

A Broadland Church Trail



Hoveton
Wroxham
Ranworth
South Walsham
Acle
Horning

places to visit

please check opening hours

- 16 Broadland Churches
- Ranworth Visitor Centre
- Woodbastwick Brewery
- Fairhaven Gardens



Broads by bike

The Broads and surrounding countryside are the ideal place for cycling. Quiet roads, gentle slopes, beautiful countryside and fresh air, all combine to make cycling a real pleasure.

There are plenty of pretty villages within easy reach, with ancient churches, wind pumps, pubs, cafes and other attractions to enjoy. You can even make it to the nearby coast, with its rolling waves, dunes and beautiful sandy beaches.

Above all, there are stunning views of the Broads, with sails on distant rivers seeming to glide across marshland fields, all beneath the spectacular skies for which the area is famous.

Further information

Leaflets for other Broads bike trails in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads are available from bike hire centres and Broads Information Centres.

Broads information

Easter to October t: 01603 782281
or at other times t: 01603 610734
www.broads-authority.gov.uk

Norfolk Open Churches

The Broads and Rivers Open Churches Project is dedicated to helping churches to be open and welcoming to all visitors. The Broads has some of the most interesting and beautiful churches in the county, and by opening them we hope to help people to understand and appreciate our historic and Christian heritage.

www.norfolkopenchurches.com

This leaflet is funded by the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund and the Open Churches Project.

While every effort has been made to include accurate, up-to-date information, the Broads Bike Hire Association does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. If you find any inaccuracies we would be pleased to hear about them.

Safe cycling

- * This is not an off-road route, you will meet cars and other vehicles on these roads during your trip.
- * Take care crossing and using main roads.
- * Please ride in single file on busy roads, and never more than two abreast on others.
- * Remember to signal before manoeuvring - other road users need to know.
- * Please keep to roads, bridleways and byways - footpaths are for pedestrians.
- * Give pedestrians and horses plenty of room and slow down as you pass - horses can be easily startled, and may not hear you coming.
- * Wear a safety helmet, and bright reflective clothing even in daylight.
- * You must use lights after dusk - it's important to be seen. Check whether you have time to complete your route in daylight before you start.



hire centre

Broadland Cycle Hire
at Bewilderwood
t: 07887 480331



Introduction

Along the waterways of Norfolk and north-east Suffolk there are many round-towered churches which are said to date from before the Norman Conquest. In a few cases this is so – perhaps twenty of them are of Saxon origin, but most date from after 1066, the period of ‘Norman’ architecture that had gradually changed to a more ‘English’ style by 1200.

Thatch, rare on churches in the rest of England, is common here. A good Norfolk reed thatch should last at least 60 years, often 80, although the sedge on the ridge will have to be renewed more often. This is also an area of superb woodwork: screens, often painted, benches and roofs.

Norfolk’s churches are almost always of flint, either knapped or used as coursed or random rubble. Expensive dressed limestone was used for the arches of arcades and the sides of doorways and windows. Norfolk was a rich county and the patrons of these churches could afford to be lavish, hoping to gain salvation by their generosity.

Hemblington All Saints

The church attached to the Norman round tower is substantially 14th century with a later porch. In 1937 the large St Christopher wall painting was discovered and is a fine example.

The folk of Hemblington in the Middle Ages would glance into the church in the morning and consider that, having gazed on the image of the saint, they would be kept safe from untimely death that day. Some of the pews have poppy head ends, and fine figures on their ends and traceried backs.



Hoveton St Peter

A charming chapel of 1624 – a rare date for a church being erected in England. The church is thatched, like so many churches in the Broads. A feature is the series of hatchments which depict the coats of arms of local families. Painted on board in the 17th/18th century, they were hung outside the house of the deceased for a year before being taken to the church.



A gallery of these and other Norfolk Churches can be found [online on the Norfolk Open Churches website](http://www.norfolkopenchurches.com)



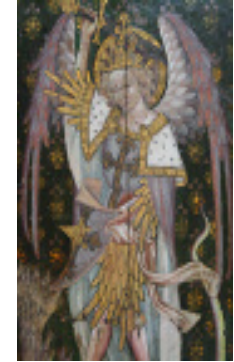
Ranworth St Helens

A very famous Broads church with a wonderful view from the top of the 93ft tower. The Chancel appears to date from the 14th century with a 15th century nave. There is a fabulous rood screen, probably from the 15th century, painted by itinerant Spanish painters.



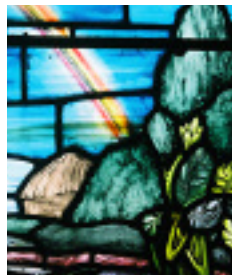
The Cantor’s desk, an early lectern, is double-sided, beautifully painted and unique. It was probably used for the Sarum Antiphoner which can be seen in the glass case by the South Door.

The Antiphoner is a real treasure and was probably produced at Langley Abbey (near Loddon) on the River Yare.



South Walsham St Mary and St Lawrence

Two churches on one site – unusual but not unique in Norfolk. They originally belonged to adjoining manors and each served their own community. St Mary’s is now the parish church and St Lawrence’s has been well restored as an arts centre, though it is still consecrated for worship. St Mary’s has a two storey porch which, like the church, is 14th century. The screen has the name of its donor, John Galt, inscribed on it. He was a serf who, when freed in 1437, paid for the building in gratitude. There are some interesting stained glass windows in the chancel.



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