FIRST DRAFT OF ESTA LEAFLET

AROUND LOWESTOFT & OULTON BROAD BY TRAIN AND BUS

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 youer 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 will also call at Waveney Road, by the trawler basin, once current flood protection work has been completed.

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

Corton and Pleasurewood Hills theme park (www.pleasurewoodhills.com); Carlton Colville and the East Anglia Transport Museum (www.estransportmuseum.co.uk); Kessingland and Africa Alive! wildlife park (www.africa-alive.co.uk).

Northbound buses take you to the beautiful Belle Vue Park and Sparrows Nest with the Maritime Museum (www.lowestoftmaritimemuseum.co.uk) and Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum.

The 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.

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.

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 Morton Peto. You can find out more about this Victorian entrepreneur but looking at archway number.... on the south wall of the station.

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