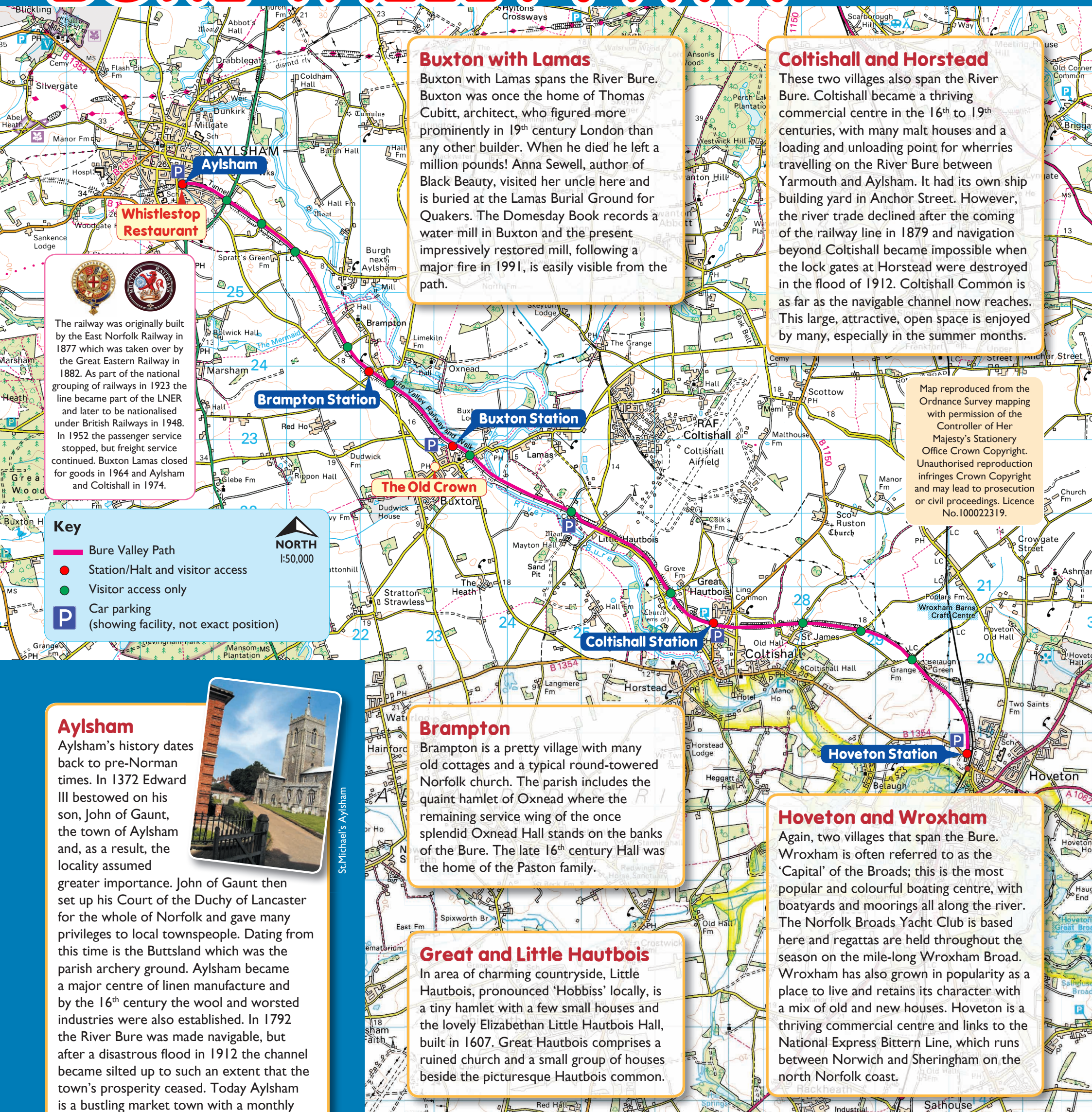


BURE VALLEY PATH



Aylsham

Aylsham's history dates back to pre-Norman times. In 1372 Edward III bestowed on his son, John of Gaunt, the town of Aylsham and, as a result, the locality assumed greater importance. John of Gaunt then set up his Court of the Duchy of Lancaster for the whole of Norfolk and gave many privileges to local townspeople. Dating from this time is the Buttsland which was the parish archery ground. Aylsham became a major centre of linen manufacture and by the 16th century the wool and worsted industries were also established. In 1792 the River Bure was made navigable, but after a disastrous flood in 1912 the channel became silted up to such an extent that the town's prosperity ceased. Today Aylsham is a bustling market town with a monthly farmers' market and renowned weekly auction. The Market Place is dominated by the beautiful 14th century St Michael's church, and surrounded by attractive 18th and 19th century properties. In the centre, the medieval street pattern remains fundamentally unchanged and it is said that a late 13th century traveller would not be lost today. This remarkable consistency of plan and spirit for 700 years provides a model of organic growth of a market town that is difficult to parallel in England.



St Michael's Aylsham

Bampton

Bampton is a pretty village with many old cottages and a typical round-towered Norfolk church. The parish includes the quaint hamlet of Oxnead where the remaining service wing of the once splendid Oxnead Hall stands on the banks of the Bure. The late 16th century Hall was the home of the Paston family.

Great and Little Hautbois

In area of charming countryside, Little Hautbois, pronounced 'Hobbiss' locally, is a tiny hamlet with a few small houses and the lovely Elizabethan Little Hautbois Hall, built in 1607. Great Hautbois comprises a ruined church and a small group of houses beside the picturesque Hautbois common.

Hoveton and Wroxham

Again, two villages that span the Bure. Wroxham is often referred to as the 'Capital' of the Broads; this is the most popular and colourful boating centre, with boatyards and moorings all along the river. The Norfolk Broads Yacht Club is based here and regattas are held throughout the season on the mile-long Wroxham Broad. Wroxham has also grown in popularity as a place to live and retains its character with a mix of old and new houses. Hoveton is a thriving commercial centre and links to the National Express Bittern Line, which runs between Norwich and Sheringham on the north Norfolk coast.



An excursion to Wroxham Bams



The tranquil River Bure



Buxton's imposing mill



Near Burgh-next-Aylsham

... take some time to explore along the route