

BIKE IT! 4

A South Norfolk Leisure Cycle Route Leaflet



All maps and diagrams featured in this 'Bike It' series of leaflets are based upon Ordnance Survey Land-line Data and 1/50,000 Raster Data with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Any unauthorised reproduction may lead to

Route approx. 35 kilometres (22 miles) excluding detours, but shorter return routes are available. The route includes two W.W.II ex-USAAF airfields and several attractive villages.

SHOTESHAM

- Attractive long fenced common, ford and valley views. (14)
- Thatched cottages and Georgian coach house. (15)
- Greenwich Almshouses and Trinity Hall built to commemorate 16th century local birth of Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton. (16)

HAWES GREEN

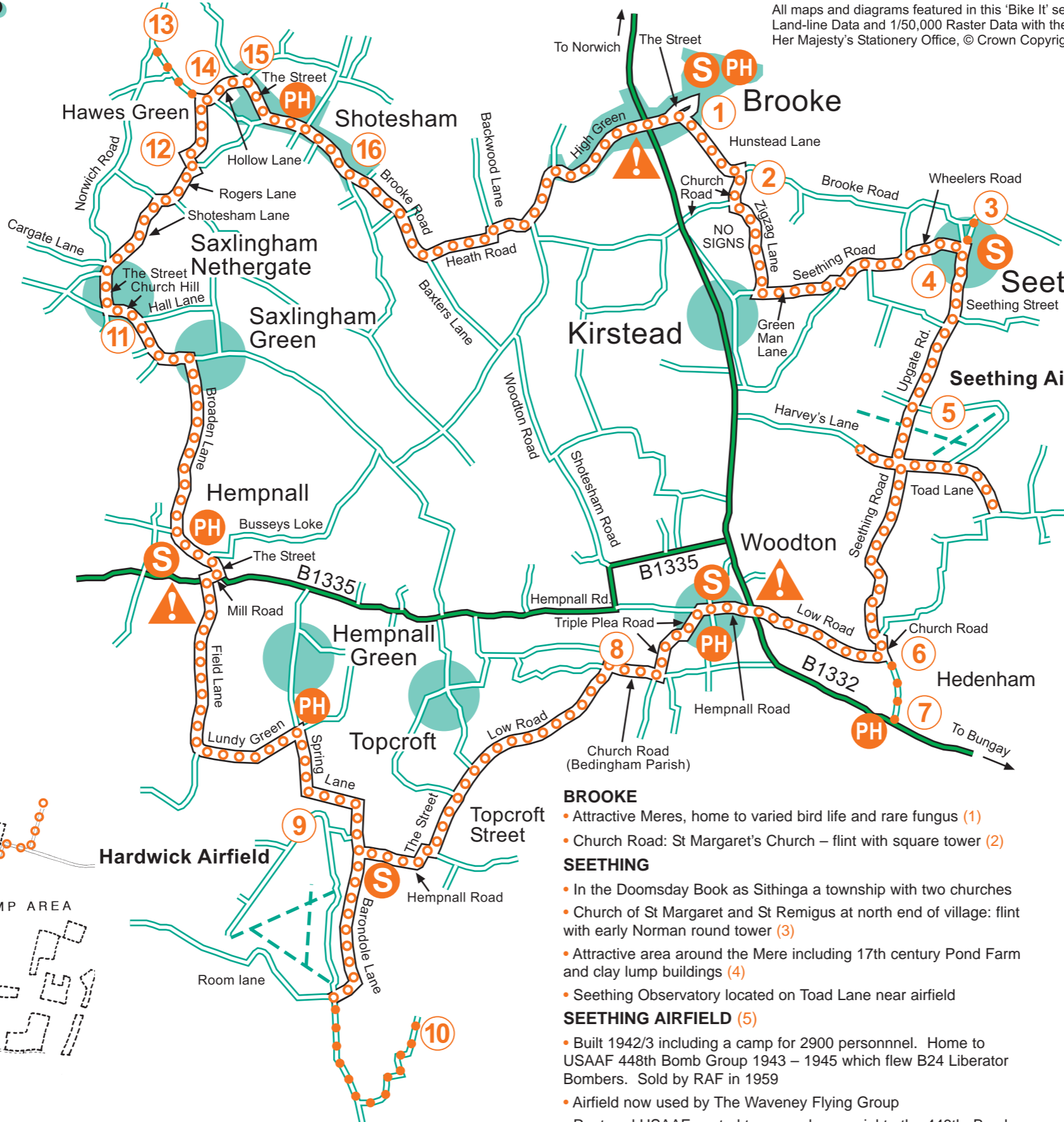
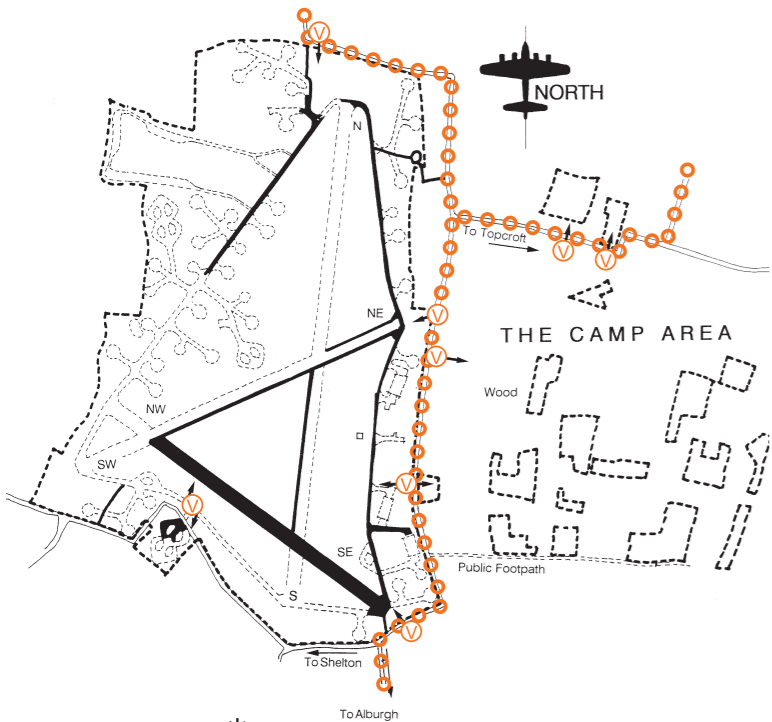
- Old Hall, St Mary's Church and St Martin's Church ruins. (12)
- Valley viewpoint to north. (13)

SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE

- Area of timber framed cottages and small farmhouses dating from the late Elizabethan and early Stuart times.

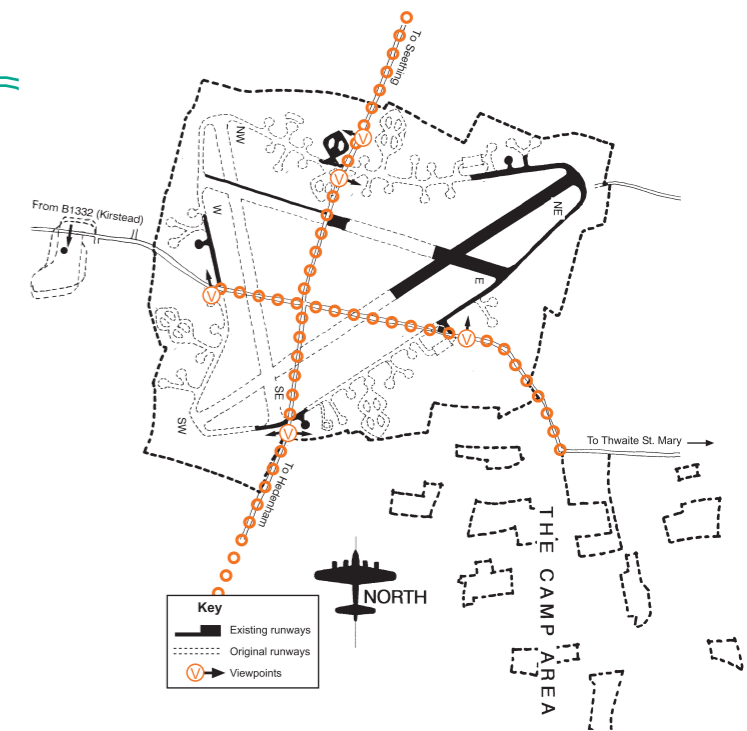
DARROW GREEN (10)

- Darrow Wood, substantial motte and bailey castle earthworks constructed soon after the Norman conquest.



KEY

- The Route
- Optional Detour
- Other Roads
- Busy Route Crossing Take Care
- Food Shop(s)
- Public House
- Tea Room Cafe or Restaurant
- Public Toilets
- Tourism Information Centre
- Point of Interest
- Car Park
- Gift Shop



BROOKE

- Attractive Meres, home to varied bird life and rare fungus (1)
- Church Road: St Margaret's Church – flint with square tower (2)

SEETHING

- In the Domesday Book as Sithinga a township with two churches
- Church of St Margaret and St Remigus at north end of village: flint with early Norman round tower (3)
- Attractive area around the Mere including 17th century Pond Farm and clay lump buildings (4)
- Seething Observatory located on Toad Lane near airfield

SEETHING AIRFIELD (5)

- Built 1942/3 including a camp for 2900 personnel. Home to USAAF 448th Bomb Group 1943 – 1945 which flew B24 Liberator Bombers. Sold by RAF in 1959
- Airfield now used by The Waveney Flying Group
- Restored USAAF control tower and memorial to the 448th. Bomb Group near airfield entrance. (Open first Sunday of months May-September, 10am – 5pm, free admission)
- For details see South Norfolk Councils USAAF airfield guide.

HEDENHAM

- Church of St Peter had first recorded rector in 1245 (6)
- "The Mermaid" pub's name was derived from the crest of the local land-owner; the Yarney family. See also attractive Hedenham Park and Hall (7)

HARDWICK AIRFIELD (SHELTON) (9)

- Built 1941/2 and operated by 3000 personnel. Base from 1942-1945 for the 8th Air Force first B-24 Liberator Bomb Group, the 93rd. Sold by the RAF in 1962.
- Restored camp huts include a small museum and memorial erected by veterans of the 93rd Bomb Group. Open by appointment with the landowner (Tel: 01508 582263)
- For details see South Norfolk Council's USAAF airfield guide.

WOODTON

- Birth place of Horatio Nelson's mother, Catherine Suckling
- Shop and pub at junction of The Street/Hempnall Road
- Pleasant beck valley to the south.

BEDINGHAM (PARISH)

- Note flint Saxon St Andrew's, Church Road with round tower and high nave (8). Large size possibly due to Hugh de Burgh granting it, in 1226, to the Priory of Our Lady in Walshingham, one of the richest in Europe.
- Scattered houses to south of Church Road were once situated near commons finally enclosed in 1843

TOPCROFT STREET

- Pretty cottages and fine houses including 16th century Street.
- Farm, Topcroft Lodge and the moated Topcroft Hall
- Farmshop on Hempnall Road