

2020

Discover Bungay & the Waveney Valley

Bungay is a historic market town on the River Waveney. You can reach it by bus from four directions.

- From the south, catch the train to Halesworth and then the **99A** bus
- From the east, catch the train to or bus to Beccles and then bus service **580** or **581**.
- From the north, catch bus **41** or **X41** from Norwich St Stephens Street.
- From the west, catch the **581** bus from Diss (passing near the rail station) and along the Valley via Harleston.

The River Waveney forms the border between Norfolk and Suffolk with interesting towns and villages in its valley.

Historic **Bungay** is worth a visit and is one of the area's best kept secrets. Here you can explore the romantic ruins of a 12th century castle and see the unique mining galleries left from the castle siege of 1174. There are streets full of delightful Georgian architecture in the compact town centre, a 17th century **Butter Cross** and many opportunities to sample local food and drink in independent shops, cafés and pubs.

The town has numerous speciality shops; Market Day is on Thursday and the special seasonal markets (Christmas Market, Garden Street Market and Antiques Market) are also very popular. The **Fisher Theatre**, dating from 1828, offers a broad range of programmes, performances and art.

Bungay has an abundance of folklore and legend. Visit the **Three Tuns Inn**, the most haunted public house in East Anglia (allegedly). You can find the ancient **Druidstone** in the churchyard and examine the doorway of **St Mary's Church** for the claw marks left behind by the demon dog **Black Shuck**, who appeared in the church during a summer thunderstorm in 1577.

Take a walk round **Outney Common** along the river and see if you can spot an otter, heron or kingfisher, or follow the **Bigod Way** footpath along quiet lanes and farm tracks before ascending Bath Hills for a fine view of the Valley. You can also follow the **Angles Way** to **Beccles** (7 miles) described in the booklet East Suffolk Line Walks. It is mainly on the Suffolk side of the valley and could be done in stages using the **581** or **580** bus.

Canoe hire is also available year round in **Bungay**, at **Outney Meadow Caravan Site**, with possible sightings of swans, herons, kingfishers, otters and in the summer damselflies and dragonflies.

www.outneymeadow.co.uk/canoeing

There are Visitor Information Points at the Library in Wharton Street, Bungay Town Council offices, Jesters' Café at the Castle and Art Trading Co. in Earsham Street.

Modern trains call at **Halesworth** and **Beccles** every hour, seven days a week.

Bus services **X2** and **X22** from **Lowestoft** run to **Beccles** up to 4 times an hour, stopping in the Old Market, 10 minutes' walk from the station. Service **580** takes you 8 times a day via the hilly route south of the river to **Bungay**, while service **581** runs 5 times a day on the flatter route north of the river, through **Geldeston** and **Ellingham**.

From **Halesworth**, Norwich Rd bus stop, 100 meters from the station, the bus takes you swiftly up the straight Roman road and then down the hill into Bungay.

Beccles is also worth a visit, with its station café, fine church with unusual detached tower and (in summer) riverside **Lido** and **museum**. It is also important for boating as the river here is navigable and helped the early growth of the town, which received its charter from **Elizabeth I**.

Geldeston, on the Norfolk side, is head of navigation with its popular Locks Inn by the river and **Wherry Inn** in the village centre. **Ellingham** has a picturesque water mill. You can buy your train ticket to **Halesworth** and go contactless on the **99A** bus; or to **Beccles** and on the **580** bus to **Bungay**.

Service **581** from **Beccles** continues beyond **Bungay**, 4 times a day, through **Earsham** with its **Wetland Centre** on Old Harleston Road, to the market town of **Harleston**, passing on the way the handsome church of **Redenhall**. In 2020 **Harleston** is mounting special celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to America. This is because two local men, the Fuller brothers, took part in that historic voyage. The towns main celebrations are in July, full details will be available at www.visitharleston.org.uk Service **581** continues to **Diss**, passing along Victoria Road, a few minutes' walk from the railway station, 5-7 times a day.

For details of all regional and Inter City trains, operated by Greater Anglia, log on to www.greateranglia.co.uk or phone 0345 600 7245.

For First Eastern Counties buses, log on to www.firstgroup.com/easterncounties or phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

BorderBus operates service 580 - look them up on www.border-bus.co.uk or phone 01502 714565

Simonds Countrylink operates service 581 (and works closely with BorderBus on this route) - find out more on www.wimonds.co.uk or by phoning 01379 647300.

The EAST SUFFOLK TRAVEL ASSOCIATION is the local independent voluntary association for train and bus users.

You can join us via our website www.eastsuffolktravel.org.uk

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ESTA has taken every care to provide accurate information in this leaflet but cannot be held responsible for any errors or changes since publication in April 2020.

Zak Nelson for First Bus image



By Train,
and Bus
Useful map &
information
inside



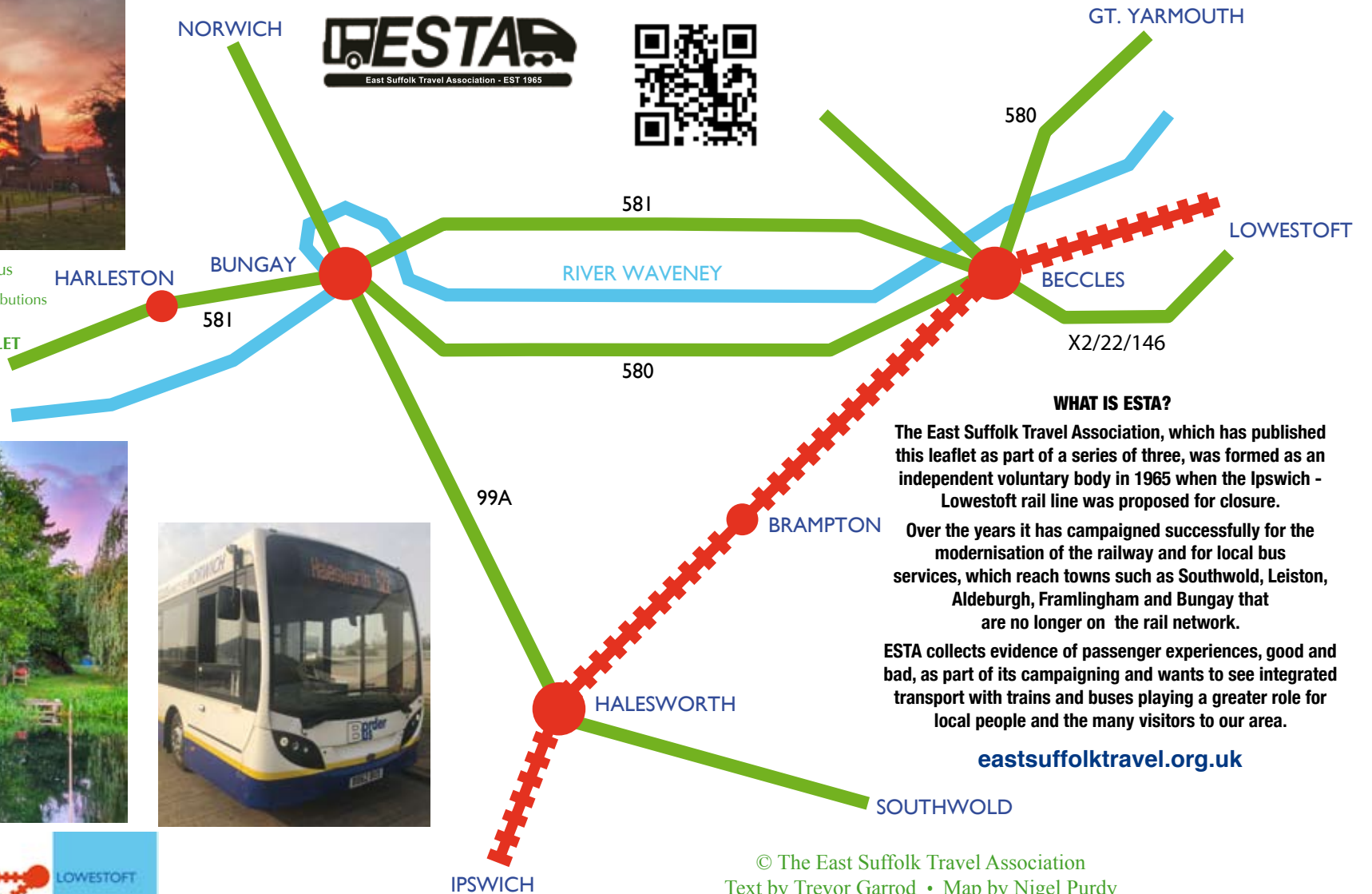


PHOTOGRAPHS Andrew Atterwill and BoarderBus

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WHAT IS ESTA?

The East Suffolk Travel Association, which has published this leaflet as part of a series of three, was formed as an independent voluntary body in 1965 when the Ipswich - Lowestoft rail line was proposed for closure.

Over the years it has campaigned successfully for the modernisation of the railway and for local bus services, which reach towns such as Southwold, Leiston, Aldeburgh, Framlingham and Bungay that are no longer on the rail network.

ESTA collects evidence of passenger experiences, good and bad, as part of its campaigning and wants to see integrated transport with trains and buses playing a greater role for local people and the many visitors to our area.

eastsuffolktravel.org.uk

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