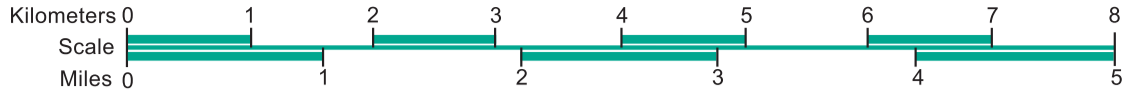


# A South Norfolk Leisure Cycle Route Leaflet



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## OLD BUCKENHAM

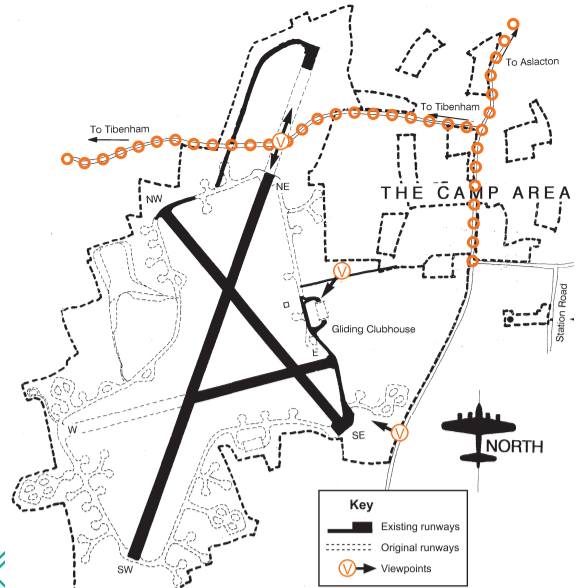
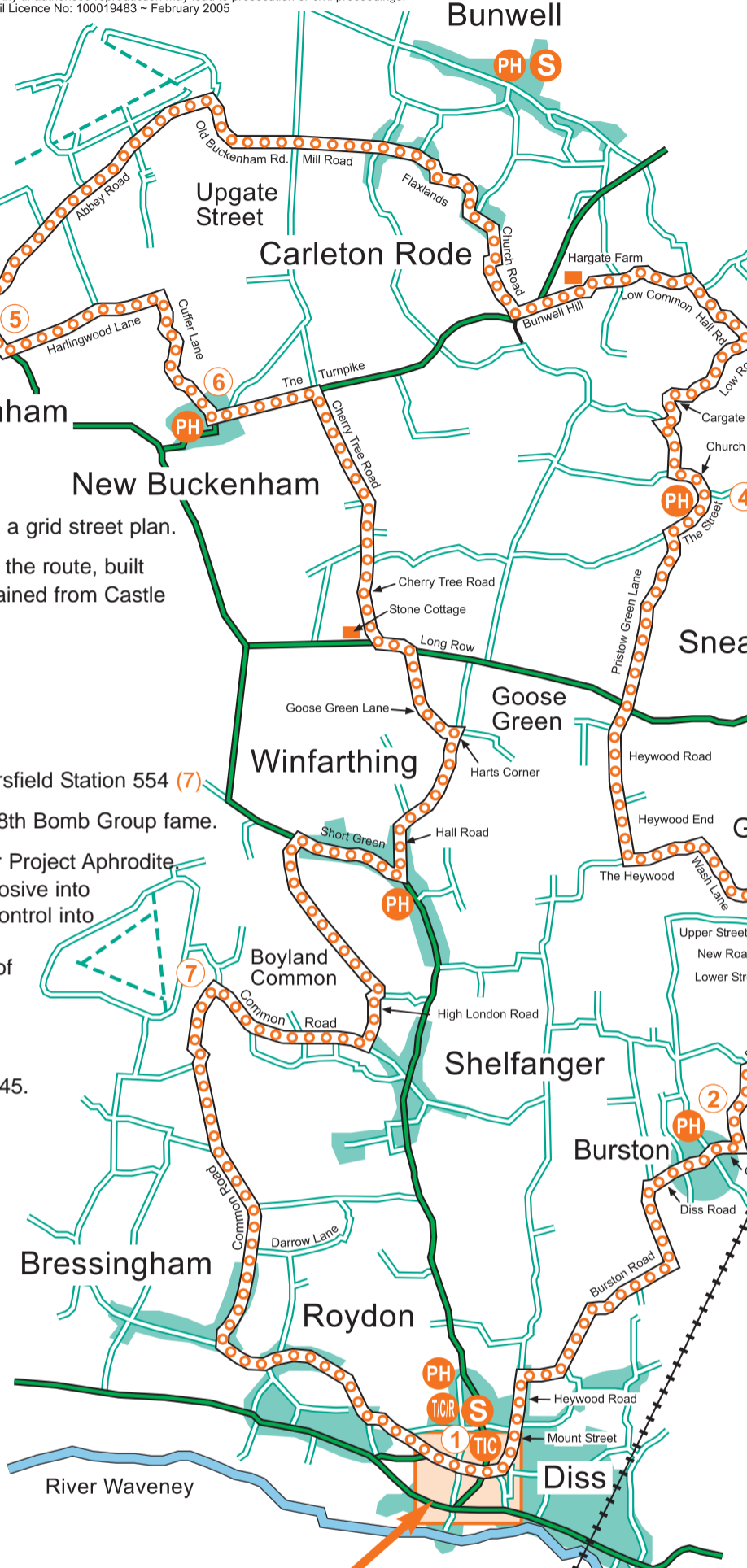
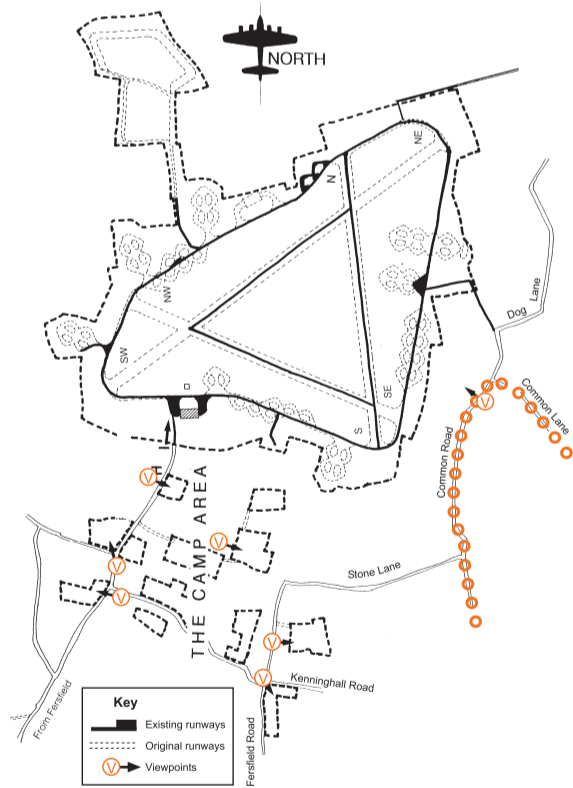
- Pubs and Shop.
- Large Village Green
- Former WWII USAAF Bomber Base
- Round Tower Church
- Restored Windmill (5)

## NEW BUCKENHAM

- Pubs & Shops
- This was a Norman 'Planned Town' with a grid street plan.
- The Castle (6) lies about a ¼ mile off of the route, built between 1145 - 1150, the key can be obtained from Castle Hill Garage for a small charge.
- There is also a large open common.

## WINFARTHING

- Pub
- WWII USAAF Airbase Winfarthing Station 140 / Fersfield Station 554 (7)
- This was a satellite for the Knettishall Station of 388th Bomb Group fame.
- Fersfield / Winfarthing was the operational base for Project Aphrodite. This project involved packing 20,000lbs of High Explosive into a redundant Flying Fortress and flying it by remote control into specific targets, notably the German V1 & V2 Bases. The project was not a success and led to the death of a number of pilots, including Lt Joe Kennedy (USN) elder brother of John F Kennedy.
- In 1944 this airfield had reverted to the RAF, flying Mosquitoes. The base finally closed in December 1945.



## ASLACTON

### TIBENHAM

- Pub.
- WWII Airfield (4)
- Built 1941-42, with a camp area to east for 2900 personnel
- Operated from November 1943 by the USAAF 44<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group with B-24 Liberators;
- James Stewart the film actor flew from here in 1943/44; the Group left by June 1945

## GISSING

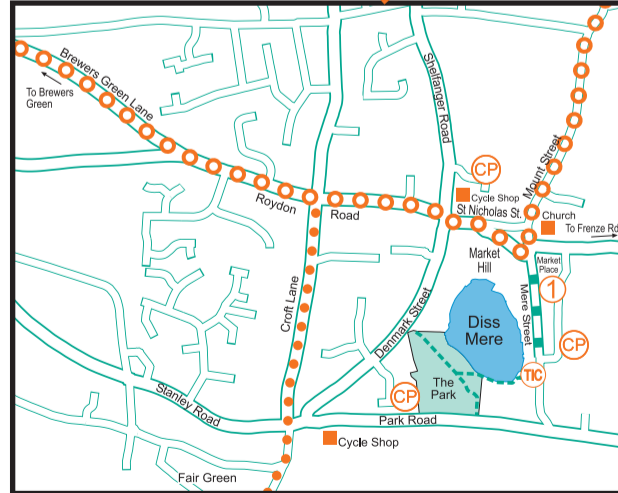
- Base closed in 1959; part used by Norfolk Gliding Club since 1960
- Further details in South Norfolk Council's USAAF airfields guide
- Look out for pill box to north of Hill Road and adjacent oak tree embedded with iron rungs (possible lookout post?)
- All Saints Church - The 17th Century Chapel has Jacobean Family Pew.

## BURSTON

- Pub.
- Attractive village with two greens.
- The village is home of the famous "School Strike"
- Visit the free museum (2) telling its story in the Strike School (built 1917) by the Maypole on Church Green. Angered by the attitude of the local land owners, teacher Mr & Mrs Tom Higdon set up their own primary school, teaching socialist and Christian principals and supported by 66 of the 72 pupils of the original school. The strike was the longest in history and caused a storm locally and nationally.

## DISS

- Shops, Pubs, Restaurants and Take Away Outlets, Tea Rooms, Car Parks and Public Toilets - Behind Tourist Information Centre on Mere Street and by Car Park next to Mere Park.
- Picturesque market town with lake (The Mere) with varied wildlife.
- Historic conservation area (inc. St Mary's Church (1) and timbered former Dolphin Inn off the Market Place and Mount Street to north)
- Good range of shops, and services (pedestrianised Mere Street)
- Award winning small museum in Old Shambles buildings (Market Place) (Tel: 01379 650618) Admission free, open Weds - Sats
- Tourist Information Centre (Tel:01379 650523) and public toilets (Mere Street, adjacent to Mere's Mouth)
- Market and auction sales every Friday
- Optional diversion to Fair Green: 16th and 17th century houses and home of fairs since the Middle Ages



## GISSING

- Pub & Gissing Hall Hotel.
- 10th Century Anglo Saxon Round Tower St Mary's Church 15th Century Double Hammerbeam Roof. (3)
- The Village Pond in the Church yard is a Nature Reserve.

# BIKE IT!

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Route Length approx 50 kilometres (30 miles) excluding detours. Car parking is available in Diss, and elsewhere with care.