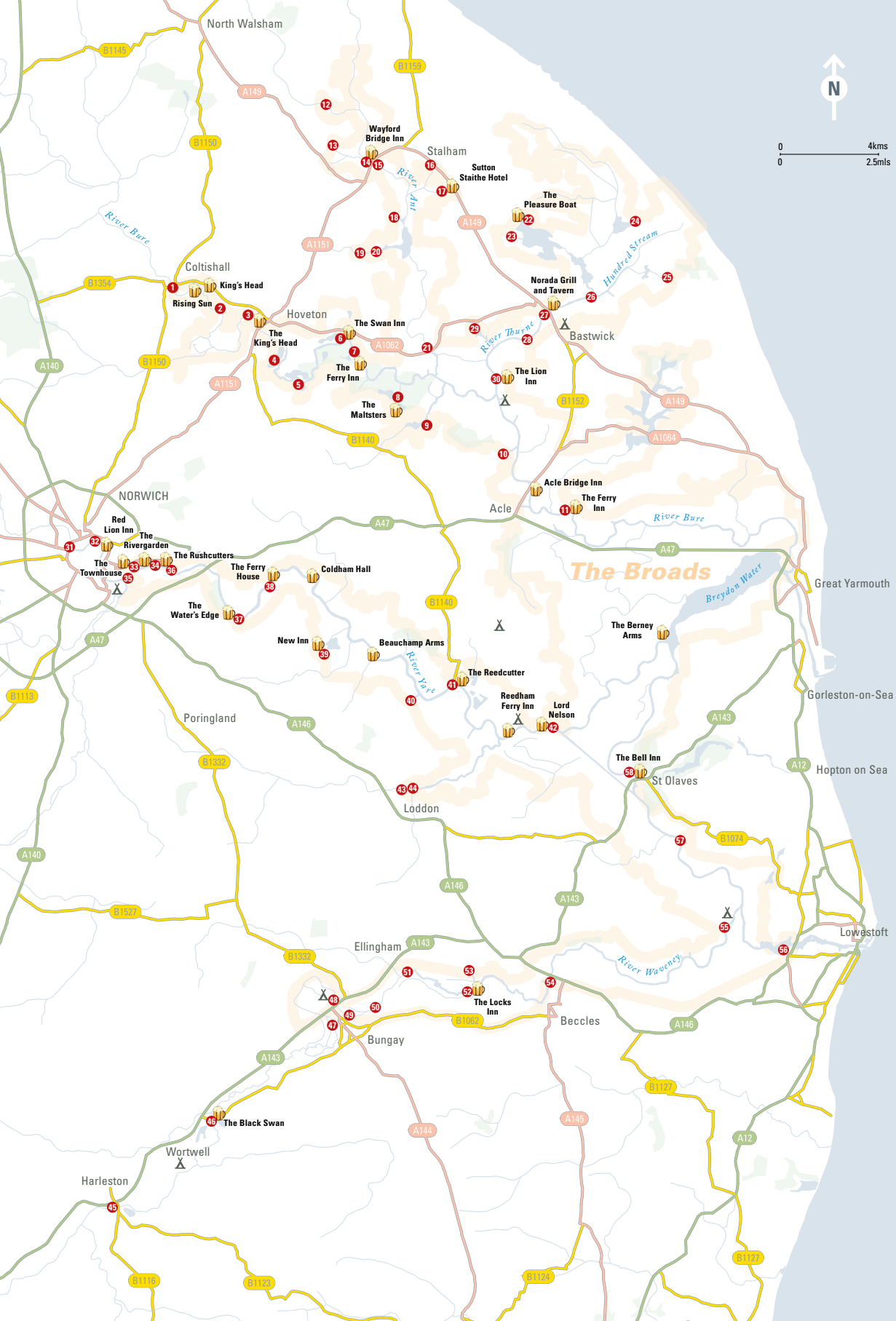


A photograph of a man and a young girl paddling a white canoe on a calm river. The man is in the front, wearing a blue shirt and a life vest, holding a paddle. The girl is in the back, wearing a yellow life vest and a white shirt, also holding a paddle. The canoe is white with a black stripe and has "NOVA CRAFT CANOE" written on the side. The river is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage, and the water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The title "NORFOLK BROADS CANOE AND KAYAK GUIDE" is overlaid in white text on a green background at the top of the image.

# NORFOLK BROADS CANOE AND KAYAK GUIDE

2ND EDITION  
STEVE MALONEY





**STEVE MALONEY**

# **NORFOLK BROADS CANOE AND KAYAK GUIDE**

## Important notice – disclaimer

Canoeing and kayaking are healthy outdoor activities that carry some degree of risk. They involve adventurous travel, often away from close habitation. Guidebooks give an idea of where to access the water, where to egress, the level of difficulty and the nature of the hazards to be encountered.

However, nature being what it is, river valleys are changed by time and erosion, water levels vary considerably with rain, and constructed features can be updated or altered. This guidebook is no substitute for personal inspection at the time of paddling, and your own risk assessment and judgement. Your decision to paddle or not, and any consequences arising from that decision, is your responsibility.

Alcohol and water are a potentially lethal combination and the wonderful pubs listed in this guide should be enjoyed responsibly. Alcoholic beverages are best enjoyed after the day's watersports activities are over.

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Tan y Coed Canol

Ceunant

Caernarfon

Gwynedd

LL55 4RN

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Printed in Poland

# Dedication

For Dad. Thank you for always being interested and encouraging. For giving me the love of adventure. And because now I understand how good it feels to be proud of your children.

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# The Author

So here we are, a good few years and many paddled miles after I started researching the first edition of the Canoe and Kayak Guide. It's great to see increasing numbers of people out there enjoying the wonderful Broads area by canoe or kayak and having so much fun in a more environmentally sustainable way. My family and I still love to get out on The Broads and even now are able to find new waters we have yet to explore fully, while on our favourite stretches there is always something new to see. The overwhelmingly positive response to the first edition of the guide book was wonderful and I sincerely hope that the updates in this new version help even more people to get out there and make the most of the amazing natural resource we have in the Norfolk Broads.



## Photographs

All photographs by Steve Maloney, except where acknowledged in the captions.



# Introduction

Things have changed a great deal since I started out paddling, and with so much choice available, a little time spent chatting and some honest advice can go a long way. Working in a canoe and kayak store, I found that once a customer had decided upon and paid for their shiny new boat, invariably the next question would be, “Great, now where’s a good place to paddle around here?”

With paddling on and around the Broads becoming ever more popular, I found myself being asked this more and more often. Alternatively, people would come in with tales of where they had tried to get on the water and were subsequently accosted by a local politely telling them to clear off.

It was this that initially made me start researching safe places to launch and land. Living so close to so much water that is perfect for paddling I feel it is a terrible waste if you don’t use it. The Broads is a unique wetland environment, with spectacular wildlife and scenery that is ideal for exploring by canoe or kayak. It is underused by paddlers, and simply talking to people about the various different waterways makes me want to grab a boat and get out there.

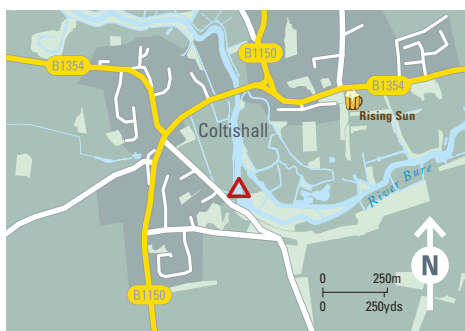
I love to paddle about on the Broads at a relaxed pace, watching the wildlife and scenery, being hassled by the ducks and swans as they try to steal my sandwiches, ducking to avoid a low-flying kingfisher, or chucking a rod over the side and having a go at giving some maggots a wash. I had my favourite areas to paddle, but I soon found myself coming up with the same questions I was being asked in the shop. Finding places to launch a canoe or kayak around the Broads can prove to be more than a little difficult, with many places being under the control of a local parish council that may have restrictions in place as to who can and cannot use the facilities. So I decided that I would do the research and try to create the definitive guide. Little did I know what I was letting myself in for. But a couple of years down the road and a good few paddling miles later and here we are. My hope is that this guidebook helps paddlers use the Broads and encourages more people to take to the water and start their own love affair with paddling.



# Launching Point Descriptions by River

## River Bure

### 1 Horstead Mill



**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref: TG 266 193**

**Postcode: NR12 7AT**



📷 *Horstead Mill Sluice.*

This marks the starting point for the Broads Authority area of the River Bure.


Launching at Horstead Mill presents the paddler with two choices. Those wanting a more adventurous start can walk from the car park to the side of the mill pond where the ground slopes gently to the flowing water's edge. It can be quite a challenge getting in or out of your boat here as the bank can also be quite

muddy. However, this is an excellent spot to have a little fun in the faster stuff, and is just about Norfolk's only whitewater experience.

Note: The slipway is for parishioners' use only. Alternatively, if you walk over the mill sluices from the car park and turn left you can launch into the still waters by the lock where there is also a slipway to help you enter the water gracefully.





 *Bure at Horstead.*

Upstream of Horstead Mill is free water and as such no Broads Authority permit is required. This stretch of the river, while not covered as a part of this guide, is extremely beautiful and would be a shame to miss out. So if you are planning a trip from or around the Coltishall area, the upper part of the Bure from Horstead Mill is highly recommended.

## Directions

From Norwich – take the B1150 towards Coltishall. On entering Horstead village, continue down the hill until just before the roundabout with the Recruiting Sergeant pub opposite, turn right down Mill Road and the entrance to the mill car park is around 300 metres on your left.

From Wroxham/Hoveton – take the B1354 into Coltishall. At the junction with the petrol station on your right, turn left onto the B1150 towards Norwich. Immediately after the roundabout which has the Recruiting Sergeant on your right, turn left down Mill Road. After about 300 metres turn left into the car park for the mill.

From Great Yarmouth – take the A47 towards Norwich until you reach the Blofield and Brun-

dall roundabout. Here, you need to turn back on yourself, heading back along the A47 but only for just over half a mile. You will soon see a signpost for Blofield Heath and shortly after a filter lane for this exit. Follow the signs through Blofield Heath and out the other side of the village until you come to a junction. Turn left here and after just under a mile you will come to a crossroads with The Brick Kilns pub on your right. Turn right here onto Honeycombe Road and stay on this road following the signs for Wroxham. After you drive over Wroxham Bridge and past Roys department store you come to the first of a pair of small roundabouts. Turning left here puts you onto the B1354 towards Coltishall and simply follow the instructions above from Wroxham/Hoveton.

## 2 Belaugh Staithe



**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** **TG 288 185**

**Postcode:** **NR12 8XA**

The tiny village of Belaugh can be a little tricky to find. If you do manage to discover it there is a potential launching spot here onto the River

Bure. The parking is free but very limited with space only for about four vehicles. Launching is via a vertical drop of about a metre, but certainly still manageable for both canoes and kayaks. The Broad Authority has improved this facility and there is now a great slipway to the water's edge right next to the car park. Picnic tables, benches and a well-kept grassy area also make it a very pleasant place for a short break or a picnic as it lies about halfway between Horstead Mill and Wroxham.

### Directions

Belaugh lies between the villages of Coltishall and Hoveton just off the B1354. The access road and signpost to the village are fairly small, so don't blink or you'll miss it.

From Norwich – take the A1151 into Wroxham and after you drive over Wroxham Bridge and past Roys department store you come to the first of a pair of small roundabouts. Turning left here puts you onto the B1354 towards Coltishall and Belaugh. Continue under the Bure Valley Railway bridge and onwards for about half a mile. Take the next left onto Top Road signposted for Belaugh. It has dead-end signs, but don't let that put you off. A little way on, turn right onto The Street and follow this road round where suddenly you will find yourself at the riverside car park area.

From Wroxham/Hoveton – take the B1354 towards Coltishall and follow the directions as above.

From Great Yarmouth – take the A47 towards Norwich until you reach the Blofield and

Brundall roundabout. Here you need to turn back on yourself, heading back along the A47, but only for just over half a mile. You will soon see a signpost for Blofield Heath and shortly after a filter lane for this exit. Follow the signs through Blofield Heath and out the other side of the village until you come to a junction. Turn left here and after just under a mile you will come to a crossroads with The Brick Kilns pub. Turn right here onto Honeycombe Road and stay on this road all the way following the signs for Wroxham. After you drive over Wroxham Bridge and past Roys department store you come to the first of a pair of small roundabouts. Turning left here puts you onto the B1354 towards Coltishall and then you simply follow the instructions as above.



📷 Paddler at Belaugh.





# Waterside Pubs

## *River Bure*

### Rising Sun

**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** TG 276 198  
**Postcode:** NR12 7EA  
**Address:** 28 Wroxham Road, Coltishall  
**Telephone:** 01603 737440  
**Website:** [www.risingsuncoltishall.co.uk](http://www.risingsuncoltishall.co.uk)  
**Launching:** No  
**Waypoint:** Yes

The Rising Sun is generally the first building you see as you approach Coltishall Common by river. The large, bright building looks beautiful and welcoming as you paddle towards it. Originally a granary and workers' cottages, the Rising Sun welcomes guests with traditional pub décor and fare.

### Kings Head

**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** TG 276 198  
**Postcode:** NR12 7EA  
**Address:** 26 Wroxham Road, Coltishall  
**Telephone:** 01603 737426  
**Website:** [www.kingsheadcoltishall.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadcoltishall.co.uk)  
**Launching:** No  
**Waypoint:** Yes  
**Accommodation:** B&B

A 17th-century inn only a short walk from the River Bure and close to Broads Authority 24 hour moorings. Traditionally styled, the Kings Head offers a variety of high quality meals that are available cooked freshly to order.

## The King's Head

**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** **TG 303 182**

**Postcode:** **NR12 8UR**

**Address:** Station Road, Hoveton

**Telephone:** 01603 782429

**Website:** [www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/norfolk/kings-head-hotel/](http://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/norfolk/kings-head-hotel/)

**Launching:** No

**Waypoint:** Yes

A very pleasant pub specialising in a daily carvery with pub menu and specials. Easy access from the staithe at the end of the garden area.

## The Swan Inn

**Chain/group:** Vintage Inns

**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** **TG 339 176**

**Postcode:** **NR12 8AA**

**Address:** 10 Lower Street, Horning

**Telephone:** 01692 630316

**Website:** [www.vintageinn.co.uk/theswanhorning](http://www.vintageinn.co.uk/theswanhorning)

**Launching:** Yes – public slipway and vertical drop-in close by

**Waypoint:** Yes

**Accommodation:** B&B

The Swan Inn is a very popular place to while away a few hours by the river watching the world go by on its boat. It has a large interior and also some outdoor tables that are right on the waterside. As a member of the Vintage Inns chain, you are guaranteed a wide choice

of menu that should satisfy lighter and larger appetites alike. There is no car park on site, but the pay and display is only a few yards away.

## The Ferry Inn, Horning

**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** **TG 344 164**

**Postcode:** **NR12 8PS**

**Address:** Ferry Road, Horning

**Telephone:** 01692 630259

**Website:** [www.tfi-restaurants.co.uk](http://www.tfi-restaurants.co.uk)

**Launching:** No

**Waypoint:** Yes

A spacious and welcoming carvery with plenty of riverside frontage and seating areas. Great selection of food and drink, even if you don't fancy a carvery. Games room, pool table and crazy golf available during summer months.

## The Maltsters

**OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref:** **TG 359 145**

**Postcode:** **NR13 6AB**

**Address:** The Hill, Ranworth

**Telephone:** 01603 270900

**Website:** [www.ranworthmaltsters.co.uk](http://www.ranworthmaltsters.co.uk)

**Launching:** No

**Waypoint:** Yes

The Maltsters delivers great food and drink with a beautiful view of the broad. Ample free parking opposite makes it not only a perfect place to pause but also a great launching point as well.

## Acle Bridge Inn

OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref: **TG 414 116**

Postcode: **NR13 3AS**

Address: Acle Bridge, Old Road

Telephone: 01493 750288

Website: [www.aclebridge.co.uk](http://www.aclebridge.co.uk)

Launching: No

Waypoint: Yes

The Bridge Inn prides itself on being a family friendly pub that offers a warm welcome. There is a wide range of food and drink, along with plenty of facilities to keep the whole family entertained.

## The Ferry Inn, Stokesby

OS Explorer OL40 Grid Ref: **TG 431 105**

Postcode: **NR29 3EX**

Address: Riverfront, The Green, Stokesby

Telephone: 01493 751096

Website: None

Launching: No, but mooring and staithe are very close.

Waypoint: Yes

The Ferry Inn has a large outdoor seating area and easy access to and from the river. A regularly changing menu and specials board keeps dining interesting, and the public car parking and easy launching nearby make Stokesby a great place to start and finish a paddle.



 *Rising Sun, Coltishall Common.*



📷 Front Cover – Dad and daughter on the River Bure. Photo | Steve Maloney.

📷 Back Cover – Top: Coltishall Common, River Bure. Photo | Steve Maloney. Bottom: Family fun on the Norfolk Broads. Photo | Steve Maloney.



# NORFOLK BROADS CANOE AND KAYAK GUIDE

**The Norfolk Broads is a unique wetland environment, with marvellous wildlife and scenery that is ideal for exploring by canoe or kayak. This guide provides all the information you need to plan your journey through this picturesque landscape.**

Seven rivers and fourteen broads are described in detail, with information on launching points, local attractions, wildlife and history. Distances between launching points are also provided, along with details of riverside campsites and pubs, enabling you to plan single and multi-day trips. To help you prepare for your journey there is also advice on tides, safety, access and environmental issues.

**STEVE MALONEY**



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PESDA PRESS



**2ND EDITION**

**Revised and updated**

**The 2nd edition contains 128 small but significant updates.**