

Broads, Wroxham and Salhouse Broads

Easy Trail: Please be aware that the grading of this trail was set according to normal water levels and conditions. Weather and water level/conditions can change the nature of trail within a short space of time so please ensure you check both of these before heading out.



Wroxham Broad Boat Launch

Route Summary

Enjoy a paddle through a remote and quiet haven for wildlife where there is very little through traffic.

For many years the broads were regarded as natural features of the landscape. It was only in the 1960s that it was proved that they were in fact flooded medieval peat excavations. Despite the construction of wind pumps and dykes, the flooding continued and resulted in the typical Broads landscape of today, with its reed beds, grazing marshes and wet woodland.

The broads are connected by a number of navigable rivers and the whole area is managed as a national park by the Broads Authority who levy a licence on ALL craft using the waterways.

Distance: 3 Miles or longer if you wish to explore

Approximate Time: 3-5 Hours

The time has been estimated based on you travelling 3 – 5mph (a leisurely pace using a recreational type of boat).

Type of Trail: Out and Back

Waterways Travelled: River Bure, Wroxham and Salhouse Broads

Type of Water: Rural river

Portages and Locks: None

Nearest Town: Wroxham

Start and finish: Wroxham Broad car park NR12 8TS
Grid Ref 308166

O.S. Sheets: 1:25000 Explorer OL40 covers the whole Broads area.

Licence Information: A licence is required to paddle on this waterway. See full details in Useful Information below

Local Facilities: There are no facilities – toilets, cafes, etc on this paddle. Enjoy the peace and quiet!

Start and Finish Directions

Approaching Wroxham from Norwich (A1151), just after the railway bridge turn right onto Salhouse road (B1140) In 400 yds turn left. (Broad Lane) At the end of Broad Lane turn right onto the lane marked "Private".... It leads to the public car park! This is located just to the right before you reach the Wroxham Yacht Club, which is also on the same stretch of road. If you are a boating enthusiast and have your own little boat, the car park has a concrete launch ramp, so you can take your small boat into the waters of Wroxham Broad!

Public 'Pay & Display' car park (£1 all day or £3 if you have a roof rack) and staithe

Description

Launch from the public slipway in the car park at Wroxham Broad turn right and paddle around the edge of the broad until you come to its first link with the River Bure. Turn right onto the river and paddle the mile or so to the entrance to Salhouse Broad. On the way you'll pass two small, pretty but private broads on your right and the closed off entrance to Hoveton Great Broad * (also private) on your left.

Paddle past the first entrance and turn into the broad at the second cut (¾ mile further on) and then paddle clockwise around the shore of Wroxham Broad back to the car park. If the yacht club is busy, be careful, but you have as much right to be there as they do!

Paddle clockwise around Salhouse broad. There are moorings, camping and a small ferryboat on the broad, but otherwise it is very quiet and peaceful. Eventually you'll come to the second exit from Salhouse; turn left back onto the Bure and head back towards Wroxham Broad.

** At TL318159 on the north bank of the River Bure (opposite the entrance to Salhouse broad) there is a small mooring, used by the ferry from Salhouse to access the Hoveton Great Broad Nature Trail which has an attractive boardwalk and hides stretching out across Bure fen. Access to the NNR is usually by ferry.*

Useful Information

License Information: The waterways in this trail are managed by Broads Authority and require paddlers to hold a licence. If you are an existing British Canoeing member the good news is that your membership includes an annual licence for the waterways covered within this trail – please ensure you take your membership card with you on the water as this acts as your licence, if stopped with no licence, you will be at risk of being fined.

You can buy a licence directly from the Tolls Office, [Broads Authority](#) Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1RY, from Broads Authority Information Centres (open April - October) and some yacht stations and boatyards (from April – October) Or by becoming a British Canoeing member you'll have a licence to cover you for a whole year. A British Canoeing membership gives you a whole range of benefits including licenses to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. If you are planning to paddle regularly this will save you great deal of money and hassle alongside having peace of mind. For more information on British Canoeing membership please [click here](#)



On the Broads, keep to the shallow edges and on the river, travel on the right and keep well clear of cruisers and yachts. At weekends there will be sailing regattas on the broads, so if you cross the open water, keep well away from the racing area or you may learn some new nautical terms!

Some of the broads are very exposed and windy and you can encounter sizeable waves. Keep to the edges and avoid crossing open water whenever possible.

It is advised that buoyancy aids are worn and swimming is actively discouraged. The bottom is mostly very deep soft mud and the water, whilst often clear, is not the cleanest and can contain very high levels of bacteria and algae which may be harmful if ingested.

The larger broads and rivers are heavily used by motor cruisers and sailing yachts. On the rivers it is not only important to keep to the right hand side of the river but also to keep out of the way of larger craft whose helmsmen may not know or may choose to ignore the conventions! Also, remember that boats under sail may need to tack. Always pass behind them.

The invasive non-native shrimp (*Dikerogrammerus villosus*) has been found in the Broads. This shrimp has become widespread in Europe and threatens our native species. There is no risk to public health or pets. Water users must be vigilant and Check, Clean and Dry equipment and clothing to help stop the spread of all invasive aquatic species.

Both broads are connected to the River Bure and attract little through traffic. Apart from the large sailing club on Wroxham broad there is very little development along the shore. Salhouse broad is remote, quiet and a haven for wildlife.

CANOEING SAFETY ADVICE

Spending an afternoon or day canoeing on a Canoe Trail can be a fun way to experience nature, help you to stay fit and healthy and enjoy spending time with friends and family. It can also be a dangerous journey, if appropriate safety guidelines are overlooked. To help make sure you remain safe at all times, read on to see our canoeing safety advice guidelines.

Wear appropriate clothing

Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to boaters without the proper attire. Nearly 90% of all boating injuries are attributed to lack of proper footwear. Other canoe safe clothing includes hats, gloves, additional dry clothing, and layered items which can easily be removed. Take or wear a windproof top and course always wear a buoyancy aid - for children make sure the crotch straps are used.

Be sure to:

- Know the weather forecast and check the water conditions before you set out canoeing. There is an [Environment Agency](#) website where information concerning river levels can be found. We recommend checking this before heading out as the river levels can rise and fall quite quickly in wet or dry conditions.
- Observe navigation rules for this waterway.
- Check to see if there are any events on the waterways when you wish to travel.
- Check that your equipment is well maintained and ready for the water.



Photo by James Carnegie

- Check that your boat has the required buoyancy to keep it afloat in the event of a capsize

ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

MAKE SURE that the journey you plan is within your capabilities.

MAKE SURE you never paddle alone.

Equipment Checklist

Use the canoeing safety advice checklist below to make sure you have everything you need:

- Boat
- Paddle
- Buoyancy Aid
- Bailer/sponge
- Small First Aid Kit
- Phone (in a waterproof bag)
- Drinking water and snacks
- Suitable clothing for the weather

Environmental Good Practice

One of the great things about paddling a canoe trail is enjoying the journey and different environments that you paddle through. So when you are out on the water please consider the following things to help keep the wonderful waterways and environment as you found them and to avoid accidentally disturbing wildlife and their habitats.

- Take your **litter** home with you
- Keep **noise** to a minimum
- Where possible keep to any **designated paths or launching points**.
- **Do not "seal" launch** or drag boats to avoid wearing away natural banks. Float your canoe for launching, lift out when landing and carry it to and from the water.
- Canoe a **safe distance away from wildlife**. If you see signs of disturbance move away quietly.
- Familiarise yourself with the local area, its **sensitive places and protected areas**
- On rivers, **avoid paddling over gravel banks** in low water conditions – they may contain fish spawn.
- Ensure you **don't remove or damage any plants or animals** from the waterway as they may be protected or harmful if transferred to other catchments
- When clearing litter left by others, **handle it with care**.
- **Be the eyes and ears on the water**. Report pollution, wildlife problems, damage, incidents etc to the relevant authorities: **Canal & River Trust**, Emergencies: 0800 47 999 47
- **RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress**: 0300 1234 999 (24 hours)
Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)



CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

Help minimise the spread of invasive aquatic species and disease by following the campaign advice before putting your canoe and equipment in and out of the water (some invasive species can survive in damp or wet conditions for five or six days on water recreation clothing and equipment).

- **CHECK** all your equipment and clothing for living organisms and plants fragments. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect.
- **CLEAN** and wash all equipment, clothing and footwear thoroughly away from water source. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them. When practical, completely dry out all equipment and clothing before going to a new site.
- **DRY** all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Dry your kit with towels. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

Canoeists and kayakers take environmental concerns very seriously and already follow existing voluntary environmental codes of conduct. You can find more information about canoeing and the environment in British Canoeing's two publications covering inland and coastal paddling '**You and Your Canoe**'. Both are available on the [British Canoeing website](#).

*We have taken great care to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of this information. We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention; the information will be amended accordingly. Users should be aware that environmental conditions outside of our control can change the nature of the Trail within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable. **This trail was last reviewed in September 2013***

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