Wherryman's Way Circular Walks



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Introduction

Wherries and wherrymen

Wherryman's Way

The Wherryman's Way is in the Broads, which is Britain's largest protected wetland. The route passes through many nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, a reflection of the rich wildlife diversity of the Yare Valley. Whether you are fortunate enough to see the rare and unusual, or experience the abundant and colourful, you will not be disappointed. Just as the first 'tourists' to the area in the 19th century discovered a remote and wild place, so you too can still find timeless, hidden places even today.



Wherries have been part of life in the Broads for hundreds of years. Before roads and railways, waterways were the main transport routes for trade and people. River trade – the ability to bring in raw materials and export finished goods – helped make Norwich England's second city, during the 17th and early 18th centuries.

The earliest wherry-type vessel was the square-rigged keel, but by the beginning of the 19th century the most numerous craft was the wherry – single-sailed and specially designed for the shallow waterways of the Broads.

The heyday of the trading wherries was the 19th century when several hundred sailed the waterways, carrying all sorts of cargoes – stone, coal, bricks, timber, reeds and even ice.



Both the skipper and his craft told their own story. It was one of long days and nights sailing in open and narrow waters; of innumerable loadings and unloadings at the crowded Norwich and Yarmouth quays; of a life lived in a perpetual round of weighing anchor and hoisting sail.

Anna Bowman Dodd, 1896 – an upper class London lady holidaying aboard a pleasure wherry in the Broads.





Circular walks

Wherryman's Way Circular Walks

There are 12 circular walks in this booklet, all based around Wherryman's Way which runs between Norwich and Great Yarmouth. Each walk comes complete with directions, a user-friendly map and is waymarked on the ground. Information about the walks is included giving details such as distances, estimated walk times, path surfaces and facilities available. The map in the centre pages of the booklet shows the route of Wherryman's Way and the locations of the 12 circular walks. Pick a walk and enjoy!

Easy access opportunities

Paths suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs can be found at Whitlingham, Rockland St Mary Staithe and Chedgrave Common – see the maps and website for details.

Tread lightly and safety

tryside Co

The Broads is a vulnerable wetland area – please respect the special nature of these habitats. Stay on waymarked paths and take litter home. Traditional grazing of cows and sheep still takes place on the marshes. Please keep dogs on a lead and shut gates behind you. Remember that according to the season you may encounter nettles and muddy conditions – please dress accordingly.

Please observe the Countryside Code Be safe - plan ahead and

- Be safe plan and follow any signs Leave gates and property
- as you find them
 Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
 Keep dogs under close control
 - Consider other people



Getting around

Most towns and villages and many of the places featured in this guide can be reached by public transport, so why not leave the car behind and explore the Broads by other means? For information about trains and buses contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk

Train: Stations are located at: Norwich, Brundall, Buckenham, Cantley, Reedham, Berney Arms, Great Yarmouth.

Bus: Contact Traveline for journey information.

Cycle: There are miles of quiet country lanes and tracks to explore in this largely undiscovered part of Norfolk.

Riverbus: Why not do part of your journey by river and walk back? The Riverbus from Norwich stops at Whitlingham Country Park on a scheduled route. Telephone 01603 701701 or visit www.cityboats.co.uk for information on sailings, prices etc.

Boat: There are free 24 hour moorings along the route and many pubs have customer moorings. Why not mix boot with boat to get a view of Wherryman's Way from land and water?

Places to stay

For those wanting to do the whole route, accommodation along the way will be necessary. There is a campsite at Reedham Ferry and there are many small, independent B&Bs along the route to offer you a wonderful base for exploring the area.

For more information visit www.wherrymansway.net





- Whitlingham Country Park Visitor Centre
- Whitlingham Broads and their wildlife
- Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre
- Ruin of Trowse Newton Hall and the old Lime Avenue

Walk Details

Walk Time	l hour
Distance	2 miles
Surface	Compacted surface suitable for wheelchairs/pushchairs – no stiles
Gradient	Flat
Facilities	Visitor centre with toilets and café Check opening times by telephoning 01603 617332 or visiting www.broads-authority.gov.uk Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre – tel 01603 632307 or visit www.whitlinghamoec.co.uk



Starting Point

OS Grid Reference TG 254 077 – Whitlingham Country Park Visitor Centre car park.

Car Parking

Pay and display car park at visitor centre.

Directions

- From the Visitor Centre car park, head towards the Broad and turn right onto surfaced lane (Whitlingham Lane).
- After about 50 metres, turn left onto gravel path (waymarked Wherryman's Way) towards the Broad.
- Turn right and follow the path by the Broad which runs parallel with Whitlingham Lane.
- Leaving behind Whitlingham Lane, the path runs around the end of the Broad passing close to the River Yare.
- The path enters a small woodland of poplars and willows, before passing through an open area of grassland.
- The nature reserve area, which extends for a good part of the northern broadshore, provides the visitor with an opportunity to experience classic broadland wildlife. It is particularly important to keep dogs on leads in this area.



At the Whitlingham Outdoor

Education Centre, take the surfaced path to the left and where the path runs between the Great and Little Broad go left at the little coppice wood onto Whitlingham Lane.

Turn left, noting the ruin of Trowse Newton Hall and the Lime Avenue and arrive back at the car park.





Learn about the geological Site of Special Scientific Interest

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- Bramerton Pits glacial deposits now a wooded ridge
- Bramerton Common an ideal spot to fish, picnic, moor the boat or just sit and take in the surroundings
- 'Sky at night' sculpture
- The story of 'Billy Bluelight'

Starting point

OS Grid reference TG 294060 - Bramerton Common.

Car parking

Take the turning signposted Woods End from Surlingham Road in Bramerton. Car parking can be found at the end of this road next to Bramerton Common and the river.

- Follow the river walk across Bramerton Common, taking note of the geological Site of Special Scientific interest and the 'Sky at Night' sculpture.
- There is a gap at the end of the common set slightly back from the river's edge that leads to a narrow path.
- Follow the path at the rear of the moorings until it widens out, at this point turn right up the hill.
- Follow the road past Hill House and at the fork bear left down Mill Hill. If you turn right at this point you will return to the car parking area.
- At the end of Mill Hill turn right and then quick right again onto East Hill Lane. Follow the road past the bowling club and village hall until, at a dip in the road you find a path on the right just beyond a cottage.
- Continue along the path until it meets a lane at which point turn right. After a short distance you will see the Woods End Tavern. Take a moment to find out about 'Billy Bluelight'.
- Follow the riverbank to return to the car park at Bramerton Pits.

Walk Details		
Walk Time	l hour	
Distance	2 miles	
Surface	50% soft - no stiles	
Gradient	Moderate in places	
Facilities	Woods End Tavern	





- Surlingham Church Marsh RSPB Nature Reserve
- Bird Hide
- Surlingham Parish Church
- Ruins of St Saviours and final resting place of naturalist Ted Ellis
- Views across the Yare Valley
- Sculpture at Surlingham Ferry
- In spring and summer, marsh harriers, kingfishers, water rails and wetland warblers can be seen and heard



Starting point

OS Grid reference TG 305064 - opposite Surlingham Church.

Car parking

There is limited car parking available opposite Surlingham Church.

Directions

- Passing the church on your right, take the track that passes to the left of the cottage to reach the River Yare and some lovely views across to Postwick Marsh.
- Follow the riverside path and you will come to a bird hide overlooking the reed bed.
- To take the short route continue past the bird hide and turn right before a gate where a sign for a 'Permissive Footpath' is displayed.
- To take the longer route, continue through the gate and along the riverbank to Surlingham Ferry House Inn.
- Turn right up the lane and on reaching the first dwellings turn right at the footpath sign, cross two stiles and follow the footpath on the right hand edge of the meadow.
- Cross the next stile, continue straight on and follow the path, passing the gun club.
- On the hillside, the ruins of St Saviours Church can be seen; it is here you will find the grave of Ted Ellis the naturalist.
- From St Saviours it is a short walk back to Surlingham Church.

Walk DetailsWalk Time45 mins / 1 ¼ hoursDistance1 ½ (short route) / 2 miles (long route)SurfaceMostly soft – can be very muddy in winter
1 stile (short route) 3 stiles (long route)GradientModerate in placesFacilitiesSurlingham Ferry House Inn





Rockland St Mary



Points of interest

- Surlingham Church Marsh RSPB Nature Reserve
- Ruins of St Saviours church and final resting place of naturalist Ted Ellis
- Views across the Yare Valley and Rockland Broad
- The Ted Ellis Trust at Wheatfen Nature Reserve
- Easy access footpath to Rockland Broad Bird Hide

Walk Details		
Walk Time	3 ½ hours	
Distance	7 miles	
Surface	50% Soft – can be very muddy in winter, 3 stiles	
Gradient	Moderate in places	
Facilities	Surlingham Ferry House Inn,	-
	Coldham Hall Tavern, New Inn	



Starting point

OS Grid reference TG 327046 - Rockland Staithe car park.

Car parking

Parking is available at Rockland Staithe, opposite the New Inn.

Directions

- From the Staithe, walk up the hill along the Street for just over a mile, passing the Post Office/Stores.
- Turn right just past a small electrical sub station onto the footpath, turning right again along the rear of the houses. Turn left at the conifers that line the field edge.
- Follow the field edge path, continuing along a green lane until reaching Holloway Road.
- Turn left onto Holloway Road, then right at the junction onto Cross Lane.
- At the junction, cross over Bramerton Lane to the footpath opposite. After a short distance, the footpath turns right, go through the gate and straight on down the track to Surlingham Church.
- At the church, turn left, before turning right to follow the edge of the graveyard.
- Continue along the track at the edge of the RSPB Reserve to the ruins of Saint Saviours Church and the graves of Ted and Phyllis Ellis (Founders of the Ted Ellis Trust – Wheatfen).
- Returning from the ruins, turn right and follow the main path, a board walk, past a shooting range and over three stiles to reach Ferry Road.
- Turn right on Ferry Road and take the left fork along The Common.
- Turn left to Coldham Hall Tavern following the loop past the Sailing Club dry berths to join The Street again.
- Turn left and follow The Street and The Covey past the entrance to Wheatfen Nature Reserve and follow the field edge path.
- Opposite Broad Hall Farm, turn left through the gap in the bank and onto a grassy track across the field with great views across Rockland Broad.
- Pass by the farm buildings and follow Green Lane to New Inn Hill. Turn left and follow the road back down to the Staithe.

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- Rockland Broad
- Water meadows and grazing marshes
- Easy access footpath to Rockland bird hide
- In winter, flocks of wigeon and teal



Starting point

OS Grid reference TG 327046 - Rockland Staithe car park.

Car parking

Parking is available at Rockland Staithe car park, opposite the New Inn.

- From Rockland Staithe follow the easy access footpath along the dyke past the bird hide and broad to reach the river Yare.
- Follow the riverside footpath, turning right before a gate just before the Beauchamp Arms.
- Pass through the gate into Mill Lane turning right at the Warren up the Street passing the Village Hall on the right.
- At the junction turn left down Home Piece Lane.
- Turn right just before a complex of barns following the path past the church and through the gates.
- Opposite the church, take the footpath at the rear of the houses to cross the two fields.
- Turn sharp right to pass Burton's Farm then left on to Church Lane.
- At the top of Church Lane turn left on to a path which soon passes to the left of a property and then as a cross field path to New Inn Hill.
- Turn right at the road to return to the car park.

Walk Details		
Walk Time	2 1/2 hours	
Distance	5 ¼ miles	
Surface	75% Soft – no stiles	
Gradient	Mainly flat, slight in places	
Facilities	New Inn, Beachamp Arms	





- Langley Abbey
- Hardley Wind Pump (restored)
- Langley and Hardley Churches





Starting point

OS Grid reference TG 388011 - Hardley Dyke.

Car parking

There is limited car parking available at Hardley Dyke and by Hardley Church.

Directions

- Starting from Hardley Dyke follow the footpath sign along the field edge, through a gate, between some houses and onto the road. Barn owls can often be seen hunting over these fields.
- Follow the road to the junction turning right passing Avenue Farm then right again (signposted Langley) along Hardley Road.
- After passing Great Yard Farm, turn left onto Gentleman's Walk. Follow the lane around a left hand bend and turn right onto a bridleway. At Staithe Road turn left passing the Alms Houses and then right onto Stone Lane. Follow the lane around a right hand bend past the Grange and at the next bend, continue straight onto a green lane signed as a footpath. At the end of the track, turn right onto a road passing Langley Abbey. Turn left at the war memorial and left onto a footpath to Langley Dyke Staithe.
- Follow Langley Dyke to the River Yare, turning right to follow the riverside footpath past the restored Wind Pump, back to Hardley Dyke.

Walk Details		
Walk Time	3 ¹ / ₂ hours	
Distance	7 1⁄2 miles	
Surface	50% Soft – no stiles	
Gradient	Mainly flat, slight in places	
Facilities	Wherry Inn*	

* Wherry Inn – closed at time of going to press, but hopefully will re-open in the near future.



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- Chedgrave Church
- Chedgrave Common
- Hardley Flood SSSI
- Bird Hide
- Easy access footpath to Chedgrave Common



Starting point OS Grid reference TM 362993.

Car parking

There is limited car parking available at Chedgrave Church. More car parking is available at Loddon Staithe.

- From Chedgrave Church cross the 'Pits' play area to emerge on Pits Lane turning right down the incline towards the boatyards.
- At the boatyards go through the gate to take the footpath bearing left following the easy access footpath along the river to Chedgrave Common.
- Continue on the riverside path over a bridge and past the bird hide with Hardley Flood to your left.
- After passing Hardley Flood pass through a gate and continue along the river bank. At the next gate you can extend your walk by continuing on the river bank to Hardley Dyke and after passing Church Farm turn left onto Hardley Hall Lane to rejoin the walk. Otherwise turn left down a track past Hardley Hall until you meet the road.
- Turn left on Hardley Road and follow it back to the church.

Walk Details	
Walk Time	2 hours / 31/2 hours
Distance	$4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (shorter route) / $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles (long route)
Surface	50% Soft – no stiles
Gradient	Flat – slight in places
Facilities	Shops and Public House in Chedgrave





- Holy Trinity Church local history exhibition
- 'Story' Sculpture at Pye's Mill by Mark Goldsworthy
- Pye's Mill picnic and barbecue site
- Historic and picturesque town of Loddon



Walk Time	I hour / 30 mins
Distance	¼ miles (longer walk) mile (shorter walk)
Surface	50% Soft - can be muddy in places, 1 stile on short walk
Gradient	Flat
Facilities	Public toilets at Church Plain car park, café, restaurant,
	shops, pubs and takeaways in Loddon

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Starting point

OS Grid reference TM 362987 – Church Plain car park.

Car parking

Parking can be found on Church Plain car park in the centre of Loddon, Loddon Staithe (TM 362990) or at Pye's Mill (TM 366990).

- From the 'Wherryman's Way' sign on Church Plain car park, walk through the churchyard to the rear of Holy Trinity Church where you will find the footpath.
- Follow the tarmac footpath across the valley and upon reaching the road, turn left.
- At the T-junction, turn left and follow the lane to Pye's Mill.
- Reaching Pye's Mill, you turn left and walk through the trees to a footbridge.
- Pye's Mill is a popular area for BBQs and picnics with walkers and boaters alike.
- At the footbridge you have a choice of turning left and heading straight back to the church, or turning right and walking alongside the River Chet. Halfway along the riverbank is a seat where you can sit and enjoy the location. A barn owl can often be seen hunting on this marsh.
- The path turns left across the marsh and it is here that wet weather can make it difficult underfoot.
- In the corner of the marsh is a footbridge that leads to a path that takes you back to Loddon High Street.





Loddon Ingloss

Points of interest

- Holy Trinity Church housing a local history exhibition
- Historic and picturesque town of Loddon
- Village sign depicting Aelfric Modercope

Walk Details

Traine Decails	
Walk Time	2 hours
Distance	4 miles
Surface	50% Soft – no stiles
Gradient	Moderate in places
Facilities	Public toilets at Church Plain car park, café, restaurant, shops, pubs and takeaways in Loddon



Starting point

OS Grid reference TM 362987 – Church Plain car park.

Car parking

Parking can be found on Church Plain car park in the centre of Loddon or at Loddon Staithe (TM 362990).

- With your back to the church turn left up the High Street until you reach the triangular green (note the village sign). Pass to the right and into High Bungay Road; continue along this road until you reach the A146.
- Once safely across the A146, walk a few metres along Bungay Road and immediately right into Stubbs Green Lane. Upon reaching a 5 mph sign bear left and enter a meadow by a kissing gate on the right.
- Cross the meadow heading towards Bush Farm. After a few hundred yards take the footpath on your right, across the field. Cross a track and continue across field to the field edge track.
- Once across, walk over a small wooden footbridge in the hedge, turn right and follow field edge path, which soon becomes a farm track, towards the house.
- Turning right, follow Ingloss Lane until you come to Roundabout Lane (unnamed) which is a grassy track.
- Follow Roundabout Lane; eventually the path turns left following the hedge line. This soon becomes a track showing signs of vehicle usage. Follow the lane until you reach the woodland, bear left. The path now heads back towards Loddon.
- Go through a gap in the hedge and again safely cross the A146, once across you will find a footbridge.
- Walk straight on into Alfric Close, at the end of which you will find a footpath to the left. Follow this crossing Leman Grove and passing Hobart School turn right.
- At the end of the road turn left and follow the High Street back to Church Plain car park.





- Holy Trinity Church housing a local history exhibition
- Historic and picturesque town of Loddon
- Village sign depicting Aelfric Modercope
- Warren Hills

Walk Details

Walk Time	2 ½ hours
Distance	4 ¾ miles
Surface	75% Soft, 1 chain gate
Gradient	Moderate in places
Facilities	Public toilets at Church Plain car park, café, restaurant, shops, pubs and takeaways in Loddon
-	

Starting point

OS Grid reference TM 362987 – Church Plain car park.

Car parking

Car parking can be found on Church Plain car park in the centre of Loddon, or at Loddon Staithe (TM 362990).



Directions

- With your back to the church turn left up the High Street, bear left at the green until you reach the bridge, where a footpath begins on the right.
- Follow the path along the dyke until you reach the main road (A146). Once safely across the road, to your left you will see a gate, beyond which the path continues through a meadow.
- The path follows the contour of Warren Hills and a chain gate will be found at the end on the left.
- Pass through the chain gate and take the path that goes to the left and up a hedge lined path, at the end turn right onto a farm road passing in front of Loddon Hall.
- At the end of the farm road turn right along Transport Lane, continue until you reach the



information board provided by Kirby Cane Hall Farm.

- Turn left and follow the farm track keeping to the field edge, ignore the path leading to Hales Hall.
- Still keeping to the right you will come to a T-Junction of tracks, turn right.
- Follow the path that leads to the right of a disused barn, here you will find another information point.
- Keep to the field edge path, bear right at a waymark, until you reach a crossroad of paths, go straight ahead for a few metres and on the left you will find a gap, where the path continues back to Transport Lane.
- Turn right and follow Transport Lane for about 300 metres and then turn left across a footbridge and follow the hedged path.
- Once back at the chain gate, retrace your steps back to the starting point.





- Norton Marsh
- Reedham Quay
- Reedham chain ferry
- Railway swing bridge

Walk Details

Walk Time	2 hours
Distance	4 miles
Surface	Soft – no stiles
Gradient	Mainly flat – some inclines
Facilities	Reedham Ferry Inn, The Ship Inn, The Nelson Inn



Starting point

Southern start OS Grid reference TG 407014 – Reedham Ferry car park. Northern start OS Grid reference TG 419016 – Reedham Quay.

Car parking

Parking can be found alongside the river at Reedham Quay or at Reedham Ferry.

- The southern start point is at Reedham Ferry; leave your car in the car park and cross the river on the ferry. Charges may be made to use these facilities.
- Follow the road that leads away from The Ferry Inn and upon reaching the junction, take the right turning up the hill walking parallel to Reedham railway station. Turn right at Witton Green and follow the road to the end. Pass through the gap, turning right to follow the field edge path towards the river; at the road turn right, and then left at the war memorial into Riverside.
- Riverside passes beside Reedham Quay towards the railway swing bridge.
- Reedham Quay is the start point for walkers on the northern side of the River Yare. At the swing bridge end of the quay, the road turns left and goes uphill towards Reedham school. Turn right into Holly Farm Road and enjoy the views of Norton Marsh across the River Yare and the railway swingbridge; the road becomes Low Common after the sharp left turn, which leads towards a railway level crossing. The walk turns left onto a footpath just before the level crossing and leads back towards Reedham village.
- Turn right upon reaching the road and retrace your steps back to the river, turning left at the school. Follow Riverside back towards the war memorial and bear left onto The Hills. At the sharp bend ahead you will find some steps that will take you down to the path and on to the riverbank leading directly to Reedham Ferry.
- For southern walkers this is the end. Northern walkers need to turn right at The Ferry Inn and follow the above directions back to Reedham Quay.







- Berney Arms railway station the remotest station in Britain
- Berney Marshes RSPB Reserve
- Berney Arms Mill
- Berney Arms Inn
- Big sky views over Halvergate Marshes and Breydon Water

Walk Details	
Walk Time	2 ½ hours
Distance	5 ½ miles
Surface	Soft but mostly firm on river bank Stiles, steps, kissing gates and gates
Gradient	Flat
Facilities	Berney Arms Inn (open Easter to October) full facilities in Great Yarmouth



Starting point

OS Grid Reference TG 460 053 – Berney Arms station This 5½ mile walk is best enjoyed by taking the train to Berney and walking back to Yarmouth station. Check traintimes at the stations or visit www.wherrylines.org.uk

Car parking

Pay and display parking is available at Great Yarmouth railway station.

Directions

- From Berney Arms station, take the path across the grazing marsh towards Berney Mill which is approximately 600 metres to the southeast, passing through kissing gates and gates.
- On reaching the Mill, go through the pedestrian gate and up a few steps to the right of the Mill which brings you onto the river bank. Turn left along the bank passing between the Mill and the River Yare.



After about 400 metres pass

in front of the Berney Arms Inn and through a kissing gate.

- Continue along the river bank enjoying extensive views over Breydon Water to your right and Halvergate Marshes to your left.
- After about 4 miles of river bank walking (with stiles, kissing gates and gates) you will arrive on the outskirts of Great Yarmouth.
- Follow the path under the lift-bridge (which becomes surfaced here) and alongside the supermarket car park to arrive back at Great Yarmouth railway station.

Project information

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Websites

- www.wherrymansway.net
 www.southernbroads.com
- www.wherrylines.org.uk www.broads-authority.gov.uk
- www.countrysideaccess.norfolk.gov.uk
- www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk

Contact

If you have any comments regarding these walks or Wherryman's Way itself, whether good or not so good – tell us what you think!

Write to: Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NRI 2SG

email: environment@norfolk.gov.uk

Phone: 01603 223317

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