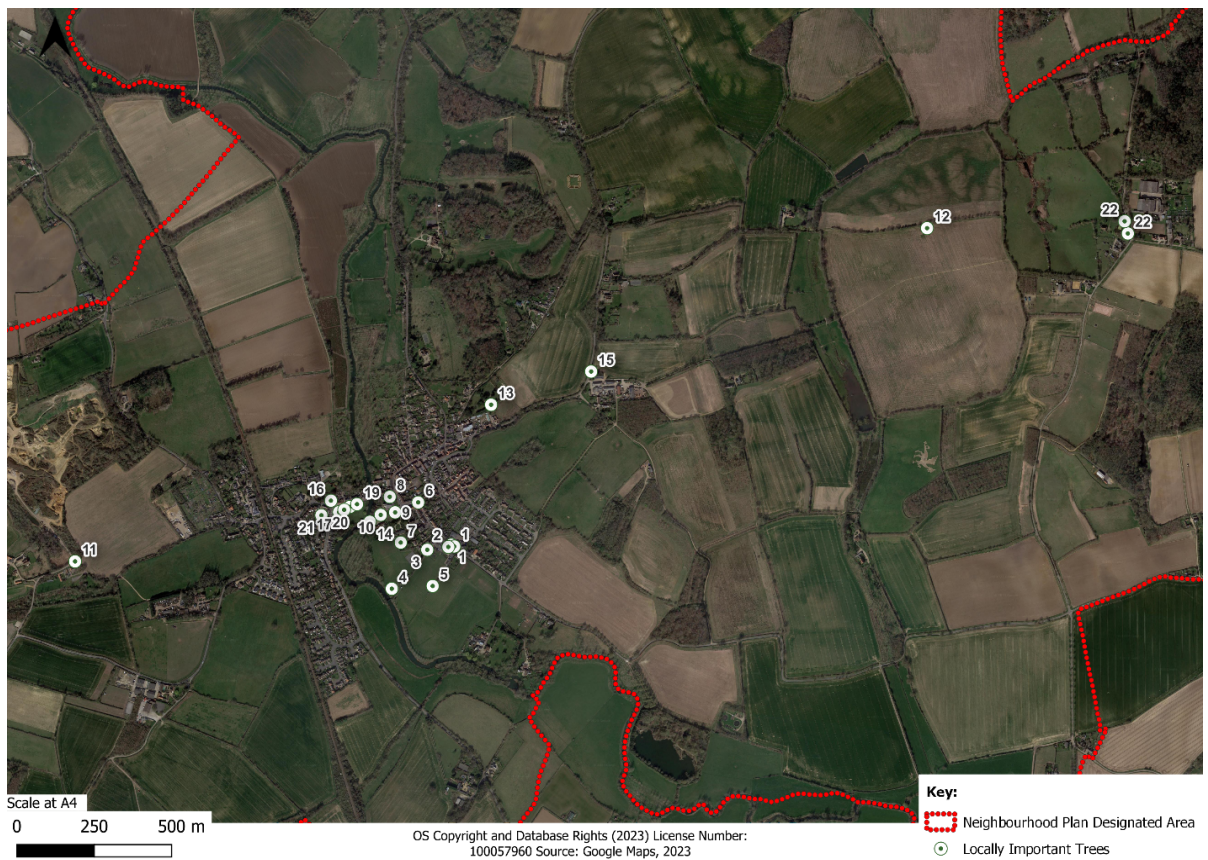


Figure 3- Location of Locally Important Trees (Source: Google Maps 2023)

Policy BP6: Locally Valued Trees

Proposals that will affect trees or hedgerows should be accompanied by a survey which establishes the health and age of affected trees and or hedgerows and be accompanied by the appropriate management plan.

Where appropriate, development proposals should promote the use of deciduous and evergreen planting in public spaces, private gardens and on streets.

Community Action 2: Tree Preservation Orders

The parish councils will apply for Tree Preservation Orders for Locally Important Trees.

