

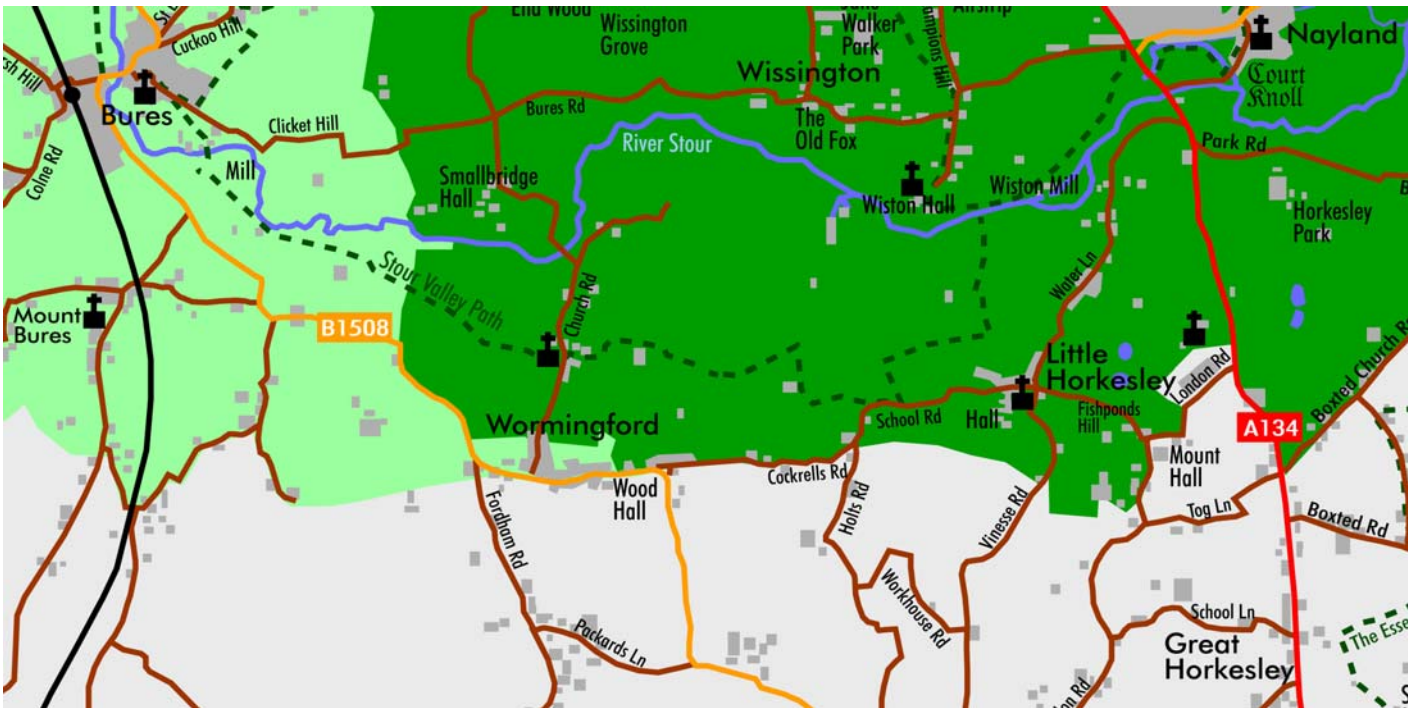
# WORMINGFORD

Wormingford's name reflects the occasion in history when a dragon roamed the banks of the river Stour close-by; "Worm" is a medieval word meaning "dragon". The "dragon" is now believed to have been a crocodile, which survived in the river and was hunted down by local population in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Wormingford is situated half way between Colchester and Sudbury, on the B1508. The village has a fine Norman church commanding a magnificent view of the Stour Valley. There are tombs of some of the Constable family in the churchyard, and there is also the grave of John Nash, the painter who lived in the village for over 50 years until his death in 1977. Inside the church is a stained glass window depicting St George slaying the dragon, given in gratitude for those returning from the Second World War, and also commemorating the Wormingford dragon.

The village has a Post Office and general store, a primary school and a large village hall. The Crown public house contains a commemorative plaque left by American Airforce veterans who had been stationed at the airfield on the edge of the village. The airfield has now been returned to agricultural use, although the runway used for club motor racing in the 1950's, today is used by The Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club.

For those seeking to follow the river, there are some beautiful walks along the original towpath. The land to the south west of the Stour rises to some 225 feet, alleged to be the highest point in Essex, and offers splendid views across the breadth of the valley and towards Bures.



*The village of Wormingford lies on the edge of the Dedham Vale AONB which is marked green*