

Broadcaster 2017

Large print extracts from our free official visitor guide for the Broads National Park 2017

You may find it helpful to read this in conjunction with a standard print copy of Broadcaster, which includes maps, tables, holiday accommodation, Fun in the Broads events listings and adverts.

Please contact us if you would like large print versions of any of these, or if you would like to make any comments or suggestions.

Page references are to this large print version of Broadcaster.

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Welcome

Mik Scarlet welcomes you to the Broads National Park

Leading the way to accessible tourism

With my job as a broadcaster and journalist I am lucky enough to travel all over the country, and even the world. There are, however, places I just seem to never have managed to visit and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads was one of those places, despite always wanting to stay there.

Then one day I was asked to present a film on the access provision at various attractions in the Broads, and I jumped at the chance.

The first thing that pleasantly surprised me was just how close to my home in London the Broads is – an easy drive up the M11 and then through some beautiful countryside. My wife Diane and I stayed at a Premier Inn just outside Norwich and one of the great things about staying with this chain is they get access right.

Next morning we met with the film crew and ventured out to Whitlingham Country Park, a really stunning landscape. The park has a new, fully accessible visitor's centre, and serves a rather lovely coffee and cake. Script memorised, it was off outside to try out the accessible cruiser Ra, the UK's first solar-powered trip boat. Next stop was Barton Boardwalk. This lottery-funded project has created a fully accessible pathway through a part of the Broads that would be otherwise closed to all visitors. Read about how I got on with these two visits on pages 6 and 7. The Broads was starting to burrow into my heart, and with this affection growing it was off to Fairhaven Gardens for more of the region's wonderful nature. If I was falling in love with the region before Fairhaven, I was obsessed after.

The romance started in the tea rooms, with a cream tea (which as usual was mostly eaten by the film crew). The staff at Fairhaven are so friendly and helpful, and their overly stuffed tourism awards trophy cabinet proves that their service has been top quality for many years. Even the huge numbers of trophies did not prepare me for the glory of Fairhaven. I transferred from my wheelchair into one of the mobility scooters the gardens have for the use of people with mobility issues, and off I went into a magical landscape. A sea of candelabra primula covered the woodland floor, painting it with vibrant colour. Wildlife was everywhere, and as I drove deeper into the woods I felt like I was entering a wonderland. The gardens also have a fully accessible boat, to ensure you can experience the broad on water too. I could have stayed there all day, but I had an appointment for something I have always wanted to do. I was going sailing.

We all arrived at the Nancy Oldfield Trust and the crew, my wonderful wife and I were be-clad in all-weather gear and life jackets. Then we were taken out on to a platform on Barton Broad, the second largest broad, where the accessible sailing boat was moored. I have always been a little afraid of being on boats, but the landscape calmed my nerves and I felt a growing excitement as we glided across the water growing closer to fulfilling a lifetime ambition. Once hoisted into the trust's new, specially designed accessible sailing yacht, I was joined by my trainer Stephen and we set sail. I cannot truly explain how amazing the whole experience was. The freedom and excitement of taking control of the yacht was like nothing I have ever tried, and I've flown a hang glider and been motor racing. All I know is I will be back to the Nancy Oldfield Trust as I am a sailing convert. The trust has facilities to allow all abilities to experience the joys of sailing out on the water, and they even have a fully accessible bungalow which holds up to 10 people. Another company that provides an accessible boat is Broads Tours, which allows you to be the captain of your own day pleasure

cruiser.

I think you can tell I've fallen in love with the Broads. The landscape, the wildlife and the activities all have me hooked, but the most impressive thing is how committed everyone I met is to accessibility. If you, a family member or friend are disabled you must visit the Broads. I know I will be back, very soon. In fact as soon as I finished typing this I was booking my return trip.

Great Days out

Glide like an eel, enjoy a voyage with the sun god Ra, or relax beneath a woodland canopy on our Broads boat trips. Boating has been part of the Broads way of life for hundreds of years – these trips are all very different and will all give you a different view...

Discover the essence of the Broads at How Hill near Ludham

The Electric Eel

Step on board the Electric Eel wildlife water trail and leave the River Ant behind as you enter a secret world where reeds and flowers fringe the narrow waterways. How Hill is still a working marsh – reed and sedge are cut each year for thatch, and you might even see a marshman at work. Glide along in tranquillity until we stop for a short walk to a bird hide overlooking Reedham Water, a 'flood' where duck such as gadwall and shoveler breed. The boat takes up to eight passengers (at driver's discretion) and has a sound amplification system – please ask for details when booking.

Trips (50 minutes) April, May, October – weekends, bank holidays, Easter week and local half-term only at 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm

June-September – daily at 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm

Cost £7 adult, £6 child and concession, £19.50 family (up to two adults and two children – not suitable for children under two)

Bookings Toad Hole Cottage, 01603 756096, or visit the other Broads National Park information centres.

Wildlife walking trail

How Hill is a National Nature Reserve, with the River Ant running through it. There are reedbeds, grazing marshes, wet woodlands and its very own broad – all full of wildlife for you to discover. You can find out more about the wildlife from the touchscreen in Toad Hole Cottage. Take a walk along the waymarked trail to see wildlife for all seasons, and in June and August look out for the spectacular swallowtail butterfly.

Open April, May, October – daily 10.30am-5.00pm

June-September – daily 9.30am-5.00pm

Cost £2.50 adult, £1.50 child, includes guide booklet

Down by the riverside

Take a walk around How Hill and to see Buttle Marsh, part of the reserve which has been adapted to encourage the bittern. Buttle is one of the old local names for a bittern, one of the rarest birds in the Broads. Bitterns now use Buttle Marsh for feeding. The riverside footpath continues to Ludham Bridge and there's also a 300 metre easy access path going upriver to Boardman's Mill and Clayrack Mill.

Toad Hole Cottage

Step back into life in Victorian times in this tiny eel-catcher's cottage on the edge of the marshes.

Open April, May, October: Monday–Friday 10.30am–1.00pm and 1.30–5.00pm; Saturday–Sunday 10.30am–5.00pm
June–September: Monday–Sunday 9.30am–5.00pm

How Hill, Ludham NR29 5PG
01603 756096 / 01692 678763
toadholetic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Discover a secret

The How Hill Trust’s Secret Gardens are open daily, donations welcome. These water gardens were created by local architect Edward Boardman for the family home at How Hill, which dates from 1904. The gardens are always lovely and secluded, and in early summer there are spectacular displays of azaleas and rhododendrons. The gardens are signposted from the public car park.

Time for tea

The trust’s tea room serves a delicious selection of home-made cakes, scones and sandwiches, plus locally made ice creams, and hot and cold drinks. It’s open 11.00am–4.00pm at weekends from 27 May to 10 September, and every day from 29 May to 2 June and from 24 July to 10 September. It’s in the wooden building behind How Hill House, signposted from the public car park. For more details call 01692 678555.

Entry to the How Hill site is free, including the cottage and riverside walks, with free parking and free 24 hour moorings. Visitors with disabilities may find it helpful to telephone to check whether How Hill is sufficiently accessible for you. In summer and autumn you might find it helpful to bring an insect repellent for the trails. The car park is open daily, so even in the winter you can walk down to the river and take the riverside footpath.

Leave the city behind and escape to the country

Mik Scarlet continues his story from page 2:

“Captain Mike took me out on Ra and it was a real pleasure to witness someone who obviously loved his job, as he gave me a running commentary on the wildlife and the history of the Broads. This was my first time out on the Broads and I found that the whole experience truly lifted my spirits. It seems that wildlife is so used to seeing boats that they are fine with them coming up close, even nesting swans. It really is the only way to experience the wildlife of this area. Back on dry land, I then tried out an all-terrain Mountain Trike wheelchair with some members of Active Trails, a group of adventure-loving disabled people who want to open up the great outdoors to all abilities, and experienced the landscape close up.”

There’s a wheelchair accessible path around Whitlingham Great Broad (about 2 miles / 3km) and there are other walks through tranquil meadows and ancient woodlands. The park is open all the time and it’s great for cycling too. The park is managed by the Whitlingham Charitable Trust and all funds from car parking go towards the upkeep of the park.

www.whitlinghamcharitabletrust.com

Ra boat trips

Ra, Britain’s first solar-powered passenger boat, will take you exploring on Whitlingham Great Broad. The trip offers wonderful views and the chance to see Broads wildlife close to the city. Ra is accessible to wheelchair users via a ramp and takes up to 12 passengers. Please take warm, waterproof clothing (for spring and autumn trips especially) – it’s an open boat and it can be colder than you expect out on the water.

Trips (50 minutes) April, May, October – weekends, bank holidays, Easter week and local half-term only at 11.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm

June–September – daily at 11.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm

Cost £5 adult, £4 child and concession, £15 family (up to two adults and two children)

Bookings Whitlingham Visitor Centre, 01603 756094, or visit the other Broads National Park information centres.

Whitlingham Visitor Centre

Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TR

01603 756094 / 01603 617332

whitlinghamtic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Open April–October: Monday–Sunday 10.00am–4.00pm (5.00pm in local school summer holidays)

November–March: Monday–Sunday 11.00am–4.00pm (except Christmas and New Year)

The park and visitor centre are free entry and the centre has a wildlife touchscreen so you can explore Broads wildlife before heading out into the wild to explore some of it for real. The visitor centre, cafe and facilities for school groups are all fully accessible, and there are two all-terrain wheelchairs available to book. Dogs are welcome but please keep them on a lead in the conservation area and please don't take them into the visitor centre.

Outdoor adventure

Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre is fully accessible, with a programme of adventurous outdoor activities including canoeing, sailing, windsurfing, climbing and archery. Contact the centre on

01603 632307 or go to www.whitlinghamoec.co.uk

Getting to and from the country park

- buses from Norwich to Trowse village (25-minute walk along Whitlingham Lane to the park)
- car parking – the new system is PAY AS YOU LEAVE (on exit): 60p for 30 minutes, 60p for each further 30 minutes up to four and a half hours (£5.40), £6 all day
- annual car park permit £42 (£36 by direct debit); annual car park permit for blue badge holders and associated clubs £30 (£24 by direct debit); permits run from April to March but can be purchased at any time for a pro rata fee
- cyclists – National Route 1 runs through the park from Norwich city centre
- boaters – 24 hour free moorings on the River Yare, adjacent to the park, with access for disabled visitors via a ramp
- canoe launch point at the park giving access to the River Yare

Explore the River Bure on board Liana

Beyond the shops and boatyards you'll find a tranquil stretch of river with woodlands and meadows on either side. A liana is a woody vine and our wooden, Edwardian-style electric launch will take you along the River Bure towards Coltishall and back. Liana leaves from Hoveton Riverside Park (free entry, easy access), just along the river from the Broads National Park Information Centre. The riverside park is right by Hoveton & Wroxham Railway Station, on the Bittern Line between

Norwich and Sheringham, and there are free 24 hour moorings close by. The boat trip takes up to 12 passengers (at driver's discretion).

Trips (50 minutes) April, May, October – weekends, bank holidays, Easter week and local half-term only at 11.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm

June–September – daily at 11.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm

Cost £7 adult, £6 child and concession, £19.50 family (up to two adults and two children)

Bookings Hoveton Broads Information Centre, 01603 756097, or visit the other Broads National Park information centres.

Hoveton Broads Information Centre

Station Road, Hoveton NR12 8UR

01603 756097 / 01603 782281

hovetonic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Open April, May, October: Monday–Friday 9.00am–1.00pm and 1.30–5.00pm; Saturday–Sunday 9.00am–5.00pm

June–September: Monday–Sunday 9.00am–5.00pm

The centre is free entry and a wildlife touchscreen lets you explore Broads wildlife.

Easier Access

Mik Scarlet tells us more about easier access in the Broads

Every time I saw the Broads on the TV or read about the area in magazine travel sections it seemed idyllic but I must admit I was a little worried about the access for wheelchair users. I became a wheelchair user at the age of 15, and in the 35 years since I have found that not all of our fair country is as welcoming for disabled people as we might hope.

Nothing ruins a trip away like finding that most of what is on offer is closed to you due to poor access. As a key feature of the Broads is the water and of course the boats, it did seem to me that this might be one holiday destination that would prove difficult for me. Water and boats can be rather unfriendly places for disabled people, especially if you get around on wheels. Now, not only was I going to visit somewhere I really wanted to go, it was clear that my fears about access were obviously unfounded. Just how unfounded even I could never have imagined.

Barton Boardwalk

The boardwalk takes a visitor deep into a marshy woodland landscape that is rich with wildlife and nature, and has been designed for wheelchair users and has Braille information points along its length. From within undergrowth and marsh, I turned a corner and found myself on the edge of one of broads. The vista was stunning. I spent a while rekindling my childhood love of birdwatching, wishing I had remembered my Observer's Book of Birds that never left my side when I was 11. **The new Access All Areas video**, presented by Mik, is available here: <http://bit.ly/2k6FHPA>

How to find Barton Broad Boardwalk

From Neatishead, follow signs to 'Boardwalk'. The boardwalk is easily accessible by wheelchair and a car park for disabled visitors is available at the entrance.

Take this boardwalk through swampy, wildlife-filled carr woodland. The trail emerges to give a panoramic view over Barton, which is the second largest of the broads.

- resting places and tapping edges
- easily accessible by wheelchair
- sorry, no dogs except assistance dogs
- walk and parking free

Easy access paths

These are often the best way to explore the marshy areas of the Broads and many are on nature reserves. They are suitable for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.

Beccles Marsh Trails, Chedgrave, Filby Broad, Horsey Mere, Horstead Mill, Hoveton Riverside Park, How Hill, Rockland St Mary and Whitlingham Country Park

More info on all these walks from the Broads National Park information centres.

Boardwalks

- **Carlton and Oulton Marshes**
Suffolk Wildlife Trust 01502 564250
- **Barton Broad, Cockshoot Broad (access by boat only),
Hickling Broad and Ranworth Broad**
Norfolk Wildlife Trust 01603 625540
- **Salhouse Broad**
Salhouse Broad 07795 145475 or 01603 722775

Moorings for disabled visitors

- **Wheatfen, Surlingham**
Ted Ellis Trust 01508 538036

Boat trips, boat hire and other boating activities

Beccles – River Waveney – Waveney Stardust

Two single-deck cruisers with hydraulic lifts, designed for wheelchair users and people with other disabilities, take up to 12 passengers. Skipper and crew included. Galley and accessible toilet. Other starting points: Brundall, Norwich, Horning and Stalham. Please book in advance (online booking available).
07817 920502

Horning – River Bure – King Line Cottages

Self-drive electric day boat with electric lift for wheelchairs, steering wheel controls. Seats eight people plus one manual wheelchair user.
01692 630297

Horning – River Bure – Southern Comfort

Takes up to six wheelchair users on its scheduled trips or 20 for private parties.

01692 630262

Horseley – River Thurne – Ross' Wildlife Boat Trips

Trips on classic wooden boat, takes up to 12 passengers including one wheelchair user (please enquire in advance). Style of commentary may suit passengers with visual impairment. No trips on Saturdays.

tel/text 07791 526440

How Hill, Ludham – River Ant – Broads National Park

Trip with sound amplification system; boat is not accessible to wheelchair users.

Neatishead – River Ant – Nancy Oldfield Trust

Activities for disabled and socially disadvantaged people: motor cruises with wheelchair access, sailing, canoeing, birdwatching and fishing; day activities, holidays and courses; one self-catering residential bungalow for up to 10 people.

01692 630572

Oulton Broad – River Waveney – Waveney River Tours

Some wheelchair spaces available. Please book in advance.

01502 574903

Oulton Broad – River Waveney – Waveney Sailability

Sailing club offering members with disabilities the opportunity to sail in specially adapted dinghies.

01502 566533

Rollsby Broad – The Waterside Rollsby

Wheelyboat, takes eight people including four wheelchair users. Self-drive or with driver. Please call 9.00am-5.00pm.

01493 740531

South Walsham – River Bure – Primula

Wheelchair accessible boat trip (additional charge) when you visit Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden. Please book in advance.

01603 270449

Whitlingham Great Broad – Broads National Park

See page 6.

Wroxham – River Bure – Broads Tours

Trips on four double-decker passenger boats. Trips can accommodate up to three wheelchair users (manual chairs only). Larger wheelchair user groups by prior arrangement only. On-board toilets are not accessible to wheelchair users but there is an accessible toilet at the boarding points. Pre-booking for wheelchair users recommended. Also day boat with a wheelchair lift – maximum lift 160kg. Suggested hire three hours for maximum six people. Booking essential.

01603 782207

Moorings

Most Broads Authority 24 hour free moorings are level and without steps. Please contact the Broads National Park information centres for advice about accessibility.

Angling

The Broads is a great place for angling for everyone, with a large network of well-stocked rivers and shallow lakes. The catch includes bream, roach, pike, rudd, tench and eel. You can fish from the bank or from one of the many platforms, or you can hire a boat. The coarse fishing season runs from 16 June to 14 March. All you need is a current Environment Agency licence, available from post offices or www.gov.uk/fishing-licences

Places with platforms or pads suitable for wheelchair users:

Buckenham Ferry, River Yare – three pads

Bungay – contact Bungay Cherry Tree Angling Club, 01508 518798

Cantley Staithe, River Yare

Filby Broad – on one boardwalk

Ludham, River Thurne – three platforms at Cold Harbour Farm

Martham Pits – two platforms – day tickets from the

Co-op, Repps Road, Martham; 01493 748358

Postwick, River Yare – 23 pads upstream of Ferry Lane

Potter Heigham – south-east (Martham) bank of the River Thurne, upstream of the New Bridge – 10 platforms

Rollesby Bridge

Upton Dyke, River Bure – two pads

Worlingham Staithe, River Waveney – two pads at the
24 hour free moorings

Norwich and District Pike Club has two wheelyboats, one at Surlingham and one at Ormesby Broad, which can be booked for trips by non-members. Contact the club on 07776 221959 or 07928 394476.

For more fishing information go to the Broads Angling Strategy Group site: www.basgonline.org

Bike hire centres

Some have tandems available.

If you know of other local examples, or if you would like to give any feedback on any of the places mentioned here, please contact the Broads Authority – we should be pleased to hear from you.

For more details on anything mentioned here, please contact the Broads National Park information centres. www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Making Hickling even better

Historically, the River Thurne flowed out through The Hundred Stream to meet the sea around Horsey, through a vast untamed wetland. Today, although the upper reaches of the River Thurne, including Horsey Mere and Hickling Broad, may feel like a wild place, it is managed by people, shaped by reed cutting, maintained by dredging and rather than flowing, its water is pumped up using electric engines and turbines, from the lower-lying surrounding farmland. The

landscape we see now has changed and will keep on changing. We want to ensure that it's always changing for the better!

The Hickling project began with creating an island in Duck Broad, not far from the River Thurne, using EU funding. The island has a healthy green growth of reed and reed mace and provides shelter and refuge for migratory birds spending the winter in Duck Broad. The island helps the wild birds as they are sensitive to disturbance from passing boats.

Hickling Broad itself covers 1.4km² (equivalent to 224 football pitches), making it the biggest broad and one of the largest expanses of open water in East Anglia. Over the years it has got a bit bigger through damage to the banks by coypu in the mid 20th century and more recently by increasing numbers of greylag geese grazing the reed, which erodes the banks, also making the broad slightly shallower, as does the build-up of dead algae.

Using sediment dredged out from the boat channel running through Hickling Broad during the winter of 2015-16 to enhance the reedbed was a key part of the vision to improve water quality and increase biodiversity in the wider broad, while the dredging itself ensures safe navigation for all boaters. The project has helped to keep waterborne access to local facilities open, including the boatyard, pub and sailing club.

Now the Broads Authority is working with local people to create new reed islands and restore a badly eroded wetland area, using nature-friendly engineering techniques including fabrics called geotextiles.

The Broads is an internationally important wetland and a stop-over site for hundreds of thousands of water birds such as teal, gadwall and wigeon, which congregate on the UK's wetlands in winter. Many of these birds are from places such as Siberia, Scandinavia and Iceland.

The UK is home to a significant percentage of the north-west European wintering bird populations, meaning we have an international duty to create quiet refuges for birds.

Nationally rare water plants also live in the Upper Thurne river system. For example intermediate stonewort, which occurs only here in the UK and so depends on us for its survival.

The water plants are now attracting more birds, waterway depths have improved, there is good recreational access, and we have healthy reed areas and better water quality. Hickling is starting to get even better.

Not far away another project is under way to make another part of the Upper Thurne even better. We have been working with our partners to create a large reedbed called the Potter Heigham wetland. Eventually the reedbed will replace others lost from elsewhere in East Anglia as a result of changes to flood defences associated with sea level rise. The new reedbed will take a few years to grow, but wildlife is already moving in!

Bikes

Gentle slopes, beautiful countryside, quiet lanes, plenty of places to hire bikes... VisitTheBroads for cycling

Broads Bike Hire Association members

- Most hire centres below are open from Easter/April to October; some are open for longer periods.
- Prices from £12 for a day for adults. Some places have half-day, hourly and family rates.

- All centres have high quality bikes for adults with locks and racks for bags, and all centres have cycle helmets available free of charge.
- Children's bikes, child seats and tandems are available at some places.
- A map of a long or short route starting and finishing at each centre, which will guide you around the sights and special attractions of the area, is included in the price.

You can download some routes from www.thebroadsbybike.org.uk

- The centre at Burgh St Peter has moorings, and the villages of Horning and Stokesby have moorings within a 10-minute walk of the centres.
- Please contact the centres for full details.

Bungay – Outney Meadow Caravan Park, NR35 1HG, 01986 892338, www.outneymeadow.co.uk

Burgh St Peter – Waveney River Centre, NR34 0BT, 01502 677343, www.waveneyrivercentre.co.uk

Clippesby – Clippesby Hall, NR29 3BL, 01493 367800, www.clippesby.com

Horning – Broadland Cycle Hire at BeWILDerwood, NR12 8JW, 07887 480331, www.norfolkbroadscycling.co.uk

Sea Palling – Sea Palling Cycle Hire, Waxham Great Barn, NR12 0EE, 07747 483154, www.seapallingcyclehire.com

Stokesby – Riverside Tea Rooms and Stores, NR29 3EX,

01493 750470

Other bike hire operators

Fritton Lake Outdoor Centre, Church Lane, NR31 9HA,
0333 456 0777, www.frittonlakeoc.co.uk

Hoveton, Horning and Ludham Bridge – self-service bike hire points,
part of the Three Rivers Way project, see page 15, 01603 552563,
www.norfolkbroadscycling.co.uk/broads-by-cycle

RSPB Strumpshaw Fen, NR13 4HS, 01603 715191,
www.rspb.org.uk/strumpshawfen (not for use on the reserve)

Wroxham – TheCanoeMan, Norwich Road, NR12 8RX,
01603 783777 / 0845 4969177, www.TheCanoeMan.com

Tour de Broads

Tour de Broads is the biggest not-for-profit cycling event in the region, hugely enjoyed by over 2,600 participants last year. The event is organised by local bike shop, Pedal Revolution, to promote cycling in this beautiful part of the country and raise money for good causes. In 2017 it's back better than ever before, with not one but two days – Sunday 30 April, starting from Great Yarmouth and exploring the stunning Southern Broads, and Sunday 20 August, following the well-loved route through the beautiful Northern Broads. Find out more at

www.tourdebroads.com

Canoes

Canadian canoeing is a great way to discover the delights of this fragile wetland, and it's silent, so you'll be able to get closer to the wildlife, including water voles, great crested grebes and – if you're lucky – otters.

We have worked with the hire centres to develop canoe trails, with lots of snippets of info about what you'll see along the way, plus ideas for places to visit and safety advice. The trails start from hire centres but of course you can also use them if you're lucky enough to be paddling your own canoe. The detailed maps show where you can get in and out of canoes, and there's a list of the places on page 12 of Broadcaster. For public slipways see the boating map on the centre pages.

There are two sets of trails in the Southern Broads, exploring the River Yare and the River Waveney. On the Yare there are trails from Norwich and Rockland, and on the Waveney you can start from Bungay or Geldeston. At Beccles, Geldeston, Ellingham, Wainford and Bungay look out for QR codes which link to our website. In the north, you can explore Salhouse Broad and the River Bure, or discover the River Ant and Barton Broad, starting from Sutton Staithe or Wayford Bridge. There are one-hour, three-hour and six-hour return routes so you can choose a route that's suitable for you – some trails include various options. The trails produced so far are all available from www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk. The map here shows one of them – the trail on the Waveney from Geldeston to Beccles in the Southern Broads.

Canoeing allows exploration of the headwaters (less tidal waters). Please respect nature reserves and paddle away from the edges to minimise disturbance to breeding birds. We don't recommend canoeing in the lower reaches. If you do, you need to be extremely experienced, fit and able. Canoeing in the Broads is suitable for all the

family, including young children. Canadian canoes usually carry up to three adults but you are advised to check with the operator.

Broads Canoe Hire Association members

www.canoethebroads.co.uk

- Most hire centres below are open from Easter/April to October; some are open longer periods.
- Prices from £23 for up to three hours, £35 for three to six hours. For hourly or 24 hourly rates please contact the individual centres.
- Full instructions are given, and buoyancy aids are provided and fitted on site, to be worn at all times on or around the water.
- Waterproof bags or dry bags, local maps and instructions are also available from the centres.
- All Broads Canoe Hire Association centres are inspected and monitored for safety by the Broads Authority as part of the licensing agreement.
- At times of adverse weather (especially strong winds) the centres will not be hiring to protect customer safety.
- Please contact the centres for full details.

Bank Boats, Wayford Bridge, near Stalham NR12 9LN, 01692 582457, www.bankboats.co.uk

Barnes Brinkcraft, Wroxham – Riverside Road, NR12 8UD, 01603 782625, www.barnesbrinkcraft.co.uk

Herbert Woods, Potter Heigham NR29 5JF, 01692 670711
/ 0800 144 4472, www.herbertwoods.co.uk

Martham Boats, Martham – Valley Works, Cess Road, NR29 4RF,
01493 740249, www.marthamboats.com

Outney Meadow Caravan Park, Bungay NR35 1HG, 01986 892338,
www.outneymeadow.co.uk

Rowan Craft, Geldeston NR34 0LY, 01508 518208,
www.canoethebroads.co.uk

Salhouse Broad, Salhouse NR13 6RX, 07795 145475
/ 01603 722775, www.salhousebroad.org.uk

Sutton Staithe Boatyard, Sutton NR12 9QS,
01692 581653, www.suttonstaitheboatyard.co.uk

Waveney River Centre, Burgh St Peter NR34 0BT,
01502 677343, www.waveneyrivercentre.co.uk

Whispering Reeds, Hickling – Staithe Road, NR12 0YW,
01692 598314, www.WhisperingReeds.net

Some centres also offer canoe camping. Campers bring their own equipment and the centres provide a map of rough camping sites. Bank Boats & Canoe Hire is a recognised British Canoe Union / Canoe England Centre and also offers canoe courses and tuition, single-seated kayaks and sit-on-top kayaks, and guided canoe trips most evenings (bookings in advance). Martham Boats also offers single-seated kayaks and stand-on paddleboards. Salhouse Broad also has sit-on-top kayaks. Please enquire for details.

Other canoe hire operators

Fritton Lake Outdoor Centre, Church Lane, NR31 9HA,
0333 456 0777, www.frittonlakeoc.co.uk

Norwich – Freedom Boating Holidays, Kingfisher Boatyard, Bungalow Lane, NR7 0SH, 01603 858453, www.freedomdayboats.co.uk

Norwich – Pub and Paddle, from the Red Lion, by Bishop Bridge, River Wensum, 07886 080875, www.pubandpaddle.com

South Walsham – Free Spirit Canoe Tours, Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden, School Road, NR13 6DZ, 01603 783777,
www.fairhavengarden.co.uk

Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TR, 01603 632307, www.whitlinghamoec.co.uk

Cary's Meadow

Cary's Meadow, on the River Yare at Thorpe St Andrew on the edge

of Norwich, is a great place for city residents and visitors to enjoy the Broads. A canoe launch point gives improved canoe access to the city river network, for travel upstream through Norwich to New Mills Yard or downstream in the Southern Broads towards Whitlingham Country Park and on to Rockland St Mary and Loddon. Improved and extended car parking space, riverbank erosion protection and fishing platforms are provided as part of this Broads Authority project, and the meadow also offers a short circular walk.

Canoe launching points

Barton Turf Staithe

Belaugh Staithe

Bramerton – Broads Authority 24 hour free moorings

Bungay – Outney Meadow

Cantley – Red House PH (Public House)

Chedgrave Common

Dilham – Tyler's Cut

Ellingham Sluice

Geldeston – Locks Inn and Rowan Craft

Hardley Cross

How Hill – Toad Hole Cottage

Langley Staithe

Loddon Staithe

Neatishead Staithe

Norwich – Red Lion PH and Norwich Yacht Station (seasonal)

Postwick Wharf

Ranworth Staithe

Reedham Ferry Inn

Rockland St Mary – New Inn PH

Stalham Staithe

Surlingham – Ferry House PH

Sutton Staithe

Thorpe St Andrew – Cary's Meadow and Rushcutters PH

Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre

Woodbastwick – Cockshoot Dyke

Wroxham Broad

Ferries and trips on small boats

Ferries are part of the history of the Broads – essential for getting around – and many still operate.

Beccles – Big Dog Ferry along the River Waveney to Geldeston
07532 072761

Blofield – Free Spirit Canoe Tours – small groups or individuals, various locations
01603 211606

Burgh St Peter – foot ferry across the River Waveney to Carlton Marshes
01502 677343 (enquiries) or 07500 571232
(on demand service)

Fritton Lake Outdoor Centre – local history and wildlife boat trips
0333 456 0777

Hickling Broad – Norfolk Wildlife Trust boat trips
01692 598276

Horning – sailing trips on Broads yacht called Hassle 07768 957901

Horsey Staithe – Ross' Wildlife Boat Trips (no trips on Saturdays)
tel/text 07791 526440

Hoveton/Wroxham – Liana - see page 6

How Hill, Ludham – Electric Eel - see page 4

Lowestoft Water Taxi – to and from Oulton Broad
01502 569663 / 07402 128311

Ranworth Broad – Norfolk Wildlife Trust boat trips
01603 270479

Reedham – vehicle chain ferry across the River Yare to Loddon and
Chedgrave area 01493 700429

Rollsby Broad – boat trips from The Waterside
01493 740531 E3

Salhouse Broad – foot ferry to Hoveton Great Broad Nature Trail or
guided trips around Salhouse Broad
07795 145475 / 01603 722775

South Walsham – boat trips from Fairhaven Woodland and Water
Garden 01603 270449

Stalham – trips from the Museum of the Broads on a Victorian steam
launch 01692 581681

Whitlingham Great Broad – Ra – see page 6

See also pages 7 and 9

Learning the ropes

Like the idea of sailing but never got around to trying it? Now's your chance! These training centres and clubs will be keen to welcome you.

Barton Turf Adventure Centre 01692 536411
www.btac-services.co.uk

Green Wyvern Yachting Club RYA Training Centre 07742 961447
www.greenwyvern.org.uk

Horning RYA Training Centre 01692 630395 www.horningsc.co.uk

Hunter's Yard RYA Training Centre, Ludham 01692 678263
www.huntersyard.co.uk

Nancy Oldfield Trust, Neatishead 01692 630572
www.nancyoldfield.org.uk

Norfolk Broads School of Sailing, Upton 07796 974050
/ 01493 750430 www.norfolksailingschool.co.uk

Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham 01603 782808
www.nbyc.co.uk B3

Norfolk Punt Club, Barton Turf 01692 536838 www.puntclub.co.uk

Norfolk Schools Sailing Association, Filby www.nssa.co.uk

Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre 01502 587163
www.oultombroadwatersportscentre.co.uk

Waveney Sailability, Oulton Broad 01502 566533
www.waveneysailability.co.uk

Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre, Norwich 01603 632307
www.whitlinghamoec.co.uk

The RYA's OnBoard scheme will put interested groups in touch with sailing clubs and centres. Contact the Sailing Development Officer, Holly Hancock on holly.hancock@rya.org.uk or 07926 396418.

The Broads isn't just for summer!

You may love the Broads, but do you love it all year round? It doesn't all stop when schools go back and many birds fly south.

Autumn and winter are great seasons to VisitTheBroads, and the Broads National Park is also ideally placed for a city and country break. Norwich and Great Yarmouth, at either end of the River Yare, both offer lots to enjoy in the colder months in wonderfully historic settings: specialist shops, markets, entertainment, museums and galleries, fireworks, ice skating, carols in medieval churches and many other Christmas events. Lowestoft in Suffolk is close to the Southern Broads and the North Norfolk coast is not far away either, so there are lots of options for exploring country, city and coast.

Autumn and winter are wonderful times for walking and birdwatching in the Broads. While many birds are leaving, others are arriving. White-fronted geese fly in from Russia and bean geese from Scandinavia, while thousands of pink-footed geese travel down from Iceland and

Greenland. Nature reserves including those at Ranworth, Upton, Hickling, Horsey, Berney, Strumpshaw, Surlingham and Carlton are open for walks, and winter is also the season of the reed harvest.

Many other places stay open through the winter including Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden at South Walsham, Wroxham Barns, and the Bure Valley Railway, which runs between Aylsham and Wroxham, or you can take a Santa Cruise on the River Bure from Wroxham with Broads Tours. Enjoy autumn and winter events at Whitlingham Country Park, or Christmas meals and carols at Edwardian How Hill House, combined with a walk beside the wintry River Ant.

Cosy cottages, secluded lodges, country house hotels, and friendly bed and breakfasts will all be happy to welcome you in, as will the many pubs, cafes and restaurants offering winter and Christmas menus with seasonal local produce. And you can even enjoy the adventure of a winter boating holiday!

VisitTheBroads in a different season – see it in a new light and love the Broads in winter!

Waterland walking

The Broads has over 190 miles (300km) of footpaths for free, outdoor activity on land, with circular walks from many villages and moorings. It's not just for boating! You'll also find many Fun in the Broads walking events listed in Broadcaster – see page 35.

Norfolk Coast Path

The path runs for 84 miles from Hunstanton in West Norfolk and a new section now extends it as far as Hopton-on-Sea, between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. The walk passes through the beautiful Norfolk countryside, with seaside towns and villages, areas rich in wildlife, and sites of fascinating historical and geological interest. At Horsey and Winterton, as well as exploring the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the route also takes you through the Broads National Park.

More long-distance footpaths

These three paths run through the Broads, two in the Southern Broads and one in the Northern Broads. In the south, the Wherryman's Way follows the River Yare from Norwich to Great Yarmouth, from where the Angles Way continues south and into the Suffolk Brecks, while the Weavers' Way passes through the Northern Broads and then goes on to North Norfolk.

Bitterns and wherries

Two train lines can really broaden your horizons. The Bittern Line goes north from Norwich through Wroxham to Sheringham on the North Norfolk coast and the Wherry Lines go east from Norwich to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Both lines have websites with timetables and info about walks from stations.

Discover the Three Rivers Way

The first part of the Three Rivers Way (3RW) is open! The rivers are the Bure, Ant and Thurne, and this first part of the walking and cycling path goes from Hoveton to Horning (about 2.5 miles / 4km), following the route of the A1062. All three river valleys have lots of places for waterland walkers to explore – here are some to try. The other villages to be linked later as part of the 3RW are Ludham and Potter Heigham. The way will also link with existing lanes, bridleways and footpaths, and is close to many places to visit. You can download some local cycle routes from www.thebroadsbybike.org.uk. The Broads by Bike route 8 (most of the route is shown on the map below) is about 15.8 miles / 25.5km. For details of bike hire see page 10 and for full details of the 3RW go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/long-distance-trails/three-rivers-way

Boats and trains

There are boat trips and day boats of all kinds to hire at Horning and Wroxham, including a trip on the elegant little wooden boat Liana, going towards Coltishall (see page 6). From Wroxham/Hoveton the Bure Valley Railway runs on to Aylsham. Along this narrow gauge railway there are wayside halts serving the villages of Brampton, Buxton and Coltishall where you can hop off and explore on foot. Hop back on and continue your journey by train by waving down the driver to stop. There's also a path for walkers and cyclists along the same route. The round trip is about 18 miles / 29km and the railway can even carry your bikes. Some trains are 'boat trains', connecting with Broads boat trips from Wroxham, so there are lots of opportunities to enjoy the Broads from the water too. www.bvrw.co.uk

Horstead Mill

Enjoy a walk here, across the River Bure from Coltishall, with a wheelchair accessible path and fishing platforms, at the site of two former mills. The remains of the buildings date from 1789 – there was a fulling mill used in cloth production and a grist mill used for grinding corn to produce flour. Flour production ended here during the 1914-18 war but the mill continued producing animal feed, using the millstones until 1960. www.coltishall.org.uk

Alderfen Broad

Near Upper Street, Horning walk north towards Neatishead to discover Alderfen. It's like a lost broad, hidden in the marshland, but worth discovering. www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

How Hill National Nature Reserve

Enjoy a lovely walk along the River Ant to How Hill – you'll find full details for How Hill on pages 4-5. www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Ludham

This village is full of historical interest, with medieval St Catherine's Church and the chance for some wherry-spotting – not rare Broads birds but originally the cargo sailing boats of the Broads. Wherries Albion and Maud are based at Ludham, while Wherry Yacht Charter's wherries are based at Wroxham. www.ludhamarchive.org.uk

St Benet's Abbey

A thousand years ago this isolated spot became the site of a monastery which grew to dominate north-east Norfolk for several centuries. The abbey is the only Norfolk monastery founded in the Anglo-Saxon period which continued in use throughout the Middle Ages. The abbey was a large landowner and held the rights to extract peat in all the neighbouring parishes. These medieval peat diggings evolved into the Broads landscape we see today.

In 1535, King Henry VIII gave the Bishop of Norwich the lands of St Benet's and the title of abbot in return for other lands held by the bishop. As a result, the abbey was the only monastic site in England that was not officially closed down. The Bishop of Norwich is still the Abbot of St Benet's and every year on the afternoon of the first Sunday of August he holds a service in the ruins of the church (6 August 2017), arriving on board one of the old sailing wherries.

The brick windmill, built on the remains of the gatehouse in the 18th century, is one of the earliest surviving tower mills in the county. This unique combination of buildings became a favourite subject of the 19th century Norwich School of Artists. Their atmospheric images helped to turn the abbey into a favourite spot for visitors.

The Norfolk Archaeological Trust owns and manages St Benet's Abbey. The site is open daily, free entry, with regular guided tours from May to September, and sometimes other events too – more details in Fun in the Broads, see page 35. www.stbenetsabbey.org

Rare and beautiful

The Broads, like a series of landscape paintings, is made up of beautiful habitats such as whispering reedbeds, coastal dunes, lush woodlands and vast marshes.

Stories to be told

Within these canvases there are stories of rare species to be told. Here are some of the amazing species that inhabit the Broads National Park, and stories of helping to protect their habitats. This landscape of water and wetland is a globally important nature magnet, with birds making epic journeys, living in the Broads for part of their year. Much of the amazing birdlife arrives in the winter, making the Broads a great place for autumn and winter trips. Alongside the thousands of ducks, geese and swans that feed in the Breydon estuary we occasionally get a rarity, perhaps a great knot, a glossy ibis, or a white-rumped or a broad-billed sandpiper.

Rarest wildlife

There are over 11,000 plant and animal species in the Broads – more than a quarter of Britain's rarest wildlife lives here – and 1,200 of these are a priority for special conservation action because they are threatened. Some of our priority species are winners, such as the otter, which is recovering throughout the UK following its near disappearance in the 1960s. Other winners are the hundreds of marsh harrier and around 15 breeding pairs of bittern in the Broads, all a sign that the habitat is getting healthier and better able to support predators at the top of the food chain.

The business of caring

Our wetland environment is critical in sustaining the Broads, for people as well as wildlife. It's the Broads Authority's job to take care of the wildlife across the whole of the national park and we have long known that an environment that is healthy for wildlife is also healthy for people. For example, high quality, fresh flowing water in rivers not only benefits fish, it also benefits people. Residents get lower rises in water bills, as wetlands provide free water purification and there is less carbon in the atmosphere as it is locked up in peaty soils. We all also benefit, by being able to enjoy more wildlife. The Broads is facing complex challenges such as pollution from agriculture and waste water, recreational pressures, housing development, a changing climate and sea level rise. But there are success stories to tell as well.

Owl you need is love

Some priority species are just holding on and have responded to our conservation work. For example, the barn owl now almost entirely depends on the provision of artificial nest boxes and farmers leaving rough grass areas suitable for voles, the food of the owls. With the help of a recent grant from Love the Broads (see page 45) the Broads Authority has put up almost 40 barn owl boxes since 2013, with more to go up in 2017. Barn owls have been hit hard in recent years by wet, cold springs, which create difficult vole-hunting conditions, so fingers crossed for a good season this year.

Helpful algae

Other species that are doing well in the Broads are underwater stoneworts. These look like water plants but are actually algae – large and beautiful simple forms of life. Amazingly they can create clear

water and provide bountiful food for water birds. The Broads is one of the best stonewort areas in the UK. The water channels or dykes on marshland grazed by cattle help other rare species that rely on low nutrient waters, free from farm fertilisers and waste water pollution, such as grass-wrack pondweed and sharp-leaved pondweed. They are critically endangered in Britain and many other countries. Ecologists are working with farmers to safeguard the remaining populations, especially around the mid-Yare.

Orchids and mushrooms

The tiny, green fen orchid, with pretty pale yellow flowers, has only ever been known at 33 sites in England and is now only found in two places, with the more important population in the Broads. We have discovered that the orchid isn't able to spread on its own. It needs a mushroom (or fungus) for the survival of its seed, so conservation partners will be moving fen orchids within the Broads and to other suitable wetlands in eastern England.

Swallowtails and ponytails

Another rare species that needs looking after is this country's largest butterfly, the swallowtail (see right), which in Britain is found only in the Broads. This is among 66 other species that depend on the Broads for survival in the UK. A lot of effort is spent on maintaining the rich fens and reedbeds that the caterpillars of this butterfly need to survive. Their food plant, milk parsley (tall, with umbrella-like white flowers), grows there. The swallowtails like to lay their single eggs on these plants, away from spider predators. The Broads Authority's Pony Power herd has been helping to maintain rich fen and reedbed over the last 20 years. By munching their way through the rough vegetation the ponies have created more and bigger milk parsley plants. Swallowtail

butterflies are around in June and, in warm summers, a second batch may emerge from August to September. Young caterpillars are black and white, looking a bit like a bird dropping. Older caterpillars are green, with orange and black stripes. Not only are ponies important for keeping the open fens full of rare species, traditional reed cutters also play a vital part in helping to maintain the ecosystem of the Broads – and they are rarer than the rare wildlife! As swallowtails depend on just one plant species, milk parsley, the effect of salt tides or fens remaining flooded or fens drying out is something that is a concern for the habitat of this butterfly, with predicted changing climate and sea level rise. Find out about how you can help by joining Pony Power:

www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/pony-power

Return of the cranes

These large, elegant birds drifted over from Europe to the Broads, a place that was once a stronghold for them. In 2015, with nine pairs, four young fledged here, with up to three other pairs possibly breeding. The fact that these secretive birds chose the Broads for nesting is a great compliment to landowners' conservation work.

On the brink of extinction

Although some species have become extinct in the Broads over the past 50 years, such as the large copper butterfly, it is possible to bring back some species from the brink of extinction. One such special project is the return of the fen raft spider. This, the UK's largest spider, had become restricted to a few wetland sites but would once have been widespread across the Broads. This spider creates nursery webs on water plants, such as the spear-like leaves of water soldier. The mother never ventures far from her young spiderlings and as a result of

the success of the project, adult females, with egg sacs, can be taken by ecologists who have an appropriate licence, without the need for hand rearing that took so much time in the early stages of the project. The return of this almost lost species is one of the most successful invertebrate conservation stories in the world.

These stories are always evolving, never staying still. And there are lots of other stories to be told, of the return of the marsh harriers and their breeding success, the hundreds of seals and their pups on the beach at Horsey in the winter, the thousands of wintering water birds such as teal, gadwall and wigeon packed into Breydon estuary, rare bitterns or Chinese water deer, now more common here than in China!

The Broads is a place for endless stories – and this nature is yours, your family's, the next generation's. Enjoy a closer look...

More info about visiting nature reserves from the Broads National Park information centres or www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Broads Stories

Wherever you go in the Broads, there are stories hidden behind what we see today.

Social history

Last year a new edition of a classic Broads travel guide appeared, Ernest R Suffling's *The Land of the Broads*, published by Christine Stockwell. The first edition dates back to 1885 and the early days of Broads holidays. Suffling commends the Broads to the angler, yachtsman, artist, archaeologist and ornithologist amongst others, but

when it comes to the poet, no words will do, for

‘To the poet, this is a land of—. But there ! I will leave him to see for himself. The beautiful, secluded scenery will supply him with themes galore for his fanciful imagination.’

Suffling is more prolific on other matters and amusing as well, warning of Norfolk cheese, commenting on the fact that Loddon ‘is actually lighted with gas!’ and encouraging people to set up canoe hire businesses. A glance at the contents list reveals some themes familiar in many more recent visitor guides and much of what Suffling enjoys about the Broads remains today. The book, price £12.99, ISBN 978-0-9516640-4-9, is available from local bookshops or contact christine.stockwell@btinternet.com

Another fascinating book from 2016 is *Norfolk Parish Treasures: Mid Norfolk and The Broads* by Peter Tolhurst, published by Black Dog Books. The author speculates on the origin of place names, folk tales and ancient earthworks, explores rare wildlife sites, ruined churches and deserted villages, and recalls the achievements of the 19th century Norwich School of Artists amongst many others. Along the way you’ll surely find stories of your home, your holiday village or somewhere else in the Broads that is special to you. The name Black Dog itself derives from legends of dogs often known as Shuck in Norfolk or Shock in Suffolk. They appear in many other parts of the country too. Here, despite the names, the Norfolk dog generally seems the more fearsome of the two! The book is available in softback, ISBN 978-0-9954792-1-0, at £20 from bookshops or direct from www.blackdogbooks.co.uk

Old stories can be the best stories

It was another national park, the Lake District, which inspired Arthur

Ransome's Swallows and Amazons story, with a new film version released last year, but his stories of the Broads continue to catch the imagination of generations of children too. Find out about a waterborne way of life in the Broads in Coot Club and The Big Six.

For more details of books mentioned here, contact the Broads National Park information centres.

To find out more about how other writers have created stories from the Broads landscape, such as former Poet Laureate John Betjeman and Victorian novelist Wilkie Collins, go to www.literarynorfolk.co.uk

And if you have your own stories of the Broads to tell, get in touch with Will Burchnall, Programme Manager for our Water, Mills & Marshes project:

www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/projects/water,-mills-and-marshes

Boating basics

Wear your life jacket or buoyancy aid when you are on deck, getting on and off or tying up your boat

Stay safe top 10

Follow the advice from the Broads rangers who work on the Broads all year round.

1) Help!

Our boating videos, with lots of practical boat handling and navigation advice, will be especially useful if you're new to boating. You can find them on our website: www.broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/owning-

a-boat/boating-beginners

A navigation map (published by Heron Maps) and Broads tide tables are on sale at our information centres and yacht stations. They have our Waterways Code leaflets too, with advice for specific activities such as day boating and winter boating.

You can get boating advice from your boatyard, from yacht stations (see page 29) or by telephoning the Broads Authority's Broads Control, staffed daily 9.00am-5.00pm (6.00pm from April to October) on 01603 756056. The rangers are always happy to help too.

www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

www.broads-authority.gov.uk

2) Wear it

Always wear your buoyancy aid when on deck, even if you can swim. Children should wear buoyancy aids even when your boat is moored. And don't forget to put a life jacket on your dog too!

3) Be vigilant

Don't let children sit on the front of a boat, or play at the back or on the roof unsupervised, especially when a boat is under way. Keep away from dredgers working on the rivers and large vessels under escort. Look out for canoes and rowing boats. Reduce speed and allow them plenty of space. Keep out of the way of sailing boats and water skiers – watch out for the ski areas on the rivers Waveney and Yare, and on Breydon Water.

4) No surprises

Keep a note of the important points for your journey. Water is always moving and your boat may be affected by wind and tides. Check the weather, the day's tides for where you're going, and sunrise and sunset

times – that’s what we do. Hire boats are not allowed to navigate before sunrise or after sunset as they have no navigation lights. Always keep track of where you are on the waterways and make sure others on board know where you are too. They also need to know what to do in case of an emergency.

5) Don’t make a splash

Always keep a good handhold when you’re casting off and mooring up, and don’t use arms or legs to stop your boat hitting the quay or another boat. Make sure ropes are ready and that everyone knows what to do for mooring up. Always approach a mooring against the tide or flow of the river, with a careful hand on the throttle. You’ll then be able to hold the boat stationary heading into the tide and approach the mooring sideways under control. If you approach the mooring with the tide or flow of the river you will have little or no control at low speeds. The fittest adult should step ashore once the boat has stopped. We recommend that you moor at signed moorings only. Other areas are not maintained and there may be no posts. Make sure that your boat is securely tied up. Take a torch and spare batteries if you will be returning to your boat after dark.

6) Keep your head down

Think ahead for bridges. Tides go up and down so be very careful. Check how high your boat is both with the canopy up and down. Check the clearance boards that tell you the height above water under the bridge. Take down your canopy, get everyone off deck and make sure that all hands and heads are inside the boat. Make sure you have the boat well under control before the bridge, especially if there’s a strong current. Watch carefully for signs of other boats coming through – usually the boat travelling with the current has right of way as it’s more difficult for it to manoeuvre. Keep hands and heads inside the boat until you are well clear of the bridge, and if things go wrong, don’t try to

fend off using your hands or feet. Never moor under bridges.

7) Stay aboard

You'll never see a ranger swimming in the Broads – it's too dangerous, no matter how hot the weather is or how good a swimmer you are. If someone does fall in, throw them a lifebuoy and pull them to a bank or a ladder. If you have to bring someone up on to your boat from the water, make sure the engine is switched off first.

8) Keep your wits about you

Don't relax too much! We recommend that people driving and sailing boats don't drink until their boats are moored up for the night.

9) Bon appetit

Don't light or use barbecues on deck or anywhere else on your boat, or on wooden moorings.

10) No speeding

Always look behind your boat – there should be no big waves (boat wash).

Info File

Bridges

- Please remember that bridge clearances given in our table are averages, based on normal tides. But tidal levels can vary considerably and so affect the figures.
- At railway swing bridges a single red flag indicates bridge in service/operable. Two red flags indicate bridge out of service/inoperable. Take note of the electronic signage at each bridge. If you have a radio, Reedham, Trowse and Somerleyton rail bridges monitor VHF Channel 12. In hot weather, you might like to check ahead to see

if Somerleyton Bridge is working as temperature can affect the mechanism.

- At Potter Heigham all hire cruisers must use the bridge pilot from Phoenix Fleet boatyard and private boats are advised to do so. The pilot service is available Monday–Sunday 8.30am–5.00pm, depending on tide and weather conditions, 07990 686097 (pilot) or 01692 670460 (Phoenix Fleet boatyard). The cost for hire cruisers (Blakes and Hoseasons) is £10 return, and for private boats £10 each way.
- At Wroxham there are two bridges close together. You can pay to use a bridge pilot.

Moorings

In a reciprocal arrangement, Broads Hire Boat Federation operators will allow other member companies' boats to moor in their boatyards free of charge, subject to availability.

Slipways

There are public slipways for launching your own boat at Hoveton Riverside Park, Hickling Staithe, Pug Lane Staithe (Repps), Thurne Staithe and Cantley Staithe. Some boatyards also have slipways which you can use for a small charge. Details from Broads National Park information centres.

Mutford Lock

This lock (between Oulton Broad and Lake Lothing at Lowestoft) is the limit of hire boat navigation at Oulton Broad. It cannot be used by hire boats. For other boats wishing to use the lock, telephone 01502 531778 / 574946, 24 hours in advance to book a passage, price £13.

Weather

Radio Norfolk's weather forecast (95.1 FM) is useful for boaters. They

also have a coastguard slot on the early morning programme that gives details of incidents and the coastal forecast, which is useful for the eastern Broads. Local radio stations give flood warnings and severe warnings.

Water

Some Broads Authority 24 hour moorings have free water points, and water points are available at many other moorings and boatyards for a small charge. We advise you to boil water from all these points before drinking. All waste water from boats, except sewage, empties straight into the waterways, so when you're washing up or cleaning, use biodegradable washing-up liquid and other cleaning products, and use only small amounts. This will help reduce pollution. Don't put cooking oil down the sink – absorb oil on to kitchen paper and put the paper in a bin – oil causes slicks on the water, which present particular problems for birds.

Electric charging point cards

New, contactless cards are now in use and the previous cards will no longer work. You can buy the new cards for £1 from Broads National Park information centres and yacht stations at Hoveton, Norwich, Whitlingham, Reedham and Great Yarmouth, and at some shops and boatyards. For further details on where to find electric charging points, how to use them and where to buy the cards, please contact the information centres and yacht stations or the Broads Authority in Norwich. Please keep the cards away from mobile phones – they can interfere with the credit recorded on cards.

Rubbish

Be careful with your rubbish – don't leave refuse bags at the stern of your boat where they could easily fall into the water. Discarded litter and fishing tackle can entangle and kill wildlife. Please dispose of rubbish at proper sites – don't leave bags of rubbish at sides of moorings or adjacent roads. Please don't overload bins and don't leave

bags by bins if the bins are full – this is technically fly tipping and there could be a fine. Try to hang on to rubbish till you reach the next site.

Recycling

Facilities for recycling and waste disposal are often available near moorings or in the local town or village. The Broads National Park information centres have details of facilities to help you plan where to recycle your rubbish.

Peace and quiet

Be sensitive to your neighbours when moored up and don't leave your engine idling late at night or early in the morning. Be aware of the volume of your radio or television too, especially when the roof of your boat is down or open. Causing a noise nuisance could result in a fine of up to £1000.

Regattas

Organised by sailing clubs, regattas are part of the history of the Broads and can be great fun for spectators as well as participants – bridges are often a good vantage point. Details from Broads National Park information centres. If you find yourself on the water during a regatta:

- Keep close to the right hand bank and slow down as you pass through.
- Sailing boats have right of way. If they are zigzagging across the river to catch the wind, slow down and try to pass behind them.
- Make your course clear – do not weave about.
- Watch for indications as to when the crew would like you to pass, but do not put yourself or others in danger, or just moor up to watch.
- Where channels are provided for your safe passage, stay in the

channel. At Oulton Broad stay in the north channel.

- Listen carefully to any advice from rangers or safety patrol boats and follow their guidance.

Powerboat racing

These races are held on Thursday evenings, bank holidays and some Sundays at Oulton Broad. During powerboat racing:

- Do not enter or leave via the main body of the broad where the event is taking place.
- Keep your speed down and follow the instructions given by the patrol boats, rescue boats and yacht station staff for safe passage and mooring.

Time and Tide

Do you feel all at sea when it comes to using tide tables? You are not alone! Many of us feel the same, while the mysterious idea of 'tidal predictions', as tide tables are officially known, just adds to the uncertainty.

Here are some top tips to help with negotiating tides and getting to grips with port, starboard and all those other interesting but frequently confusing boating terms...

Tides

All the Broads rivers are close to the sea so they are all affected by tides (or are tidal). Consideration of tidal flow may be important as journeys by boat are harder and slower when the flow is against you. The rise and fall of the tide is on average about 2.2m/7' at Great Yarmouth, while at Norwich it's about 60-90cm/2'-3' and at Wroxham

it's about 15cm/6". There are usually two high tides and two low tides each day but the times vary on a daily basis. Knowing when high and low tide times occur can be important for getting under bridges and tides can also create strong currents in certain areas. If you are staying on a holiday boat your skipper's manual may include tide tables.

Posts

Where there are red and green posts keep in the main channel between them. Red and green posts and buoys don't mean red for danger and green for go – they mark channels. Yellow posts usually mark a hazard – keep well clear and keep to the channel.

Boating terms

air draught – height of boat above water line (shown on a plate by inside steering position)

boat wash – waves created by a boat – look behind you!

bow – front of a boat

stern – back of a boat

channel – the area of water in which to drive

dyke – small waterway, often private with no entry

high water/low water – high tide/low tide

moor against the tide – moor with the tide coming towards the front of your boat

mouth of a river – where it joins a larger river or the sea

mud weight – a kind of anchor

port – left hand side of the boat when viewed from the steering position

starboard – right hand side of the boat when viewed from the steering position

Potter Heigham Bridge pilot – someone to drive hire cruisers under the low bridge (contact pilot 07990 686097 or Phoenix Fleet boatyard 01692 670460)

slack water – the point after high or low tide just before the tide starts changing again where there is little or no tidal flow

upstream/upriver – going away from the sea (Great Yarmouth)

downstream/downriver – going towards the sea

Broads Beat

Norfolk Constabulary has a team of police officers to patrol the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads waterways and surrounding villages, as well as the ports of Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. These officers have Royal Yachting Association boating qualifications.

Norfolk is one of the safest counties in the country and crime on the waterways is particularly low. The team works with many partner agencies to keep it this way.

BroadsBeat is now in its 22nd year and is jointly funded by local agencies and Broads business partnerships. Organisations involved are the Broads Authority, the Environment Agency, local councils, and the other emergency services, including the coastguard. BroadsBeat works to prevent crime and disorder, investigate offences and assist with water safety education.

The team uses two boats and a 4x4 vehicle; the vehicle and whichever vessel is in use carry defibrillators. The team regularly does joint patrols with the Broads Authority rangers on their launches.

BroadsBeat officers attend many regattas and other boating events, promoting the service and the Boatshield scheme for crime prevention advice to property owners, boat hirers and boat owners.

BroadsBeat is here to help you enjoy your experience on the beautiful waterways and believes prevention is better than cure. If you see anything suspicious around the boatyards, marinas or out on the Broads network – please get in touch via 999 in an emergency, or 101, asking for Norfolk Police, for a non-emergency.

You can follow BroadsBeat on Twitter via @BroadsBeat or visit www.norfolk.police.uk/advice/roads-and-vehicles/boats

Keep your pets safe

Make sure your pets enjoy their adventures by looking after them on or near the water. Dogs are just as susceptible to cold water and other hazards as people. If you plan to take dogs boating you can buy life jackets for them from boating suppliers, and some hire boatyards provide or rent life jackets for customers' pets.

Dogs are allowed on footpaths, bridleways and byways (public rights of way) under effective control, but many nature reserves don't allow dogs. Also be aware that routes called permissive paths may not allow dogs. However, restrictions on dogs shouldn't unreasonably restrict access for assistance dog users.

The access rights that normally apply to open country and registered common land (known as open access land) require dogs to be kept on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July, to help protect ground nesting birds, and all year round near farm animals.

Contact the local authority or the Kennel Club if you have a problem – 01296 318540 or www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Please

- clear up after dogs
- check access for dogs with places you plan to visit
- respect restrictions on dogs
- keep dogs close by, under effective control and in sight
- keep dogs on leads if you can't rely on their obedience
- don't let dogs wander near people, wildlife or livestock, or disturb them
- let go of dogs and their leads if you or they are bothered by livestock – and don't try to rescue them
- never enter the water to rescue a pet – you are putting your own life at risk

More info from

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

Yacht Stations

Our yacht stations at Norwich and Great Yarmouth, and our 24 hour free moorings at Reedham are part of our network of information centres, and the quay assistants will be pleased to help with your enquiries about places to visit and things to do, as well as with all your questions about moorings, tides and other practical boating matters.

All three sites are staffed from

1 April to 31 October. Norwich and Great Yarmouth Yacht Stations are staffed daily 8.00am–8.00pm, and have water, toilets and showers. Mooring at the yacht stations costs £6 during the day, and £13 for combined daytime and overnight (until 10.00am) or overnight only (until 10.00am). Norwich Yacht Station also offers a pump out service from £12. Reedham Quay is staffed daily 9.00am–6.00pm and has free moorings and water (for which donations are requested).

Norwich and Great Yarmouth have lots to explore – shops, markets, museums and historic buildings, and Great Yarmouth also has great beaches. There's plenty to do for evenings out too, but please take care and follow our water safety advice.

The village of Reedham, with its historic ferry, is a great place to explore the Wherryman's Way footpath, which follows the River Yare between Norwich and Great Yarmouth.

We look forward to seeing you – and you don't have to be on a yacht, or even a boat, to visit the yacht stations!

Yacht Stations

Great Yarmouth Broads National Park Yacht Station

Tar Works Road, Great Yarmouth NR30 1QX
01493 842794 / 07766 398238
yarmouthyachtstation@broads-authority.gov.uk

Norwich Broads National Park Yacht Station

Riverside Road, Norwich NR1 1SQ
01603 612980 / 07747 065378
norwichyachtstation@broads-authority.gov.uk

Reedham Quay Broads National Park
Reedham NR13 3TE
01493 701867 / 07971 156070
reedhamquay@broads-authority.gov.uk

There are also yacht stations at **Beccles** (01502 712225) and **Oulton Broad** (01502 574946) on the River Waveney.
www.yachtstation.co.uk

Emergency

- Call 999 or 112 from any type of phone for coastguard, fire, police or ambulance services.

Ask for the coastguard if you are on or next to the water – they can call the other services if needed.

If you are on a holiday boat the contact details for your boatyard are in the back of your skipper's manual.

- Tell the emergency services or your boatyard where you are, how many people are on board and what the emergency is.

The Broads Authority 24 hour moorings have name plates and Ordnance Survey grid references on them. If you are near one, give these details to the emergency services or your boatyard so they know where you are.

- Keep your mobile phone charged.
- Defibrillators are available at some boatyards and villages (usually near a pub, shop or village hall). The BroadsBeat police vehicle and whichever vessel they are using, and Nancy Oldfield Trust and

Waveney Stardust boats also carry them.

- For other important numbers see the telephone directory.

Stargazing

National parks are loved for their inspiring landscapes and the sky of course is an integral part of that. This is especially true in the Broads where gentle valleys, fens and water give way to endless skies and languid sunsets.

But at night the darkening mantle takes on an additional fascination, one that holds us as captivated as our ancestors were when gazing into the same other-worldly expanse.

Astronomer Mark Thompson, who has co-presented Stargazing Live with Prof. Brian Cox and comedian Dara Ó Briain and is a regular on Good Morning Britain, said the vast, unpolluted skies of the Broads in particular are great for stargazing. Something confirmed in surveys carried out by the Broads Authority last year.

And viewing the firmament reflected in water or seeing iconic windmills and ancient ruins silhouetted against spectacles like the Milky Way and meteor showers makes the experience even more special. You can get involved as little or as much as you want, whether simply lying back to admire the infinite web of constellations from a boat or heading out to Seething Observatory on the edge of the park.

Mark, who is also chairman of Norwich Astronomical Society (NAS) which runs the observatory, said: "Stargazing is just such a fantastic activity. I think it keeps people grounded in as much as really demonstrating what a vast, vast place the universe is and how

insignificant a lot of our worries really are. It's a social activity too, having come a long way from the image of the solitary astronomer, and is great for families.

"The countryside in the Broads is so special but look up and there is an amazing view as well. The skies are essentially an extension of the landscape."

Mark advised that beyond the naked eye only a good pair of binoculars and one of the many free mapping apps is enough to take your stargazing a step further.

And the observatory is perfect if you're keen for more. Mark said: "We're really lucky here especially as visitors can just come along to one of the open evenings and use the high tech telescopes to view things like the Orion nebula or listen to some great talks." Last year the observatory even hosted a talk by Dr Matt Taylor, one of the key figures behind the Mars Rosetta mission.

Where to see the stars

Herringfleet Smock Mill

Moor up slightly downstream at one of the Broads Authority's free spots near the staithe. Somerleyton train station is a mile away. Treat yourself to a post stargazing pint at the Duke's Head in Somerleyton village.

Three Rivers Junction at Geldeston

Park in the village and walk about a kilometre along the footpath to the river where Geldeston boat dyke meets the Waveney.

Beccles Marsh Trail

From the quay walk for a quarter of an hour along the safe River

Waveney path to near Stanley and Alder Carrs woodland near the disused railway line.

North Cove

You can drive all the way down to the riverbank here along Worlingham Marsh Lane or tie up at the Broads Authority 24 hour mooring.

St Benet's Abbey moorings

Not one of the darkest spots according to surveys but certainly dark enough and a favourite of photographers because of the breathtaking silhouette of the ruins. The abbey can't be reached after dark but sits right by the river so moor up at the 24 hour free spot next to the level surfaced path.

Horsey

Indulge in some casual stargazing from a boat on the mere or moor at Horsey Mill. There is a National Trust pay and display car park (open dawn to dusk) within 200m.

Somerton, Dungeon's Corner

Park in West Somerton village or tie up at the Broads Authority 24 hour mooring. From both these points Dungeon's Corner, south of Martham Broad on the River Thurne, is a 20-minute walk along the footpath.

Catfield, Johnny Crowe's Staithe

Park on Sharp Street and from Cobb's Farm take a grass track to the staithe on the River Ant for one of the darkest spots in the Broads.

Thurne Mill

Another great mill to add something to your great stargazing experience. It is an easy walk down along the boat dyke to this well-known mill.

Wroxham – TheCanoeMan, Norwich Road, NR12 8RX,
01603 783777 / 0845 4969177, www.TheCanoeMan.com
Also has launch sites at Beccles, Buxton, Coltishall, Horning and South
Walsham. Offers canoe and kayak based adventures including guided
and wildlife canoe trails. Booking essential.

Fun in the Broads

Welcome to Fun in the Broads 2017, packed with exciting and interesting things to do from April to December.

When events are repeated within a month, the dates are all listed with the first occurrence of the event within the month. If times are different, these are noted with the relevant date.

You can find full details of all events right through each year on www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Getting out on the water is one of the best ways to experience the magical Broads National Park, so why not join a guided canoe trail, sit back and admire the view from the comfort of a passenger boat or step aboard a historic sailing wherry built for the Broads?

If you prefer to stay on dry land there are plenty of activities to try. You can go on a guided wildlife walk, find out about the history of the Broads on museum activity days, enjoy beautiful gardens and crafts, try a photography workshop – read on for more ideas.

There are events for all ages and many interests, so come and join the fun.

What to bring

For an outdoor event, depending on the time of year and length of the event, you may need the following:

- Sturdy boots or wellies – the Broads is a wetland, even in summer!
- Waterproof clothing – the weather can be very unpredictable
- Warm clothing – it can be chilly in the early morning and evening, even in summer, especially on the water
- Insect repellent, sun hat and sunscreen
- Packed lunch or a snack and plenty to drink

Leave the car at home!

Many Fun in the Broads events can be reached by public transport. Let the train take the strain with the two railway lines – the Wherry Lines from Norwich to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and the Bittern Line from Norwich to Sheringham. Telephone National Rail Enquiries for details on 03457 48 49 50. Or jump on a bus with information from traveline, 0871 200 2233.

Events organisers

You can submit events for our website at any time – contact us at www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Broads Outdoors Festival

The Broads is a great place to experience the great outdoors and the annual festival, taking place Sunday 30 April to Sunday 21 May this year, offers lots of opportunities to try something or somewhere new, or rediscover places you love and activities you enjoy. Amongst its many events the programme includes children's activities, dawn chorus walks, visits to drainage mills, guided tours of St Benet's Abbey and the chance to go sailing on a Norfolk wherry. With some events you also have the chance to visit places that are not normally open to the public.

So come and join us for fun outdoors! You'll find many of the festival events listed here in pink panels. For the full programme, see the festival brochure available from Broads National Park information centres and other local outlets, and www.outdoorsfestival.co.uk

Festival diary

Broads Outdoors Festival, 30 April to 21 May

Broads National Park 01603 756094
www.outdoorsfestival.co.uk

Norfolk & Norwich Festival, 12-28 May

Music, theatre, literature, visual arts, circus, dance and outdoor arts
Information: 01603 877750
Bookings: 01603 766400 www.nnfestival.org.uk

Suffolk Walking Festival, 13 May to 4 June

Information: 01473 258070
www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios, 27 May to 11 June

Information: 01603 877762 www.nnopenstudios.org.uk

Arts Festival, 2-11 June; Maritime Festival, 9-10 September; Out There International Festival of Street Arts & Circus, 16-18 September
Information: 01493 846346

www.great-yarmouth.co.uk/whats-on/festivals.aspx

Suffolk Open Studios, 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 June

Information: 01206 262780 www.suffolkopenstudios.org

Heritage Open Days, 7-10 September

Norwich TIC 01603 213999

(when brochure available, from early August)

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Norfolk Walking and Cycling Festivals, autumn and winter

Information: 0344 800 8020 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails

A taste of the Broads

Shopping

www.farma.org.uk (farmers' markets)

www.norwichfarmersmarket.co.uk (at Costessey)

www.loddonfarmersmarket.co.uk

www.becclesfarmersmarket.co.uk

www.norwich.gov.uk/NorwichMarket

www.trulylocalcic.co.uk – a not-for-profit social enterprise shop at Stalham, which sources produce from within a 35-mile radius; winner of the best food or drink supplier category in the 2016 Norfolk Hero Food & Drink Awards

Events

For food and drink events all over Norfolk, go to www.norfolkfoodanddrink.com

Open Farm Sunday is the farming industry's national open day when farms across Britain host events. This year's Open Farm Sunday is 11 June. www.farmsunday.org

For late summer or autumn, look out in and around Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft for events associated with fishing for the silver darlings, as herring were known locally.

Go to www.great-yarmouth.co.uk and www.discoverlowestoft.co.uk

Get cooking!

Renowned Norfolk chef Richard Hughes and his team have moved from the Broads to Norwich's beautiful 18th-century Assembly House, also home of the Richard Hughes Cookery School, inaugural winner of the British Cookery School of the Year.

www.richardhughescookeryschool.co.uk

Eating out

Try our recommendations for eating out in the Broads in 2017. Independent assessors have visited anonymously and eaten at the pubs, cafes and restaurants listed here, and they grade places carefully, working to national guidelines. Those scoring 60 per cent and over in the assessments are awarded the Broads Quality Charter for the coming year. Assessors' reports were full of praise for fresh, local produce and a friendly welcome. Congratulations to all involved.

Wherever you're eating in the Broads, we hope you enjoy it. Please telephone to check details such as opening times, access for disabled people, and availability of vegetarian and vegan food. Price ranges are

shown as a guide and may change.

You'll find more details on our website too. www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Bungay

The Castle Inn

The Castle Inn is a most enjoyable dining establishment, offering a variety of options from the light bite to a full dining experience, with a very friendly welcome. "The inn itself dates back to at least 1566 so we're proud to be playing a small part in its history whilst hopefully moving the tradition of inn keeping forward. The use of fresh and local food is of prime importance to us, with this very much dictating the menu being provided. Whether it's venison in the winter, asparagus at the end of spring or gorgeous salad leaves in summer our menus are flavoured with local tastes."

35 Earsham Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1AF
01986 892283 www.thecastleinn.net

Suffolk Stonehouse

A most enjoyable dining experience, in a characterful, rustic restaurant. The majority of the handmade pizzas are named after nearby locations, such as Blythburgh pizza with pulled pork and onion jam, and Flixton pizza with Baron Bigod Brie. The menu includes starters, salads, side dishes, pasta dishes and desserts, and there's a children's menu and takeaway service. "There's a secret garden with a small children's play area out at the back and there's an atmospheric medieval cellar for party bookings too."

18 St Mary's Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1AX
01986 894553 www.suffolkstonehouse.co.uk

Clippesby

Susie's Coffee Shop

Susie's is the friendly coffee shop set in the peaceful grounds of Clippesby Hall's award-winning campsite. "Open to everyone (dogs welcome outside!), we offer a warm welcome, serving freshly cooked snacks and light meals throughout the day, together with a selection of delicious fairly traded teas and coffees."

Clippesby Hall, Hall Lane, Clippesby, Norfolk NR29 3BL
01493 367807 www.clippesby.com

Filby

Filby Bridge Restaurant

Family-run restaurant with unique views over the Trinity Broads. A great combination of quality food, very pleasant dining room and location combined with a most friendly welcome. "All of our food is home-made. We have a superb evening a la carte menu with fresh fish a speciality (see website) and various steak dishes. We also serve lunch, coffee, cakes and sandwiches."

Main Road, Filby, Norfolk NR29 3AA
01493 368142 www.filbybridgerestaurant.com

Great Yarmouth

The Seafood Restaurant

A most enjoyable dining experience, with a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere. There is an emphasis on an extensive choice of very fresh fish, ordered daily. Local greengrocers also supply fresh, local produce. Dishes include home-made taramasalata, turbot with herb butter sauce and home-made petits fours. Locally sourced steaks are also available.

“We’ve used the same local fishmonger for over 30 years, so we know what we’re getting! As a result our menu is always changing and the fish dishes move with the seasons.”

85 North Quay, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 1JF
01493 856009 www.theseafood.co.uk

Horning

The Galley

Home of the ‘Hornish Pasty’, this compendium of delicatessen, off licence, general store and quality home and giftware shop is a great place to enjoy home-made food at its best. “A delightful family-run delicatessen and cafe with so many temptations on the food counter that once you enter it is very difficult to leave empty-handed.”

43 Lower Street, Horning, Norfolk NR12 8AA
01692 630088 www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

The New Inn

The New Inn, Horning has a warm, family friendly atmosphere and prides itself on excellent customer service. “We serve traditional home-made pub classics and offer quality cask ales, plus fine wines and spirits. Emphasis is placed on utilising Norfolk’s finest produce whilst continuing to represent great value for money. The New Inn has a large riverfront garden and offers free moorings and parking for patrons. Booking is advisable. Please note dogs are welcome in the outside garden areas only.”

54 Lower Street, Horning, Norfolk NR12 8PF
01692 631223 www.newinn-horning.co.uk

Hoveton

Wroxham Barns Restaurant

A popular dining location at the heart of Wroxham Barns, a must-visit Broads attraction with shops, craft studios, junior farm and children's funfair. "Award-winning table-service licensed restaurant serving wholesome, fresh, home-made dishes through the day offering a choice of breakfast options, light snacks, main course lunch dishes and delicious desserts, afternoon tea including our famous scones and cakes, and relaxed Sunday lunches. Children's menu also available."

Wroxham Barns, Tunstead Road, Hoveton, Norfolk NR12 8QU
01603 777106 www.wroxhambarns.co.uk

Neatishead

The White Horse Inn

The White Horse Inn reopened in May 2014 and now boasts its own on-site brewery and own gin brand 'Pell and Co.'. "Norwich & Norfolk CAMRA Rural Pub of the Year 2016 and Best Pint on the Broads two years running, this is an oasis for food and drink lovers. A child and dog friendly pub that was also National Finalist in the Great British Pub Awards. Always book to avoid disappointment as very busy during the summer months."

The Street, Neatishead, Norfolk NR12 8AD
01692 630828 www.thewhitehorseinnneatishead.com

Norwich

The Barn Café

A welcoming cafe in the Visitor Centre at Whitlingham Country Park, on the edge of Norwich. Outside tables provide great space for guests to

dine al fresco with very good views across to the Great Broad. “Famous for its scones, delicious cakes and sausage rolls, the Barn Café provides breakfasts and lunches in the superb converted flint barn. The perfect refreshment spot after a walk around the broad.”

Whitlingham Visitor Centre, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TR www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

The Old Rectory

Booking is essential in the elegant, panelled dining room of this Georgian country house hotel. It’s the perfect place for a romantic dinner for two or a family get-together. “Celebrate your special occasion in elegant, yet informal surroundings. Enjoy pre-dinner drinks in our drawing room with its plush sofas (and warming Aga wood burner in winter) or outside on the pool terrace in the summer months, and choose from freshly prepared dishes featuring local, seasonal produce on our 2 AA Rosette menu. Our exclusive wine list showcases quality independent producers including Winbirri Vineyards, just a few miles downriver!”

103 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0HF
01603 700772 www.oldrectorynorwich.com

Ormesby St Michael

The Boathouse

A magnificently refurbished pub and restaurant, set on the waterfront of the enchanting Ormesby Broad. “There is a long bar with several large bay windows offering lovely views of the water. Serving traditional country fayre and evening gastro specials, all tastes and palettes are catered for.”

Eels Foot Road, Ormesby St Michael, Norfolk NR29 3LP
01493 730342 www.theboathouseormesbybroad.co.uk

Reedham

Reedham Ferry Inn

Located beside the River Yare in the heart of the Norfolk Broads, with a country pub atmosphere. "We offer local ales including Humpty Dumpty and Woodforde's, a contemporary rustic menu and picturesque views. We pride ourselves on offering excellent service."

Ferry Road, Reedham, Norfolk NR13 3HA
01493 700429 www.reedhamferry.co.uk

Rollsby

The Waterside

On the banks of the beautiful Trinity Broads, The Waterside is a contemporary cafe/restaurant and tea room with outdoor decking for summer al fresco dining. "Light lunches and afternoon teas are served using fresh, local ingredients. A selection of speciality teas and coffees is also offered and locally sourced 'Waterside Wines'."

Main Road, Rollsby, Norfolk NR29 5EF
01493 740531 www.thewatersiderollsby.co.uk

South Walsham

Fairhaven Garden Café

This family friendly cafe is located on the edge of the beautiful Woodland and Water Garden at Fairhaven, which has a private access to South Walsham Inner Broad. "Our cafe serves delicious local ice creams, home-made pastries, slices, hot food, light lunches and teas."

School Road, South Walsham, Norfolk NR13 6DZ
01603 270449 www.fairhavengarden.co.uk

Where to stay

Please contact the Broads National Park information centres or go to www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

Love the Broads

Love the Broads is committed to keeping the Broads very special for the future, thanks to the kindness of many people, including visitors and local residents, who truly 'love the Broads'.

Set up by the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust and the Broads Authority, Love the Broads had just a few businesses signed up when it started in 2012. That number has now grown, with many tourist businesses large and small each collecting donations from their customers.

The aim of this scheme is to raise money for grants that will fund projects to ensure that the Broads National Park is protected, preserved and enhanced for everyone, now and for the future. In 2016 grants totalling almost £11,000 were awarded for these projects:

Museum of the Broads

Safety equipment on the river frontage of the museum

Carlton & Oulton Marshes

Contribution towards fen harvesting

Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden

Boat moorings on South Walsham Broad

Fen Raft Spiders in the Broads

Establishing new populations

Broads Authority

Moorings at Boundary Farm on the River Bure

Nesting tower for swifts at Whitlingham Country Park

See all the projects and a listing of our fantastic business supporters on our website.

Give a little back to a place you love

Everyone can play a part. Text NBCT01 followed by a space and then the amount, and send your message to 70070, or go to www.justgiving.com/nsbct/donate

Love the Broads membership scheme

Become a member from just £15 a year and receive:

Invitation to exclusive member-only events with walks, talks and trails; e-newsletter; pin badge

Visit www.lovethebroads.org.uk or telephone 07717 290307 for details.

Info

www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk

The new visitor website for the Broads will launch at the end of March. Optimised for smartphones and tablets, it has all you need to know about where to go and what to do, where to stay ashore and afloat, where to eat, boating, special events and everything else you need to VisitTheBroads by land and water.

Broads businesses

If you have a business in the Broads and would like to add or update your company information on the site, please contact the Broads Authority – see page 2.

Enjoy the Broads app

Download the free Enjoy the Broads smartphone app to your iPhone, iPad or Android device. It will give you instant access to a huge range of information in areas where there's no broadband reception. If you do have a signal, you'll find hundreds more links to everything you need to truly explore the Broads National Park!

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter! @BroadsNP

Annual open day

This year our open day will form part of the Broads Outdoors Festival (30 April to 21 May, see pages 36–37). Please keep an eye on www.outdoorsfestival.co.uk for details.

Broads National Park information centres

For expert help whatever your enquiry, and a warm and friendly welcome, visit the Broads National Park information centres, where our knowledgeable staff will help you make the most of your visit to the Broads. You'll find the centres at **Hoveton**, **How Hill** and **Whitlingham**. See telephone directory and pages 4–6 for more details.

All centres stock leaflets, including Visit the Broads 2017, and sell an extensive range of maps, guides, books, postcards, souvenirs and locally made ice cream. They have lots of boating info to help you too, including our tide tables and Waterways Code leaflets, plus navigation maps. You can book for Broads National Park boat trips and buy short visit boat licences. At the centres at Hoveton and Whitlingham, we can

also help you to find your bed and breakfast, guest-house and hotel accommodation. We look forward to seeing you!

Public transport

Buses

- traveline 0871 200 2233 www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk
- Anglian Buses – services from Norwich, Trowse, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Beccles, Loddon and Bungay
01502 711109 www.anglianbus.co.uk
- First Bus – services from Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft
traveline 0871 200 2233 www.firstgroup.com
- The Acle Area Flexibus serves many Broads villages – book in advance. Our Bus 01493 752223 www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport/buses/flexibus
- Sanders Coaches operate in the Northern Broads
01263 712800 www.sanderscoaches.com

Trains

- From Norwich the Bittern Line goes north through Wroxham and the Wherry Lines go east to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.
National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50
www.nationalrail.co.uk www.greateranglia.co.uk
www.bitternline.com www.wherrylines.org.uk

Telephone directory

Emergencies – coastguard, fire, police, ambulance 999 or 112

Broads Authority – main office 01603 610734

Broads Control – Broads Authority navigation advice and incidents
01603 756056

Beccles Yacht Station 01502 712225

Environment Agency – incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 – use this for pollution incidents. During the day you can also call Broads Authority Broads Control on 01603 756056 or for serious pollution incidents outside office hours you can also call the coastguard on 999 or 112.

Great Yarmouth Yacht Station – Broads National Park (see page 29)
01493 842794 / 07766 398238

Hospitals – James Paget University Hospital (Gorleston, Great Yarmouth – 24 hour casualty) 01493 452452, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (Norwich – 24 hour casualty)
01603 286286

Hoveton/Wroxham Broads Information Centre – Broads National Park (see page 6) 01603 782281 / 01603 756097

Mutford Lock 01502 531778

NHS 111 – call 111 for 24 hour non-urgent medical advice
www.nhs.uk

Norwich Yacht Station – Broads National Park (see page 29) 01603 612980 / 07747 065378

Oulton Broad Yacht Station 01502 574946

Police – non-emergency 101

Potter Heigham Bridge pilot 07990 686097 or
Phoenix Fleet boatyard 01692 670460

Reedham Quay – Broads National Park (see page 29) 01493 701867
/ 07971 156070

RSPCA – wildlife emergency 0300 1234 999

Toad Hole Cottage Information Centre –
Broads National Park (see page 5) 01692 678763 / 01603 756096

Whitlingham Visitor Centre – Broads National Park (see page 6)
01603 756094 / 01603 617332

Other tourist information centres/points

Beccles

Beccles Books, 1 Exchange House, Exchange Square
Library, Blyburgate
Saxons, 35 New Market
Station Café, Station Road

Bungay

Art Trading Company, 55 Earsham Street
Library, Wharton Street

Great Yarmouth

Marine Parade 01493 846346

Loddon

Bridge Street

Lowestoft

Library, Clapham Road South
Railway Station, Denmark Road

Norwich

The Forum, Millennium Plain 01603 213999

Oulton Broad

Library, 92 Bridge Road
Yacht Station, Bridge Road

Ranworth

The Staithe 01603 270060