



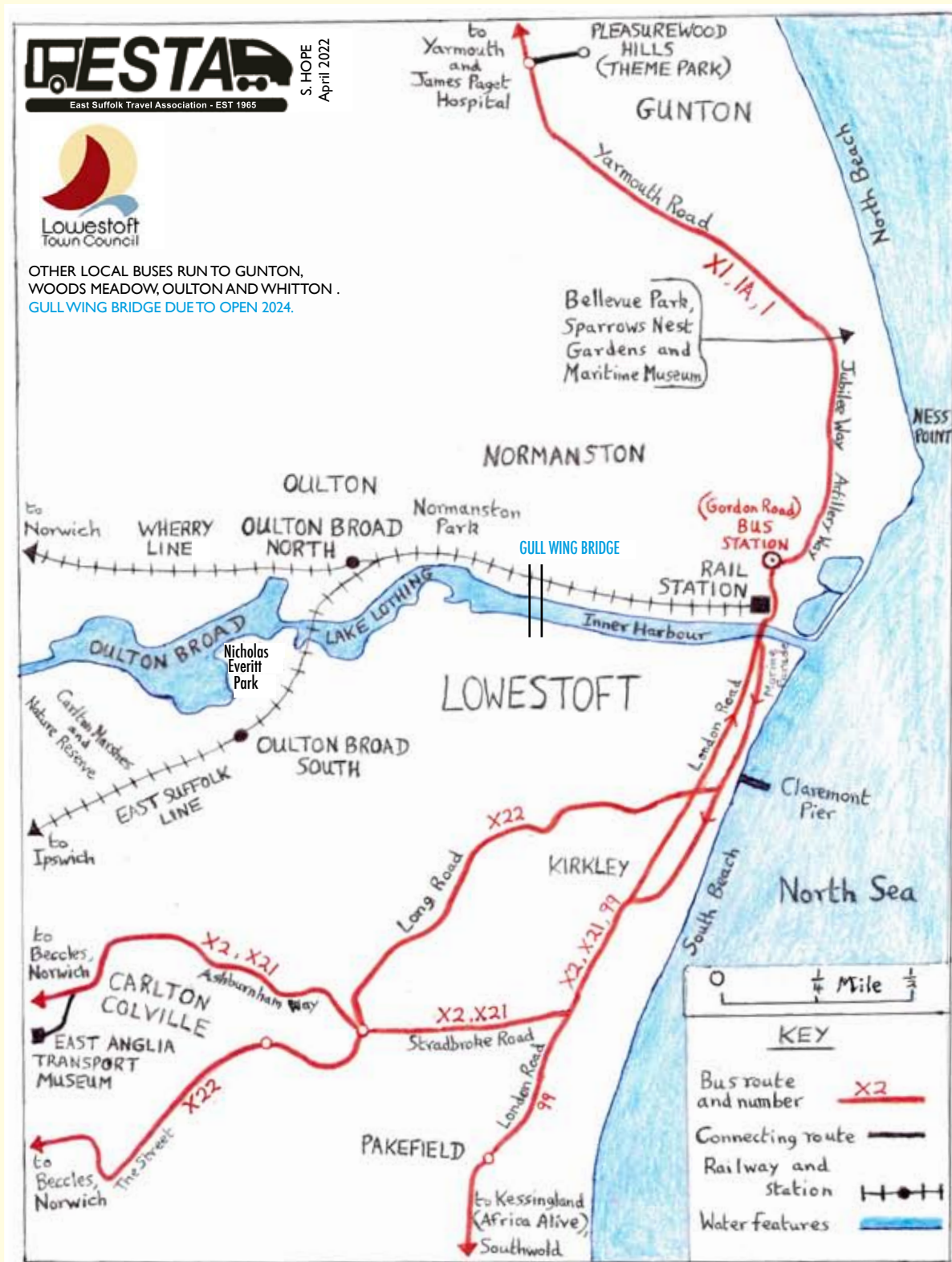
© Colin Butler - RNPS Memorial, Belle Vue Park



© Colin Butler - Sparrows Nest



© John Thompson - Mutford Lock



© Colin Butler - Maritime Museum



© Colin Butler - Twinning Garden & Pakefield Beach (front cover)

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ESTA is the independent voluntary body for train and bus users in eastern Suffolk. It was formed in 1965 when the Ipswich – Lowestoft line was proposed for closure and has since campaigned successfully for the modernisation of train services and integration with local buses.

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

We have taken every care to ensure that the information in this leaflet is accurate but cannot be held responsible for any errors or changes since publication.

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The railway came to England's most easterly town in 1847 when a branch was opened from Reedham on the Norwich – Gt Yarmouth line.

Modern trains now run every hour, 7 days a week, from Norwich to Lowestoft across a rural landscape with rivers and canals not far away. It is marketed as the Wherry Line, after the sailing barges that used to ply these waterways.

Lowestoft's second railway, the East Suffolk Line from Ipswich, arrived in 1859 and also enjoys an hourly service, 7 days a week. Both lines use bimode trains built in Switzerland.

Trains run into Lowestoft station, calling at either Oulton Broad North (**Wherry Line**) or Oulton Broad South (**East Suffolk Line**). Lowestoft station has been tastefully restored, while panels tell you about the town's history and attractions. The Lowestoft Central Project has restored the Parcels Office as an impressive exhibition space and meeting/lecture hall and also runs the adjacent shop, which includes visitor information (including Town Trail leaflets) and light refreshments.

As you leave the station you can smell the sea air and see the harbour on your right and the start of the pedestrianised shopping precinct on your left.

The bus station is 5 minutes away in Gordon Road while southbound buses also call at Waveney Road, by the trawler basin.

Cross the harbour bridge and take a walk beside the sea and golden sands, and also the formal Victorian gardens. Beyond the Claremont Pier, on the upper promenade, lie the Town Council's **Kensington Gardens**, which host a peaceful and attractive Japanese display. Buses to Beccles and Southwold also pass along the seafront, and stop beside Kensington Gardens, near to the cliff-top path to Pakefield

If you buy a rail ticket to "Lowestoft Buses" or an Anglia Plus, it includes your bus fare to –

Corton and Pleasurewood Hills leisure park with over 35 rides and attractions (www.pleasurewoodhills.com); Carlton Colville and the **East Anglia Transport Museum** where you can ride trams, trolleybuses and a narrow-gauge railway (www.eatransportmuseum.co.uk); Kessingland and **Africa Alive!** wildlife park (www.africa-alive.co.uk). The wildlife park is open all year (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day) as is **Carlton Marshes** nature reserve. The museums and

other attractions are seasonal and their websites give you full details.

Northbound buses take you to the beautiful **Belle Vue Park** with its poignant memorial to those lost at sea in wartime, and to Sparrow's Nest with the **Maritime Museum** (www.lowestoftmaritimemuseum.co.uk) and **Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum**, plus a café and a bar restaurant. Dismount at the bus stop just past the distinctive lighthouse. Both parks are maintained by Lowestoft Town Council, and one can cross the road from Sparrow's Nest to traverse Ness Park to the sea wall, and thence walk along to **Ness Point**, the most easterly in the United Kingdom.

For Oulton Broad you catch buses **106, 105** or **122** or take a train to either of its stations. Discover the town's past in **Lowestoft Museum** in Nicholas Everitt Park (www.lowestoftmuseum.org) or take a cruise with **Waveney Rivertours** from the quay next to Mutford Lock, which separates salt from fresh water.

Beyond Oulton Broad is **Carlton Marshes** nature reserve, with its well equipped visitor centre (www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org). You can walk there across the fields from Oulton Broad South station. (www.eastsuffolkline.com/walks)

Lowestoft has existed for over 1,000 years and the old High Street dates back at least half that time; but it was the coming of the railway and development of the harbour which led to the rapid development of the town and its resort area, thanks to Sir Samuel Morton Peto. You can find out more about this Victorian entrepreneur by looking in archway number 5 on the south wall of the station.

Bus along the coast © Zak Nelson for First Bus



Discover Lowestoft & Oulton Broad



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By taking the
**Lowestoft Train, and
Lowestoft & Oulton Bus**

Useful map and information inside



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