

Canoeing on the River Waveney

Shotford Bridge to Bungay Staithe Sluice



Access Homersfield, the Black Swan pub

You can exit or access the river here only with prior permission of the publican, telephone 01986 788204. The launch platform is on the south (right hand) bank. Public access will be available on the north bank, following improvements to a site owned by Norfolk County Council.

Portage Homersfield Sluice

Take left hand branch of river. Exit on south, right hand bank, relaunch by large tree to avoid steep banks.

Portage Wortwell Mill

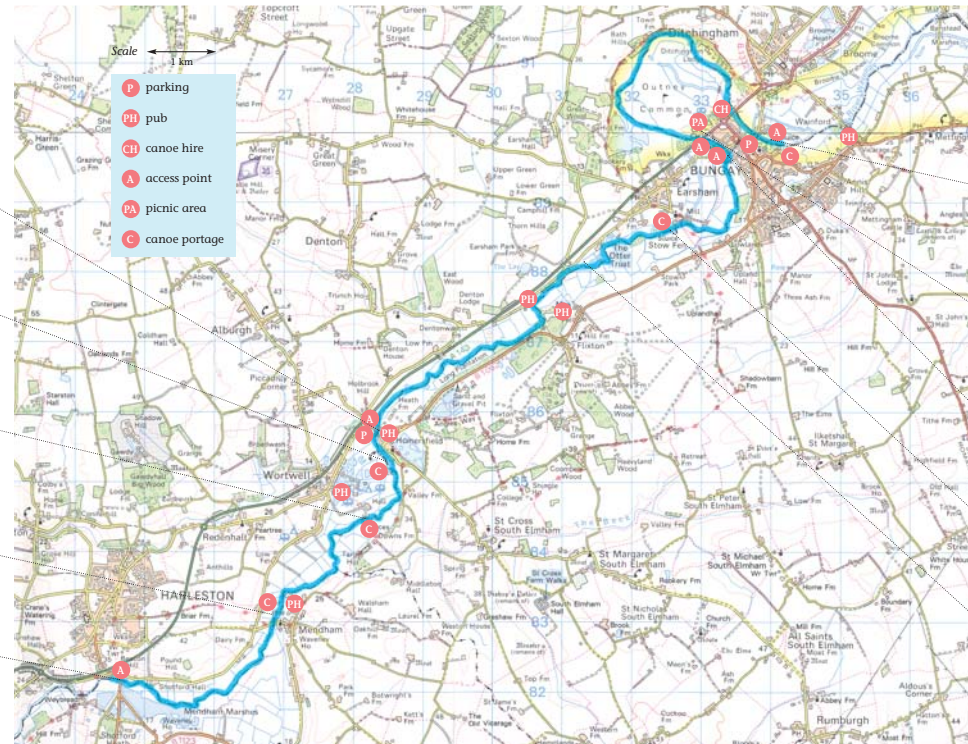
Portage on the North (left hand) bank. (After the portage there is a narrow channel with a low broken bridge at the end.) There are two sluices here: one on the north and one on the south. The South sluice is particularly dangerous. Keep well clear.

Portage Mendham Mill

Portage on north (left hand) bank. The main river forks to the left. Please do not canoe up the right hand stream towards the mill.

Access Shotford Bridge

Access to river south east of Shotford Bridge. Over stile down path to river, launch from platform on south bank of river (the right hand bank if you are facing downstream).



End Bungay Staithe Sluice

Portage Bungay Staithe Sluice

Exit the river via the platform on the right hand bank, before the sluice. Below the sluice access the river via the platform in front of the Riverside Centre. If the gate is locked, cross the footbridge and inch from the north (left hand) bank.

Picnic and access Outney Road Picnic Site (to be developed)

You can stop here for a rest or a picnic. Exit and access on south (right hand) bank of the river, after the homes with gardens, and before the road bridge.

Access Castle Landing

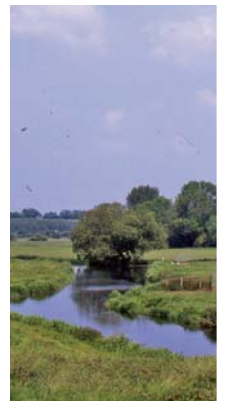
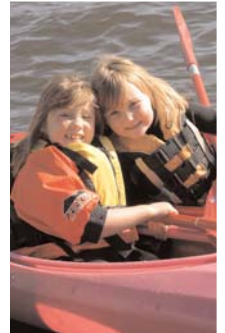
You can access or exit the river here, just before some high old castle walls on the south (right hand) bank of the river.

Portage Earsham Mill

Exit on the high bank on the South (right hand) bank of the river. Below the sluice the river forks. Take the Right hand fork.

Picnic Boathouse Picnic Site (to be developed – not yet in use)

You can stop here for rest or a picnic. The Boathouse is on the Norfolk (left hand) bank.





River Waveney *Code of conduct*

Before entering and after leaving the water

- Be friendly and polite to local residents and other water users.
- Park sensibly without causing any obstruction. Use designated car parks where available (this may involve unloading equipment and parking at a distance from the river).
- Be as quiet as possible.
- Unload kit tidily, take all litter home and leave no trace of your visit.
- Get changed out of public view.
- Avoid disturbing farm animals and wildlife and causing environmental damage.
- Follow the Country Code.

On the water

- All boaters must use the river in a safe fashion and must have appropriate safety equipment.
- Respect other people.
- Respect wildlife and the environment. This is particularly important in the breeding season and the fishing closed season, when canoeing should be kept to a minimum. At all other times keep away from the banks (except at official access and portage points) and keep disturbance to the river bed to a minimum.
- Remain quiet whilst approaching and passing anyone on the river.
- Normally pass on the far side of the river from someone fishing from the bank, or as directed by that person.
- If and when it is necessary to stop or to land in an emergency or at one of the approved landing places, keep reasonably still and quiet and in a small area.
- Refuse must not be deposited in the river or on the bank of the river.
- Visiting groups should not normally exceed 15 craft (larger groups should consult the BCU River Officer). Individual members within a group must keep as close together as possible, especially when passing someone fishing, so as to cause minimum impact on other people and the environment.
- If in any doubt about where to pass or on any other point, group leaders should make their presence known to those fishing and ask for guidance.
- All river users should do their best to avoid arguments.

River Waveney *Terms of agreement for canoeing*

You can canoe or row boats on the River Waveney between Shotford Bridge and Bungay Staithe. Access points and picnic areas are marked on the map. These are the only places at which you can enter and leave the river, other than in the case of emergencies. There are also designated portage points to get around obstructions. Directions should be followed and the portages used solely for this purpose.

You should be a member of a recognised club or association, or have purchased a day ticket. Documentary evidence should be available for inspection. It is recommended that you have personal liability insurance; this may be included in your club or association membership, or as part of your day ticket (if you have rented a canoe or rowing boat).

It is good practice to display a registration or other mark on your craft.

Safety is paramount and you should always wear a buoyancy aid and appropriate protective gear. Stay with your boat if you capsize. It is good practice to paddle in a group of at least three. Let someone know where you are going and the time you expect to be back. Learn how to canoe and be able to swim. Remember that weirs are dangerous and keep well clear.

By using the river, you agree that:

- Boating (including canoeing, rowing and the use of any self-propelled watercraft) is an assumed risk activity. The degree of risk may be related to factors such as water conditions, your experience and ability, and to unrecognised hazards in the river channel.
- The granting of permission to boat does not imply that the river is safe; you must make your own assessment of the river's dangers before accessing the water.
- Riparian owners cannot be held responsible for any accident or incident that may result from the granting of permission to boat under the terms of this agreement.
- **Permission to use the river for boating is dependent upon the acceptance of this condition.** This document is not to be taken as evidence that there is, or is not, a public

right of navigation on this section of the river. Use of the river for boating cannot invoke such a right. Riparian and fisheries owners and tenants and their agents agree that they will not knowingly obstruct the course of the river. Consideration must at all times be given to landowners and users of the river and on no occasion should any use take place that may impair the river environment or the enjoyment of other legitimate users. All people using the river have a duty of care to themselves and others, and will be responsible for any damage caused to private property.

- Boating should normally take place only during daylight hours.
- Boating should only take place where there is sufficient water to avoid damage to the river bed. This is determined according to two height gauges:
 - At Hornsfield Bridge, where the water level should be above When the level is below this there should be no boating between Hornsfield Bridge and the Outney Road picnic site in Bungay; and
 - at the confluence of the Waveney and the Wolds, east of Earsham, where the Waveney should only be used when the water level is above If the water level is below this there should be no boating between Earsham and the Outney Road picnic site in Bungay.

Riparian and fisheries owners can close their parts of the river on the following grounds: Public health (duration as directed by Defra and other agencies); Pollution and dangerous obstructions (duration necessary to address the problem); Protection of fauna and flora (duration as directed by wildlife authorities); Engineering works (duration necessary to address the problem); Events (maximum two days per year per club, subject to an overall maximum of 10 days per year).

Disclaimer: No organisation, their representatives nor individuals involved in the development of this agreement can be held responsible for any loss, damage or accident.

Guide to safety and information signs



Red: prohibited activities



Yellow and black: hazard warnings



Blue: mandatory instructions



Black on white: information

Useful contacts

BCU River Officer: Tim Bacon, tel 01502 713163

Bungay Sea Scouts: Graham Pritchard, tel 01986 892189

Canoe hire (Outney Meadow Caravan Park): Colin Hancy, tel 01986 892338

Car parking and access: The Black Swan pub: Tony Eaves, tel 01986 788204,

Camping and caravanning: Outney Meadow Caravan Park, tel 01986 892338

Accommodation: Earsham Park Farm (bed and breakfast), tel 01986 892180

Tourist Information

- Bungay Castle Visitors' Centre, tel 01986 896156
- Beccles Tourist Information Centre, tel 01502 713196
- Diss Tourist Information Centre, tel 01379 650523

Police/ambulance/fire, tel 999

Fishing

- Dave Gladwell, tel 01508 518798 (but name all the clubs);
- Harleston and Wortwell: Nigel Poll
- NACA (Norfolk Angling and Conservation Association): Chris Basford
- Cherry Tree Angling Club: Stanley Woods
- The Fleece Angling Club: Nigel Poll



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a guide to one of the finest rivers in East Anglia
with outstanding wildlife and historic interest

