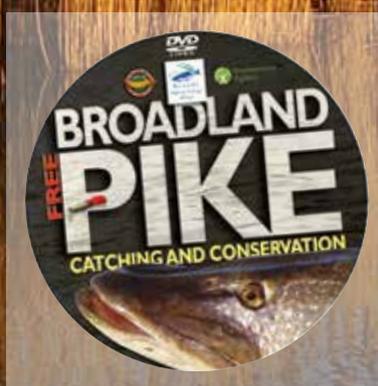


# Broads Angle

FREE  
JUNE 2013

HELPING YOU TO FISH THE BROADS

FREE DVD INSIDE!



- BASG and PASG overview
- Fish species in the Broads
- Fish City - tackle urban angling in the Broads
- An angling guide to good practice
- Pike of the Broads



Broads  
Angling Strategy  
Group



- What the hell is that boat doing?
- The Trinity Broads
- Invasive Species
- What's Down There
- Access to Angling
- Broads Maps

# Welcome to the Broads...

A HUGE WELCOME TO THE NORFOLK BROADS! The Broads are one of the United Kingdom's most special and historic fishing areas. Over centuries they've given sport to anglers in search of wonderful fish from wonderful places. Rudd, perch, bream, pike and tench are just a few of the special fish that you will find in these iconic waterways. My guess is that you will never regret the decision you have made to come and fish these waters of which we are so proud.

Please don't forget that the Broads environment is a very fragile one and your help is always going to be needed to ensure that these valuable fisheries are cared for and developed for present and future fishers to enjoy.

These pages have been published to give all anglers fishing the Broads a truly positive start.

You will find all the information that you need to better appreciate the wonderful fishing opportunities the area has to offer. You will also find a wealth of information, hints and tips that will help you make the most of every single cast you make. And you will find advice on how you can leave these waters as pristine as you will find them. For this effort, we really do thank you.

Whether you are a regular Broadland fisher or whether you're here for the first time, this publication will enthral you.

Enjoy the magazine and all the great fishing the Broads have to offer.

And enjoy some great sessions...



John Bailey

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## Broads Angling Strategy Group



Formed in May 2000, the Broads Angling Strategy Group (BASG) is a group of local anglers with a wide range of experience, who all share a special passion for fishing in the Broads. BASG members volunteer their time and effort to work in partnership with the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority, to help maintain, improve and develop angling within the Broads and safeguard fishing for the future.

In 2012, BASG became a fully constituted body. The main BASG Committee takes a central role in overseeing and coordinating progress on the Broads Angling Strategy, liaising closely with the Environment Agency, Broads Authority and other relevant bodies in the Broads area. BASG links directly to angling governance at Regional and National level through the Angling Trust East of England Forum.

BASG has formed a number of sub-groups to concentrate on delivering the specific objectives of the Broads Angling Strategy. These groups can bring in wider local expertise amongst the angling community and are helping to make a real difference on the ground.

### Can you help make a difference for angling in the Broads?

The BASG is always looking for new members to get involved. Even if angling politics and committees are not 'your thing', the sub-groups are all about delivering real benefits to angling in the Broads. Just a small amount of time and effort spent working alongside like-minded anglers can really make things happen – on the following pages are some examples of just a few of the things BASG has helped deliver in the Broads.

Interested? Contact the BASG at [info@basgonline.org](mailto:info@basgonline.org) or visit our website for more information [www.basgonline.org](http://www.basgonline.org)



### Broads Angling Strategy - a framework to sustain and grow angling in the Broads

Angling accounts for at least 16 percent of the visitors to the area, over 40% of hire boat activity and contributes in excess of £88 million to the local economy each year, so it is now more important than ever to ensure that the right strategy is in place to sustain and grow the sport in the Broads.

Significant progress has been made thanks to the contributions of all involved, many of whom have put in considerable amounts of time and effort for angling, on a purely voluntary basis.

A decade on, the Broads FAP has now been reviewed and refreshed, in light of changing economic times, fresh challenges and new opportunities for working in partnership with others to deliver shared benefits.

The new Broads Angling Strategy comprises three core themes, each with a set of objectives to help partners to maintain, improve and develop angling in the Broads:

- **Access to Angling in the Broads:** The Strategy seeks to improve boat and bank angling access in the Broads, work with others to resolve conflicts of interest and maintain urban angling opportunities
- **Communication and Education:** The Strategy aims to improve the quality and availability of information available to anglers (such as this magazine and DVD!), as well as ensuring there are more opportunities for people young and old to get the fishing habit. The Strategy is also working to further improve angling representation.
- **Environments for fish:** The Strategy aims to promote a better understanding of fish stocks in the Broads, through improved monitoring, research and use of fish population data to inform the management of the area. This theme includes work on winter tidal surges, Prymnesium and invasive species, together with seeking improvements in fisheries enforcement to protect fish stocks.



# Access to Angling

It may be one thing to have produced a new strategy document with good intentions, but many anglers will want to know what has actually been done to make things happen where it matters most – on the ground. BASG Chairman Mark Casto and Steve Lane from the Environment Agency's Fisheries team take a look at some recent examples of angling access improvement projects that have been delivered since the previous issue of Angle on the Broads:

Turning the issues into action

## RIVER YARE (MAP 3, PAGES 44-45)

At Postwick, the Environment Agency has used rod-licence money to fund three phases of improvement work to half a kilometre of riverbank for angling. The first phase included improvements to the car parking area, dyke culvert and an easy access ramp onto the riverbank. The second phase saw major landscaping works to ensure the whole stretch could be fished. Finally, an easy-access path and twenty-three easy-access pegs were installed, culminating in an official opening of the site by BASG Chairman Mark Casto and John Bailey from TV's 'Mr Crabtree' in 2012.

Along the Beauchamp Arms stretch, the Environment Agency has worked with the angling club and the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project to install new swims along the Sluice Bend section, together with a new access ramp on the floodbank. Further work to create new pegs is planned during the coming flood defence works.

Based at Surlingham and now also at Ormesby Broad (part of the Trinity Broads) the Environment Agency is working with the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain (PAC), Norwich and District Pike Club and BASG to provide new opportunities for all to experience angling by boat. An Environment Agency rod-licence funding contribution has been used to purchase two wheelyboats, and partners are undertaking the day-to-day running of the project. To book a free-of-charge trip on either boat, contact BASG member and PAC officer John Currie on 07776 221959.

## RIVER WAVENEY (MAP 3, PAGES 44-45)

2012 saw a significant improvement for anglers

at Worlingham, where the Environment Agency worked in partnership with the Broads Authority on a £50,000 scheme to improve angling access. Eight new angling platforms and boardwalks were installed on the Environment Agency bank. The Broads Authority have helped create two brand-new swims upstream of the small and busy 24-hour mooring to compensate for a summer restriction on fishing from the mooring. Two of the new pegs close to the car park are now wheelchair-accessible.

At Falcon Meadow, the Environment Agency has installed ten wheelchair-accessible angling pads and platforms either side of the sluice, with connecting easy-access path from the footbridge.

## RIVER BURE (MAP 2, PAGES 42-43)

At Upton, the Environment Agency has recently completed a major rod-licence-funded project to install eight new timber angling platforms and boardwalk along the riverbank upstream of Upton Dyke. The two existing angling platforms by the dyke entrance have been removed and replaced with hard-surfaced angling pads. The riverbank is well served by a car park at the end of the dyke, and a slipway for small boats that was improved during the BFAP flood defence works.

## RIVER THURNE (MAP 4, PAGE 46)

In 2011, the Environment Agency completed the installation of three recycled plastic easy-access fishing platforms, ramps and access path to the car park at Coldharbour Farm.

**Be sure to check the BASG website and Facebook page regularly to keep up to date with new angling access projects in the Broads: [www.basgonline.org](http://www.basgonline.org)**

## Broads Angling Strategy

Although we have achieved significant improvements in recent years, as shown opposite, the complexity of both funding and asset ownership now requires a much more strategic approach. The group has a number of initiatives with outcomes aimed at improving and sustaining angling access across the Broads.

- It is all supported by the establishment of current and historic points of angling access and development of a GIS mapping solution. Work has progressed well in combining Hydro Acoustic fishery survey results with existing and potential new points of angling access. These locations will be combined with the Broads Authority Integrated Access Strategy on new points of access which provide the best value across the multiple leisure activities, whilst still securing the fragile Broads ecosystem.
- Broads anglers do feel that traditional rights of access have been eroded over time in favour of other interests. The Broads Angling Strategy is guided by a principle of achieving a fair balance of access to the Broads resource for all.
- Launching facilities for fishing and sailing dinghies are currently limited in the Broads. We have been a key consultant with the Broads Authority on their Slipway Strategy, so appropriate facilities can be developed where there are gaps in the network.
- Being so close to large numbers of people, maintaining and improving the urban fishery resource is especially important to enable all sectors of society to get out and enjoy fishing in the Broads.

To take this forward we have started to examine and develop new approaches to the management and sustainability of angling. We have agreed with both Broads Tourism and the Broads Boat Hire Federation to survey all hires for the 2013 season, to gain more information about visiting anglers. So if you are a visitor to the Broads, please complete the survey.

Set against the current background of austerity, it has become critical for us to look for new sources and funding models to help deliver the objectives of the Broads Angling Strategy. We have

therefore initiated partnership discussions across various organisations to fund from 2014 onwards. A good example being used already within the Broads is the "Love the Broads" campaign, where visitors make a voluntary contribution to towards a fund for sustainable Tourism improvement.



## PASG: Pike Angling Strategy Group



The PASG (Pike Angling Strategy Group) was set up as an offshoot from the outstanding work achieved by the BASG (Broads Angling Strategy Group).

It was decided to form a Pike sub-group from the BASG to tackle the apparent issues relating to pike within the Broads. This sub-group was founded with specific objectives: to focus on threats to the pike population within the area and to promote pike angling and welfare to the wider region.

The initial group consisted of a wide range of pike anglers with different degrees of experience and knowledge. The focus was to bring together the ideas of both youth and experience to ensure that no area was neglected. The views of the less experienced anglers were vital in the decision-making of the group, to avoid the prospect of running away with the assumption that the basic details could be passed over.

In saying this, the initial group boasted one of the richest knowledge bases in the pike-fishing world: John 'Watto' Watson, Stephen Harper, Jack Spall and his son Harvey, Martyn Page, Andy Frost, Adam Todd, Rob Snape, and John Currie as Chairman,

Steve Lane (Technical Specialist Fisheries – Environment Agency) and Chris Bielby (SSSI advisor for Natural England) were also invited to the group in an advisory capacity - a valuable partnership that bolstered the group and has paid enormous dividends.

### BROADLAND PIKE CONFERENCE

At a very early stage after the formation of the

group, it was considered that pike angling on Broadland waterways was not as prolific as it once was. Angling records and anecdotal evidence suggested that there was a decline in the quality of pike fishing on the Broads – not as many pike were being caught, and certainly not the larger fish.

The group had many theories as to the reasons why there was an apparent decline, but, as a representative body, it was felt that the wider pike-angling population needed to have their say.

The first Broadland Pike Conference was held in 2010. The objectives of the day were to publicise safe and responsible pike angling on the Broads, to provide some entertainment, and to canvas fellow anglers regarding their thoughts on the apparent decline in pike stocks.

Guest speakers set the scene for the story of pike fishing on the Broads in the past, the present and a predicted view of the future - if the status quo remained.

The day was sponsored by the Environment Agency and very well attended. There was a free raffle for those who completed a questionnaire indicating their perceived concerns about pike.

Some controversial theories were highlighted - otters, cormorants, illegal fish thefts, saline incursion, Prymnesium, poor angling techniques and excessive weed cutting were all blamed to a greater or lesser extent for the decline of pike fishing.

The PASG decided to take forward the shared concerns from the angling public and use these as targets to address.

### PRYMNESIUM

*Prymnesium parvum* is a naturally-occurring alga that is found in some areas of the Broads. This alga is of particular concern to biologists and anglers, as it has the ability to produce a deadly toxin that kills fish. The River Thurne has had a long history of Prymnesium blooms that have been triggered by different causes. Silt disturbance has been recognised as one of the major triggers of the toxin, which over the years has wiped out tens of thousands of fish on the Thurne system. In 1969, a huge bloom of Prymnesium left devastation, with tons of dead fish having to be removed. Historians conclude that nearby dredging triggered the bloom.

The PASG were aware that blooms had occurred since 1969, but were keen to prevent further blooms decimating the already reduced pike stocks. The Broads Authority had to take note of the group's continued lobbying for them to rethink the methods for the proposed dredging of the Thurne and the island recreation scheme at Duck Broad, another area with a history of huge fish deaths.

### INITIAL DREDGING AT DUCK BROAD

With close monitoring by the Environment Agency and Natural England, the Broads Authority have opted to use a more delicate method of abstracting the silt via suction methods, as opposed to the traditional clam-shell dredger, which causes more silt disturbance. Coupled with the timing of the work during the colder months, as fatal blooms are more likely in warmer weather, the threat of future Prymnesium blooms has been reduced by the work of the group.

It is fair to say that, due to the work inspired by John Currie with the backing of the PASG, a

Initial Dredging at Duck Broad



collaborative group put together the Prymnesium research project, supported by The Environment Agency, Natural England, The Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain, the Angling Trust and the Norwich and District Pike Club. Monies were raised to fund the Swedish algae expert, Dr Johannes Hagstrom, to compile a dossier and seminar delivered to the Broads Authority and other agencies.

This also came on the back of the John Innes Centre's funding of a PhD for research into this very complex organism in order to produce an early warning test: a water sample test that provides an indication as fast as a pregnancy test kit, and can be used by fisheries scientists or concerned anglers alike. This could provide valuable time to raise the alarm and instigate a fish rescue plan – something that is currently being worked on. The positive work of the PASG on these algae has helped to drive down the risk of future fish-kills.

### FISH CARE

The Broadland Pike Conference questionnaire fed back to the group that one of the major concerns from anglers was the perceived poor handling of pike by less experienced anglers - and by some who don't realise what harm they could be causing (you don't know what you don't know).

Although pike may be seen as menacing sharp-toothed predators to the novice, the truth is that they are actually one of the most delicate species that swim in our waters. Poor handling and inadequate tackle can cause permanent harm to the fish, and often lead to fatalities.

A push was needed to inform the novice angler to 'fish with a friend' or join the Pike Anglers' Club (PAC) of Great Britain in order to learn how to care for their quarry. It was also mentioned at the Broadland Pike Conference that many anglers witnessed holiday-makers using inadequate tackle from hire craft to 'have a go' for pike.

**A minimum tackle recommendation was compiled by the group with the backing of some very well-known pike anglers.**

- 42" triangular or 30" round landing net with knotless mesh.
- A large unhooking mat (39" x 19" minimum) or a



On location for the DVD:  
the film and production  
crew with Mick Brown.

device similar to the 'Sladle'.

- 10" long forceps or pliers
- 10" hook cutters

It is recommended as a minimum that:

- 15lb monofilament line or 30lb braid (45lb is better) is used.
- 18" wire trace of 28lb breaking strain (at least) is used.

The statement has been adopted as part of the club rules for the Norwich and District Pike Club, and the PASG are working on getting this adopted as a regional byelaw for the Broads.

Basic equipment is sometimes neglected by some pike anglers, at the expense of the pike. A concerned pike angler and member of the PAC wrote to the group explaining his concerns regarding anglers not using unhooking-mats. This is just an example of many concerns that were raised to the group on the same subject.

Glen Palmer had been fishing with his 9-year-old son at Beccles Quay for pike, when two anglers opposite the quay caught and unhooked a nice pike of approximately 12lb.

The angler unhooked the fish and then stood up with the fish held up for a trophy picture taken by his friend. Glen was horrified as the fish 'flapped' while the angler was holding it out. It fell to the ground and landed on the concrete floor below. The scene was witnessed by Glen's son, who was very upset to see the fish in obvious distress. The anglers had not got an unhooking-mat, which should always be used to lay any sizable fish on while unhooking (long grass often conceals stones

and other sharp objects).

Holding fish for photographs should be done close to the ground, and ideally over a mat to minimise the risk of causing harm to the fish.

#### DVD

The minimum tackle recommendation is a big part of the PASG-produced Broadland Pike Conservation DVD.

Following a project proposal submitted to the EA, sponsorship for the DVD was granted, so as to have a professionally produced film demonstrating aspects of responsible pike angling.

Fish care, rigs and bite indication, boating etiquette and some of the PASG work has been covered in the DVD.

The DVD features 'names' such as Neville Fickling, Bill Palmer, Mick Brown, Dave Horton, Steve Rodwell, Stephen Harper, Martyn Page, Graham Booth, Nick Peat and many more.

#### Aluminium boats offer wheelchair access to the Broads



With such a wealth of pike-fishing experience, the key messages for preserving Broadland pike stocks are well endorsed.

Produced to a high professional standard, the DVD is being distributed FREE OF CHARGE to fishing outlets, riverside holiday homes, and hire-boats and will be available to download – in order to send the message of safe pike fishing.

#### ALL ABOUT PIKE DAY

The PASG, in partnership with the PAC and Norwich and District Pike Club, held an 'All about Piking' day at Bawburgh Lakes in 2012 for all those interested in pike angling, and to help beginners and youngsters. Again, the key messages of responsible pike fishing were the focus of a well-attended day that it is hoped will become an annual event.

#### PROMOTING ANGLING FOR THE DISABLED ANGLER

Following on the improved bank-fishing access that has been achieved by the BASG, the PASG raised funds to enable boat-fishing for the disabled angler. Two aluminium boats were purchased, with Environment Agency contributions, to give wheelchair access to the Broads.

The boat, moored at Surlingham, has a large outboard and bespoke canopy. It has wheelchair access and is very stable. This facility can be used FREE OF CHARGE by anyone who is not able to access the Broads due to disability. The members of the Norwich and District Pike Club have volunteered their time to take people out on this boat.

A smaller version was recently purchased for use on the beautiful Trinity Broad system, again, with free access for the disabled angler. In fact, both

#### An Alpha tag inserted into the pike's fin - experiment in the fisheries lab.



boats have been used by bird-watchers and people who just enjoy the countryside, along with those who like to fish.

For more information or to book one of the boats, please call John Currie on 07776221959 or Mickey Cox on 07899913606.

#### PIKE TAGGING SCHEME

Based on feedback from the Broadland Pike Conference, a groundbreaking trial was devised to scientifically study the pike in the Broads.

A tagging scheme was set out by Environment Agency Fisheries scientist Andy Hindes with the help of volunteers from the PASG, Norwich and District Pike Club, and Martham Angling Club.

Over 390 pike have so far been caught by rod and line, recording weight, sex, and length, along with a scale being taken for analysis. The pike are tagged with two small 'alpha' tags that are visible, along with a small dye-mark. These tags give the fish a unique identifiable profile that will demonstrate growth rates, movement and diet. There have been no other studies on pike at this level anywhere in the world, and the data collated will provide a wealth of information. This is an ongoing study.

#### WATER-QUALITY MONITORING

The PASG recently acquired two water-quality monitoring kits from the Environment Agency to assess the dissolved oxygen and saline quality of water on the Broads.

During the autumn and winter months, strong north-westerly winds and low-pressure weather systems over the North Sea can contribute to the generation of surge tides, which can push salt water much further inland than normally occurs. These salt-water surges can trap and kill many thousands of freshwater fish, and may have a serious impact on fish stocks in the Broads.

The Environment Agency has used rod-licence money to provide specialist water-testing equipment and training for the project, enabling local angling volunteers to help monitor salt-water levels at many more locations around the Broads during surge events.

The PASG will continue to work with the authorities and clubs to provide a voice for concerned pike anglers within the Broads.

Mickey Cox  
PASG member.

## Where? When? How?



# A guide to catching more fish from the Broads

**Our rivers and Broads are unique in the British landscape. So it should come as no surprise when fishing them, that the angler must consider very carefully the conditions that confront him. Without such thought, opportunities will be missed and a visit that promised so much could prove a disappointment. An understanding of the tides and the seasonal migratory pattern of fish in the Broads rivers is essential or you could end up fishing where there are no fish.**

## TIDES

The first consideration is that our rivers and many of the Broads themselves are tidal. This is because the very gentle slope of the rivers in the region allows the tide to penetrate far inland. All the rivers of East Norfolk that form the Broads navigation, flow into the sea at Great Yarmouth. Anyone who stands on one of the Great Yarmouth bridges will notice just how powerful the tidal flow can be. As far inland as Norwich, Beccles, Wroxham, Barton Broads and Heigham Sounds the tidal flow can be clearly seen.

There are two high tides and two low tides each day and the time of the high tides progresses by just under one hour, for each day that passes. The further down river you travel towards Great Yarmouth, the stronger the tidal flow will become. Legering generally takes over as the only viable fishing method in the lower reaches of the rivers.

Tide tables indicating high & low water at various points around broadland can be found on the Broads Authority's website, [www.broads-authority.co.uk](http://www.broads-authority.co.uk), along with local newspapers

regularly printing tables. For a general guide the high tide at London Bridge is roughly similar to high tide at Horning, Beccles and other parts of the middle reaches of the Broads rivers.

There are variations in the strength of tidal flow from one week to another. A variety of influences cause these variations and anglers need to be aware of them. Many anglers are aware of the changes in the tidal flow brought about by spring tides, those that occur at and immediately after the day of the new moon and the full moon. At these times the tides are stronger, which means that they penetrate further inland and the flow is that bit faster. However, in the Broads there are other influences at work that the angler also needs to know about. Sustained periods of north-westerly winds lead to higher tides in the Broads. These are increasingly associated with invasions of salt water up the Broads rivers.

They occur mainly in autumn and winter but are not unknown in the summer. In autumn the effects on fish populations are profound. The fish flee from salt in the lower reaches of the river. This has the result of making large stretches of the river completely devoid of fish by the time November arrives. Any angler visiting the area in late autumn and winter would be advised to avoid these lower reaches.

Examples are: anywhere downstream of St Benets Abbey on the Bure, downstream of Potter Heigham on the Thurne, downstream of Brundall on the Yare and downstream of Burgh St Peter on the Waveney. For pike anglers visiting in winter these

distributions of prey fish should be kept in mind. It should be noted that pike are very vulnerable to salt and will flee at the first hint of it. It is not easy to detect salt in the water – dipping your finger in and sucking it works where the salt levels are high, but saltwater makes its progress upstream along the riverbed (saltwater being denser than freshwater). Therefore the degree of saltiness will be higher at the bottom of the river. What may appear to be a salt-free river can in fact be far too salty for the fish population to bear and they will have fled far from where you are hopefully setting up your gear!

High tides brought on by north westerlies, combined with large amounts of rain, will lead to very high water levels as the tidal surge meets the floodwater coming downstream. The result will often be a slowing of the flow and indeed on some days the flow comes to a complete standstill. This is not usually good for fishing, the fish that inhabit our rivers are used to flowing water and they will often stop feeding when the flow slows to nothing.

There is also a period of still water, referred to as slack water, when each tide changes from flood to ebb. This is generally a period when bites stop for a while. It offers the angler the chance to accurately rebait the swim without the worry of a strong flow making ground baiting somewhat hit or miss.

## SEASONAL MIGRATION

What a difference the seasons make. Fish are distributed much more widely in the summer than in the winter. In the summer roach and bream can be caught as far downstream as Stokesby on the

Bure, Reedham on the Yare and Somerleyton on the Waveney. But in winter the fish tend to congregate in huge numbers in very localised spots, many miles upstream of these summer reaches. The reason for this migration has already been partly explained – fish flee the lower, more brackish reaches of the rivers. However other factors are at work too.

The open expanses of large Broads such as Hickling or Barton are inhospitable places for fish in winter. Without the cover of weedbeds, fish are vulnerable to predators such as cormorants and pike, so they leave such areas and find sanctuary in narrow waterways, such as the dykes that lead into Broads and in boatyards. Water temperature too is a factor, with the temperature remaining higher in such places that are not constantly at the mercy of cooling winter winds.

Cormorants are far less inclined to hunt their prey in such places; for starters there are too many people around to suit these shy birds. Where they are accessible the boatyards become favoured winter venues for anglers. Stretches of river to which boatyards are directly connected also offer fine prospects in winter. Notable stretches being through Wroxham, Horning and Potter Heigham. Where there are no boatyards but where a river passes through a built-up area such as at Beccles, the prospects for the winter angler are far brighter than on more picturesque but barren stretches of water.

The centre of Norwich in fact provides the best winter sport of all and is a Mecca for match anglers from November through to the season's

end. So good is the fishing in the centre of Norwich in winter that it demands a chapter of its own (see pages 18 and 19).

#### THE BOAT TRAFFIC EFFECT

Fish in the Broads are used to boat traffic – they have to be. This means that it is possible to catch fish throughout the day on a busy stretch of river, without the fish being put off by the constant passing of boats. The exception being in narrow stretches of river such as along the Ant, where daytime fishing is virtually impossible.

However, presenting your tackle in the place and manner you may wish to is another matter. Boat wash and boats travelling through your swim see to that. A better idea during the busy periods of the day, is to find a spot away from the river navigation channels that cross the Broads – for this you will generally need a dinghy or a boat with a shallow draft.

Where fish have the choice, such as on a large Broad, they will stay in the weedbeds in the shallow bays and close to reedbeds during the daytime. At night they leave such areas to feed in the boat channel. So it is obvious where the angler should be, depending on the time of day.

If your visit spans more than a one week period a quiet spell on the rivers can be found in the middle of a Saturday. It is not until mid-afternoon that traffic picks up and you will find very light traffic for about five hours. In the wider reaches, such as the lower Yare and Waveney, fishing through the day is thoroughly practical and large catches of roach and bream can be made using swimfeeder or quivertip tactics. However, you would be well advised to steer clear of busy areas of the narrower confines of the River Bure between Horning and Wroxham and the River Ant during summer days. Much wiser to seek the peace that the many side Broads have to offer.

#### FISHING FROM DINGHIES AND SMALL CRAFT

The fish have sought the peace and quiet of shallow weedy bays away from the boat traffic for a good reason – to get away from the turbulent water and feed in an environment that offers them food and cover. The stealthy approach that a dinghy allows the angler is therefore all important. Forget about outboard motors and use a bit of muscle power. Oars allow you to get fit at the same time as maximising your chances of catching fish.

There's much more to it than just ensuring a quiet approach. For many, fishing from a small boat will be a new experience – one that involves a whole new way of thinking. Remember that fish-scaring vibrations travel very effectively through the shallow water to ruin any chance you might have of catching fish.

A few golden rules to remember when small boat fishing:

- Quiet footwear such as trainers are essential
- Gear needs to be organised in such a way that movement within the boat is kept to a minimum
- It is important that the boat is not overcrowded – a safety factor as well as for more efficient fishing

Linked to not being overcrowded is the necessity of keeping fishing gear to a minimum – for instance one landing net (preferably with a short handle) is all that is needed rather than each angler taking their own. Rods should be tackled up before setting out in the boat – it is very awkward for two anglers, each with a 12-foot rod, to try and tackle up in a dinghy that is only 11 feet long! Float fishing is the most effective method when using a small boat, as the unavoidable small movements of the boat make bite indications unreliable using leger tactics.

Mooring the boat should be achieved as quietly as possible, with mudweights being lowered gently down in the water rather than being thrown. A comfortable seat will help cut down fidgeting and will also encourage you to remain seated and out of the sight of the fish. The safety aspect of fishing from a small boat should never be neglected – always wear a buoyancy aid.

#### TACTICS FOR THE BROADS

It must be recognised that flow rates vary a lot and they dictate how you will be able to fish. The lower reaches of the Yare, Waveney and Bure have powerful currents that make legering with a heavy and open end feeder the most successful tactic. Used in association with a stiffly mixed groundbait and large bait such as worm, sweetcorn or bread this is a good method for bream that inhabit these reaches.

It must be kept in mind that the bream grow large – fish of 7–8lb are fairly common, fish of over 10lb are present – so a size 12–8 hook is appropriate. The experienced pole fisherman will

find the roach by controlling the pace of his maggot or caster-baited small hook as it makes progress just off the bottom. Below Thurne Mouth on the Bure, Brundall on the Yare and Beccles on the Waveney are the areas most suited to such tactics. Upstream of these points float fishing becomes a more viable proposition, although a light feeder fished with a quivertip rod will provide excellent catches, particularly of bream.

Fishing from a boat will allow the angler to have control of a stick float as he trots maggot or caster for the abundant roach stocks. Perch like the areas around quay headings where moorings are situated – try a float-fished worm close to the bank in such places. Often the current is very slight here and a light shotted float is a practical choice.

On the Broads themselves, remember that the water is shallow, keep your tackle as light as possible. A crystal waggler is a good bet, being less visible to your quarry in the shallow and sometimes, clear water. Try to find a balance between delicately presented terminal tackle and the ability to cast at least 15 yards to your fish – get too close and you will scare them. At night, when the bream feed more enthusiastically a betalite illuminated float or light leger gear will suit your purpose. Try to keep light to a minimum, using a torch to bait up or unhook fish when necessary rather than having a powerful light going all the time.

Happy fishing!  
John Nunn

### Suitable tackle set-ups:



**Block End Feeder:** Use maggots, casters or chopped worm. Fish heavy or light feeder according to strength of flow.



**Open End Feeder:** Carries groundbait laced with feed, i.e. maggots, casters, chopped worm, sweetcorn. Fish heavy or light according to strength of flow.



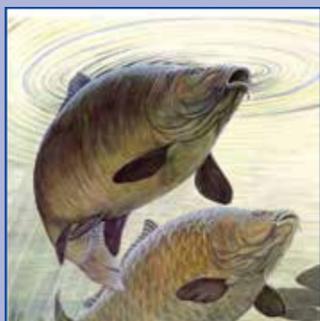
**Waggler Rig:** Excellent control of moving bait fished just off the bottom, or tripping the riverbed.



**Stick Float:** Presents a moving bait, often maggot or caster fished just off the bottom. Easily controlled from a boat.



**Pole Rig:** Useful method in slower reaches of rivers and on Broads



### CARP

Mainly introduced by accident via flooding of fish farms and fisheries upstream of the broads, these fish are a non-native species but have been present since at least the 1970s. There are small numbers all over Broadland with the highest concentrations being found on the River Yare.

With specimens well over 30lbs caught each year, they are a worthy quarry that requires stout tackle. The fish migrate up and down the rivers so location is the key to catching these hard fighting fish. Prebaiting is often used to hold fish in one area but be prepared to catch lots of bream along the way.

On some sunny days fish can be seen basking in the tidal Wensum through the city of Norwich, but limited access for fishing hinders the keenest of anglers.

#### Tackle and methods:

Heavy carp gear is required to tame these fish. Fishing in the middle of the river needs leads of around 3ozs to hold bottom at times. Also be mindful of boat traffic.

**Baits:** Carp will eat most baits and particles such as maize and sweetcorn work well along with boilies.

**Lines:** 15lb minimum.

#### Hook size:

8 - 4 depending on bait size.



### EEL

These fish although once abundant in the broads are in decline.

Whether overfishing or diseases are to blame, DEFRA now restricts the amount of commercial fishing to protect eel stocks.

These fish only spend their adult life in fresh-water. When mature, they migrate back to sea and spawn in very deep water off the South American coast in an area called the Sargasso Sea. The adults are never seen again. No one has ever witnessed their spawning or been able to get them to spawn in captivity.

The young called *leptocephali* (Latin for leaf-like) are flat and glass-like and drift back to our shores on warm currents called the Gulf Stream. They transform into miniature versions of the adult form, called elvers, in estuarine waters off our coasts, then migrate back upstream into our rivers, streams, lakes and ponds to grow and start the whole cycle again.

#### Tackle and methods:

Night fishing is best, fishing close to the river bank on the bottom.

**Baits:** Worms or maggots. Small deadbaits can work for larger specimens.

**Lines:** 4lb - 10lb. and wire traces may be needed if fishing with deadbaits.

#### Hook size:

14 - 6 depending on bait size.



### ROACH

With silver/blue scales and vermilion fins, roach are a firm favourite species of coarse anglers. Nicknamed the water sheep, this common species is a true shoal fish, which mostly feeds delicately on the bottom but will rise to intercept slow-sinking baits presented on light tackle. Abundant in an average size range of between 2 and 10oz, but specimen roach over 1lb are reasonably commonplace, tending to feed early or late in the day and even after dark throughout the winter.

While huge 2lb roach are reported every season, most of them are roach/bream hybrids, so take care to identify them correctly. In spring and summer months roach are widespread throughout the rivers and Broad; however, once the winter sets in they tend to congregate in large numbers in and around the boatyard areas.

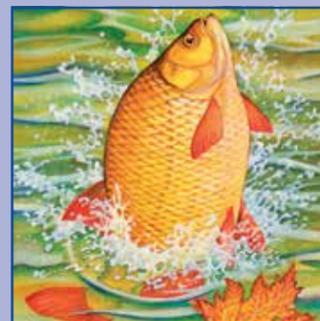
#### Tackle and methods:

Float fishing using either a waggler for trotting mid river or still water fishing, or a stick float for trotting close in. Feed little and often, baiting to demand. Pole fishing is the favoured approach of match anglers, using a short line and elastic. In faster water try legering using a quivertip, perhaps combined with a maggot swimfeeder.

**Baits:** Bread, maggots, casters, sweetcorn, hemp and tares.

**Lines:** 2lb - 4lb reel-line with 1lb - 3lb hooklines.

**Hook size:** 20-12



### RUDD

Whilst becoming increasingly rare throughout the country, this dashing species with its beautiful golden flanks and crimson fins is still commonly caught in various areas of the Broad, especially in the Upper-Thurne and Trinity Broad.

With an average size of 4 to 10oz, any fish over 1lb could be considered a specimen although undoubtedly fish over 2lb are occasionally caught, especially on Hickling Broad. A bold feeder, with jutting bottom jaw which makes it adept at surface feeding but equally happy to feed on the bottom, rudd are a restless shoal fish and always on the move.

Seek them near the marginal reeds or lily beds in and around the quiet bays, but be careful not to spook them with a clumsy approach.

#### Tackle and methods:

Float fishing – waggler set shallow or slow sinking. Feed little and often.

**Baits:** Breadflake or crust, maggots, casters and sweetcorn.

**Lines:** 1b - 4lb reel-line, with 1lb - 3lb hooklines.

#### Hook size:

20 - 12



### BREAM

Abundant in large shoals throughout the rivers and Broad, this slab-sided, bottom-feeding species is predominantly nocturnal by nature although they can also be caught early and late in the day.

Large 100lb+ catches of bream are occasionally taken by using a specialised approach with plenty of groundbait. Look for them in quiet areas of open water but take care not to overfill the keepnet should you be lucky enough to enjoy a red-letter day. Broad bream are getting considerably bigger than they used to be, while 2, 3 and 4lb fish are commonplace with any over 7lb generally considered a specimen, huge double figure fish do turn up from time to time.

#### Tackle and methods:

From a boat try float fishing with a waggler, with the bait tripping or laying on the bottom. From the bank try legering, perhaps using a swingtip where flows allow or otherwise using a quivertip in faster water. Swimfeeder fishing can be highly productive, as can a method feeder. Recast regularly to lay a bed of feed but beware of striking at line bites, which may scare the fish out of your swim.

**Baits:** Bread, maggots, casters, sweetcorn, worms and groundbait.

**Lines:** 3lb - 6lb reel-line with 3lb - 5lb hooklines.

#### Hook size:

Forged sized 18 - 8



### PERCH

Now making a strong comeback from the disease that decimated their numbers in the 1970s, this bold, dashing predatory species is once again regularly caught throughout the rivers and Broad.

With an average size of 4 to 12oz but with 2lb specimens increasingly commonplace and 3lb whoppers a distinct possibility, perch are once again becoming one of the Broad's most exciting angling species.

Perch love hiding up under cover, especially in deeper water; look for them beneath overhanging trees, under permanent moorings or in deep reedy margins.

#### Tackle and methods:

Float and leger fished deep or on the bottom.

#### Baits:

Worms, maggots, casters, small fish, small spinners and lures. (NB. With fish and lures, pike will make use of a wire trace and stronger lines essential.)

#### Lines:

2lb - 6lb according to the size of fish you are expecting.

#### Hook size:

18 - 8



### PIKE

At the top of the Broad's food-chain, this increasingly popular predatory species is superbly camouflaged to lurk in the reed beds having the perfect body shape to accelerate from a standstill and strike into its prey.

Pike are commonplace throughout the rivers and Broad, where huge fish over 40lb have been caught in the past. Unfortunately, fish this large are unlikely today, however plenty of 20lb specimens exist.

Requiring specialist tackle and skilful handling techniques, inexperienced anglers are advised not to fish for pike, which despite their ferocious looks are one of our most delicate species.

#### Tackle and methods:

Float fishing baits on or off the bottom from a boat, otherwise either float fishing, freelining or legering from the bank, but always with effective bite indication that will properly register both runs and drop back indications. Never leave the rod unattended and always use a wire trace of 20lb minimum breaking strain. Always strike runs as quickly as possible.

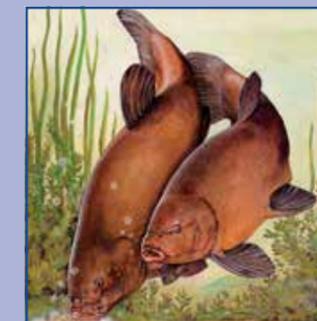
#### Baits:

Freshwater or sea fish baits and artificial lures.

#### Lines:

15lb minimum.

**Hook size:** Semi-barbed doubles or trebles. 8 - 6



### TENCH

Found mainly on the Thurne and Trinity Broad. With distinctive olive flanks and small red eyes, this hard fighting popular summer species grows to a high average size in the Broad with 3 to 4lb fish commonplace and specimens over 5 and 6lb a distinct possibility.

Usually a bottom feeder, look for them close to lilies or along the reedy margins, particularly where the bottom is hard.

#### Tackle and methods:

Float fishing laying on the bottom or otherwise using the lift-method. From the bank perhaps try legering with a running leger or paternoster, with swimfeeders being particularly effective.

#### Baits:

Bread, maggots, casters, sweetcorn, worms, groundbait and hemp.

#### Lines:

Strong 5lb - 6lb reel-lines with 4lb - 5lb hooklines respectively.

#### Hook size:

Forged size 16 - 8

# An angling guide to good practice

## FISH CARE - RETAINING FISH

If you use a keepnet:

- Only use a keepnet when necessary and retain fish for the shortest time possible.
- Make sure your keepnet is made of fish-friendly mesh and complies with local bylaws.
- Don't overcrowd your keepnet, especially during hot weather.
- Make sure there is enough depth of water for your net.
- Place fish in the keepnet quickly and gently.
- Large fish should not be retained in a keepnet.
- Do not tow fish in keepnets behind boats.
- Keepnets should not be left unattended for extended periods of time.
- Ensure that your keepnet is secured properly to the bank or boat to protect it from the wash of motor cruisers.
- Don't keep pulling the net out of the water to show off your catch, this will harm the fish.
- Return your catch carefully, do not slide or tumble fish down the keepnet into the water.

## UNHOOKING FISH

- Use barbless or micro-barb hooks where possible. They are kinder to fish and hook removal is much easier.
- Carry several disgorgers (you will always lose one!) and forceps for the removal of larger hooks.
- Always wet your hands before handling any fish. Do not use towels, wet or dry, as these can remove the protective slime from fish.
- Be mindful of unhooking surfaces making sure they are soft and wet. Always use an unhooking mat on soft, flat ground for pike and large fish.

- Fish should be weighed in appropriate nets or weighing slings and NOT by the gills.
- When taking a photograph, have your camera ready before you take the fish out of the water.
- When holding fish, always make sure you keep them low to the ground.
- Fish should always be returned to the water quickly and gently after weighing or retained in a keepnet (if either is necessary).

## FISHING METHODS AND UNATTENDED RODS

- Baits and lures should never be left trailing behind moving motor cruisers and day boats. This practice is not only ineffective it is also dangerous.
- Pike fishing requires specialist knowledge and tackle. It should not be attempted unless you are confident that you can unhook and safely return your catch. If in doubt seek expert advice (please see recommend practice for pike fishing - Pages 24-26).
- It is an offence to leave a baited rod unattended. It can endanger water birds and fish (particularly pike) which might gorge the bait or snag the line. There is also a danger from passing boats.
- Be aware of crime, don't leave rods or other valuables unattended on the bank or boat.

## WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Don't drop litter – use bins and disposal points.
- Choose your swim with care to reduce the risk of snagging bank side trees, vegetation and obstacles in the water.
- Take care where people feed waterfowl; the birds may have learned to associate people with food and their expectations will increase the risk of entanglement.



- Remove rigs caught up in vegetation, branches or underwater snags immediately, where it is practical and safe to do so.
- Beware of birds swimming into your fishing line. Swans can reach your bait one metre below the surface and other birds will often dive for food. Wind in your tackle if you think birds are at risk. Hooks and line should never be discarded, especially baited hooks. Line should be cut into one-inch lengths and disposed of with care or better still, taken home.

## SAFETY

- When fishing from hire craft, moor safely and always wear a life jacket.
- Wear appropriate footwear on deck and always be mindful of slippery surfaces.
- Be aware of power cables, especially overhead in boatyards or set back from banks.
- Take notice of any warning signs. LOOK OUT, LOOK UP and CAST WITH CARE!
- Observe speed limits. Be considerate to other water users and always watch your speed.

## OTHER WATER USERS

- Angling is very important to many people but it is just one of many legitimate water activities. Please respect the rights of other users.
- If fishing near a bend in the river or amongst tall reeds be aware of approaching boat traffic, they may not be able to see you.
- When fishing close to boats, be considerate and use a pole cup to place groundbait, rather than a catapult.
- Should you accidentally get your hook caught on a



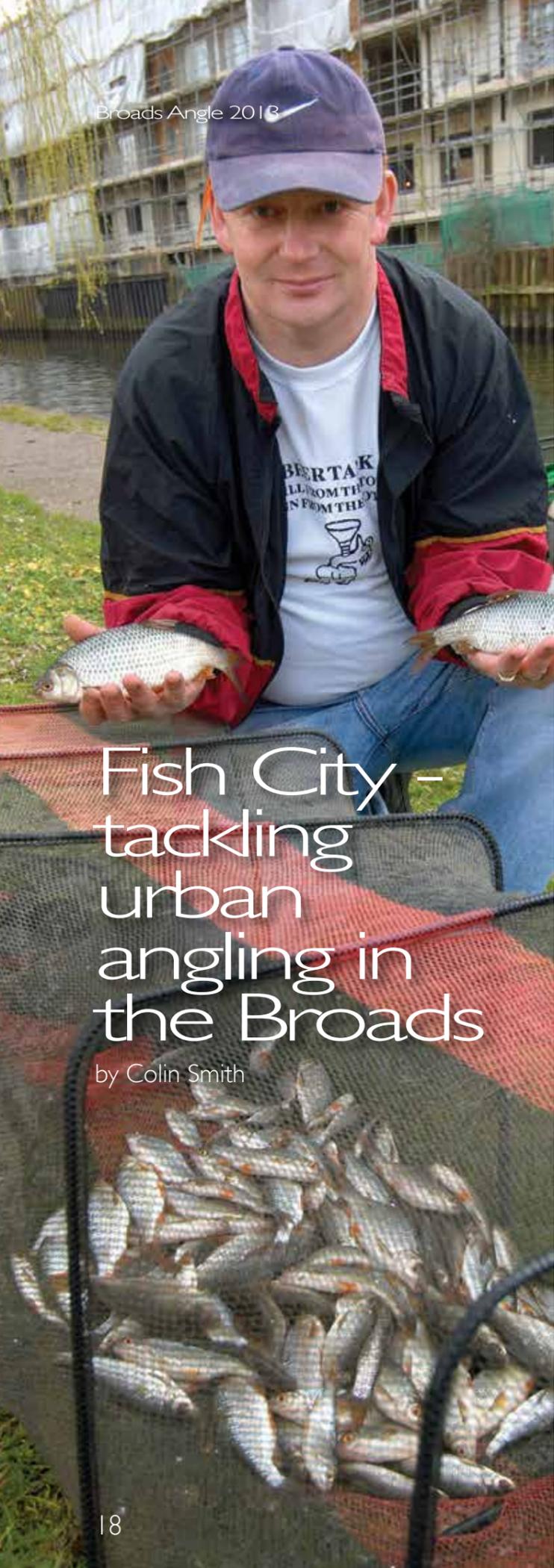
- boat's mooring ropes, please don't leave it there to injure someone's hand. Remove the hook but make sure that it is safe and practical to do so. Ask the permission of people on the boat if it is occupied.
- When fishing at 24 hour moorings, anglers should generally give way to vessels trying to moor up - check local signs before fishing.
- Keep paths clear for pedestrians and cyclists.

## Useful Information

- **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**  
24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all pollution and environmental incidents relating to water, land and air call: 0800 80 70 60
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR ROD LICENCE**  
If you are 12 years old or over you must have a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence – available online and from Post Offices.  
For telephone sales call: 0844 800 5386.  
A copy of the Anglian Region Fisheries Byelaws can be found on our website:  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)
- **POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)**  
BROADS BEAT call:  
101
- **BROADS RADIO CONTROL**  
For reporting non-emergency hazards such as boats speeding, obstructions, oil spills or to seek navigation help and advice call: 01603 756056. For boat tolls contact 01603 756080 or visit:  
[www.broads-authority.gov.uk](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk)
- **P.A.C.T. ANIMAL SANCTUARY**  
Call: 01362 820775  
[www.theswansanctuary.org.uk](http://www.theswansanctuary.org.uk)
- **RSPCA**  
Call: 01603 766001 (work hours) 03001234999 (24hrs)  
[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

## FISHING SEASON

The annual coarse fish closed season  
**15 March - 15 June INCLUSIVE**  
applies to the Broads and rivers.



## Fish City - tackling urban angling in the Broads

by Colin Smith

**In the autumn and winter double figure bags of prime roach are commonplace. Catches of 20lb plus are needed to get in the first three frames of the many matches held at this fishery. So, where is it?**

Well, mention of a holiday angling on the Broads usually evokes images of sweeping expanses of open water, reedy bays and wooded riverbanks. Yet significant stretches of the Broads waterways are in urban areas and around boat moorings and boatyards, running through villages, towns and right up into Norwich City centre.

They can offer some fantastic fishing for both local and visiting anglers, particularly for those fishing early in the day or in the holiday off-peak season, when the banks and boat traffic are much quieter. The autumn and winter months bring some spectacular sport when fish, particularly shoal upon shoal of roach, gather in urban areas and around boatyards and boat dykes.

The jewel in the crown of urban Broads fishing is the River Wensum from behind the Norwich City football ground. The stretch runs along the Riverside walk beside the Riverside developments, clubs, multi-storey car parks, restaurants, shops, cinema and houses, to the Yacht Station and up past historic buildings such as Pulls Ferry and Cow Tower, into the heart of the city, finally reaching the end of the tidal stretch of the river Wensum at New Mills Yard.

While roach are the real draw, there are also plenty of obliging perch and some clonkers too. Some specialising in fishing for these having taken numerous fish to 2lbs with, 3lbs fish becoming a real target. Over the years Carp, having increased in numbers, are also worth considering with fish to over 20lbs being caught regularly. If you can locate them, bream shoals can give you some bumper weights; match records have gone through the roof to around 70lb when a good angler gets a hot peg. With so many prey fish about, pike anglers can find good numbers of pike as well as specimen fish. The marvellous thing is that there really is something for all tastes and angling abilities, if you fish here you will find a really mixed and very

friendly bunch alongside you; pike anglers with rod pods sitting next to match anglers and kids with a few bits of tackle. It is simply stunning that it's all free fishing! Matches in the allocated zones, where casual anglers should give way, have to be booked at a modest cost via Norwich City Council.

When it comes to fishing here, you will find that tidal forces channelled in the banks are probably the biggest factor to come to terms with. These influence depth of water and height from the high banks, flow rate and even direction of flow.

So it makes for very active and stimulating fishing. You have to be constantly changing depth and rig, to present the bait in whatever manner the fish want it on the day.

Virtually all fine line running water techniques are relevant from strung and bulked stick and waggler floats with a steady stream of loose feed, feeder fishing or long pole methods fished static over feed or eased through. Feeding with groundbait, hemp, maggots and casters, bread and corn will catch virtually everything, though the perch love the chopped worm and worm hookbait approach.

It is always worth regular feeding on more than one line and switching between them if bites drop off, in order to keep up a steady flow of fish. The banks are virtually all hard surfaces, so those that have seat-boxes with attachments for rod rests, bait box stands, etc, will be more comfortable.

Those same hard banks make fish care an issue and any specimen hunter must have some kind of padded unhooking mat with them. It is always worth a polite inquiry to local tackle dealers for up-to-the-minute advice on hot-spots and methods.

This awesome fishing was nearly lost to angling though; in 1997 a concerted anti-angling campaign in the city centre coincided with plans being announced for the redevelopment of the Riverside. Being a free fishery with no controlling club or association it had no effective voice to fight for it.

Determined to protect a fishery so vital for winter match fishing, easy access for kids and other beginners, the Norfolk Anglers' Conservation

Association (NACA) launched their resources into a lengthy campaign to save the future of angling here. Others rallied to the cause; people like local match ace Steve Borrett, who organised a petition and presented the case at a meeting of Norwich City Council. Angling as a sport does not do a good enough job of selling itself but, having made so many people aware of the enormous social and economic value of angling on the Riverside, its future was secured.

Please come and enjoy this fantastic fishery but play your part in it by acknowledging that conflicts between angling, conservation, boaters and other user groups is often most acute in urban areas. The BASG Angling access group are aware that angling is facing a constant threat on these types of fisheries, so will be working to establish current urban angling access along with identifying sites for improvement. Also giving angling an input to redevelopment proposals to safeguard angling interests.

Read and heed the advice in the Environment Agency's Golden Rules and BASG's *Catching Fish on the Broads* leaflets.



# A Matchman's Approach to the Broads

by Nick Larkin



Some time ago I wrote that there was a general decline in river match fishing around the country. That was largely down to a deterioration in the quality of river fishing, for various reasons, and the advent of commercial carp fisheries. The exception was our Broadland rivers; the fact that since that time our Broads rivers have continued to thrive, both as quality fishing venues and as first-rate, well-attended match venues, proves what an extraordinary wealth we have here on our doorstep.

The Rivers Yare, Bure and Thurne are bang on form for open events from the start of the season in June, right through until the end of October when things cool off a bit and the fish start to hide up in their winter quarters. This fish migration is the one thing that will never ever change on our Broadland rivers. Local anglers that know the rivers well have seen this happen every year for as far back as they care to remember. It's quite funny when we tell anglers from outside the area that although they have just caught a huge net of bream and roach from the Thurne at Potter Heigham today, come back next week after a few frosty nights and they'll struggle to get a bite! And probably blank! This is

where local knowledge, gained over many seasons, is an invaluable source of information. To find this, there's no better place to start than with a local tackle shop, and there's no shortage of these in the area - just use your 'phone book or online directories, etc.

For match information, they will probably suggest you contact the various organisers directly. These guys will be only too pleased to help - they want you to come along and support their events, after all!

#### TWO SUCH PEOPLE ARE:

- For the River Yare - Andy Wilson Sutter (tel. 01502 531776 - mobile 07990572729) website [www.riveryare.co.uk](http://www.riveryare.co.uk)
- For the River Bure and Thurne - Tony Gibbons (tel. 01602 400973) website [www.NDAA.org.uk](http://www.NDAA.org.uk)

Being able to match-fish these rivers at all starts with good access to the riverbank. This can be a major problem on natural venues. These two particular associations have put in huge efforts over many years to accommodate up to 100 anglers each week, and continue to do so.

Giving an angler great fishing in a comfortable, well-maintained swims, many with platforms, with safe car parking as near to that swim as possible, not to mention at very reasonable cost, is no mean feat. These associations deserve all the support that we can give them.

Of course, our smaller rivers - the Waveney, Ant and especially the Wensum - are very much alive and kicking, and just as prolific. These tend to be used for smaller open and club events, and although access can be limited, there are several clubs that have access to what can be fantastic fishing. Again a local tackle shop can easily advise you and point you in the right direction.

So on to the main methods that you need to use to get the best out of these venues and give yourselves the best chance of success in matches: in short, feeder and pole reign supreme. A finely-honed approach using these two methods will give you the most efficient way of tackling most swims these days. This is because we need to groundbait very accurately, and then present our bait right over the top, every cast. The nature of most of the venues I've mentioned consists of deep, moving water, much of which has a tidal influence. Throwing groundbait in by hand and then trying to land a lead on it is difficult, to say the least. Let a feeder do the work for you - it's easier, and you'll catch far more, I guarantee!

With float-fishing, a pole makes bait presentation a doddle in all but the windiest conditions, and this is so critical when presenting a bait over your groundbaited patch.

If you are new to fishing powerful rivers, you must be careful to choose your baits and groundbaits correctly. Maggots and casters are the mainstay feed and hook-baits, with perhaps worms for feed when targeting the myriads of skimmer bream that now seem to inhabit virtually every stretch of river! A good quality groundbait with enough body and stickiness is essential to sink and stay put on the bottom exactly where you want it. Again, a local tackle shop will supply and advise on these baits.

For feeder fishing, tackle needs to be strong, with a 4-6lb mainline and 3-4lb hook-lengths. You

will need hooks from size 16-12 and feeders with a weight loading of 1-2oz.

As for pole fishing, this is mostly done at a range of 7-11 metres, and for this you will need floats of 2-3 grams for the Yare and Bure and about half that weight for the Thurne, which is shallower with a gentler flow. Of course, the fact that these venues are tidal means that the depth and flow are changing all day long, so this needs to be taken into account; again, this is why these two methods make such adjustments so easy to achieve. Just make sure you plumb up regularly during the day so that your bait is just tripping over your groundbait. You'll soon know if it's not, because you'll stop catching!

Also make sure you have feeders of several different weights so that you can change them to keep your feeder in place as the flow strengthens. You want it to just hold bottom in the flow, but to be easily dislodged by a biting fish, in order to see and hit the bites.

If all this sounds a bit daunting there is help at hand. I personally run one-to-one guidance and tuition on these and other methods, on the venues that I've mentioned, for individual anglers or small groups. For more details have a look at the 'Tuition' page of my website - [www.nisafeeders.co.uk](http://www.nisafeeders.co.uk). You will also find more information about the feeders and terminal tackle that I've mentioned.

Although I've been taking a match angler's view of our local fishing venues, let's not forget you'll be fishing in the most beautiful surroundings, amongst fantastic wildlife, in what must be one of the most unspoilt parts of the country. And you'll catch huge roach and bream - HEAVEN!





Nowhere in Britain is more synonymous with pike and pike fishing than Broadland. The pike, a truly ancient fish, has existed in Norfolk for considerably longer than the Broads themselves, and fossils of pike, excavated at West Runton in Norfolk, date from over half a million years ago.

So for thousands of years, Man has hunted the pike in Norfolk, initially for food, and, much later, for sport. We can only imagine and wonder at the size and numbers these pike would have attained during periods of our history when circumstances were so much kinder to the environment. A much smaller human population managed the land and water sympathetically, without the intense farming practices that devastated the Broads in only a few decades, leaving them far removed from the wildlife havens they once were.

Accurate records of pike-fishing exploits go back little more than one hundred years, but fortunately Broadland has escaped the melodramatic pike lore that has characterised other areas of

Britain and Ireland, where the species has often been shrouded in mysterious and unbelievable tales of huge and monstrous pike.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, as leisure time and public transport became more available to a much larger percentage of the general public (rail transport in particular), the Norfolk Broads came to be regarded as a major area of recreation for holiday-makers from all over Great Britain; and with them came the anglers.

The fame of the Broads as an angler's paradise soon spread far and wide with the advent of mass media - newspapers, country and sporting journals and books dedicated to angling - and what a glorious place those Norfolk Broads must have been to fish. Crystal-clear waters that teemed with life; vast beds of water plants inhabited by endless shoals of fish of a multitude of species, preyed upon by pike - huge pike that grew fat in an ideal and balanced environment and flourished in their isolation.

Pike of over ten pounds were commonplace; twenty-pounders were a regular possibility, but no precise records of rod-and-line captures from these early days seem to have survived, although

vague mentions exist in several old angling books of huge pike over thirty, and even forty pounds, and the largest authenticated pike were, of course, accurately recorded and often set up. These include John Nudd's 42-pounder of 1901, J.W. Butler's impressive 35.8 of 1932, Tom Stevenson's beautiful 31-pounder of 1937, and Arthur Jackson's 35.8 of 1948.

Jim Vincent was the first angler to carve a reputation with the pike of Broadland. First and foremost an ornithologist, and one of the first conservationists, he was employed on the Whiteslea and Hickling estates throughout his life to improve the habitats of breeding and migrating birds and to develop wildfowl for the shooting seasons.

Jim became captivated by pike fishing, and went on to create the Jim Vincent 'Norfolk' method of deadbait spinning and the Jim Vincent spoon, which have taken their rightful place in pike angling history. However, his greatest contribution to Broadland pike angling is without doubt the restocking of pike into the Thurne system that he organised after the sea flood of 1938.

When the sea smashed through the Horsey Gap on February 12th, 1938, the resulting salt floodwater wiped out all freshwater fish in the Thurne system, with the exception of eels. The task of restoring the area's pike fishing was taken on by Jim Vincent, who, during the years 1939-45, caught many pike from the Bure Broads, in particular those of Great Hoveton and Ranworth, to restock the Thurne system.

By March 1944, Jim had captured 23 pike in excess of twenty pounds, the largest being a 29.8 from Hoveton Great Broad in 1930. The thirty-pounder that he so longed for was to elude his efforts, although a fish lost by him after slipping the gaff was estimated at 35 pounds.

So Jim Vincent did not capture a real Broadland 'monster', but perhaps he is the greatest of all the Broadland pikers - not for his captures, although they were impressive enough - but for his contributions to the pike angling of Broadland.

It was not until the 1950s, and the advent of a new attitude towards angling, that pike fishing began to be taken seriously by a new breed of angler - the 'specimen hunter' - so the scene was set, and in the early 1950s one man in particular burst upon the angling world in a blaze of publicity with a string

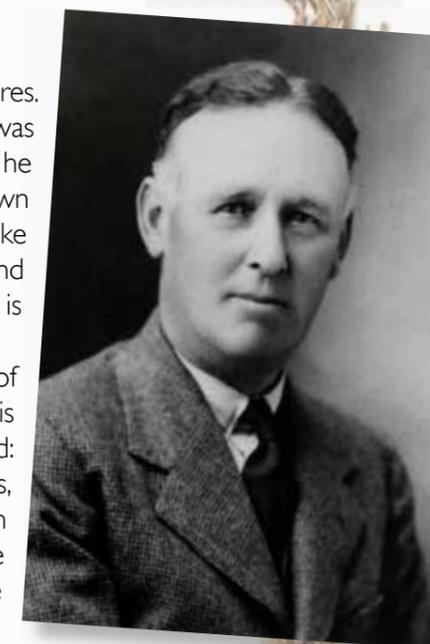
of big pike captures. His name was Dennis Pye, and he stamped his own identity on pike fishing in Broadland - an identity that is still felt today.

Pye's style of fishing for pike is well documented: large livebaits, float-fished on leadless tackle close to the edges of the vast Norfolk reedbeds.

"Deadbaits in amongst the thick weed will not work", Dennis Pye often said. But he was to be proved wrong.

Bill Giles and his fishing partner, Reg Sandys, were contemporaries of Dennis Pye, but their fishing styles differed dramatically. Their open-minded approach to other methods, in particular, the use of sea deadbaits from the 1950s onwards, combined with multi-rod set-ups, would set a new style and direction for pike fishing on the Broads, and for pike fishing in general.

The first 'heyday' of Broadland, during the 1960s, saw some impressive pike boated, the largest being the 35-pounders caught by Reg Pownall and Frank Wright and Peter Hancock's 40-pounder. Then in 1969 came Prynnesium and the demise of fishing on the Thurne system. There have been numerous outbreaks of the alga Prynnesium parvum throughout the twentieth century and as recently as 2012, but none worse than 1969. It is when Prynnesium dies that toxins are released into the water and oxygen is greatly reduced. When fish cannot escape these toxic areas, disastrous fish-kills occur, and it seems that pike are particularly at risk, often dying before other species in the same areas. After the Summer of 1969, it would be ten years before the first pointers to the recovery of the Thurne's giant pike would begin to appear, and during those years very few pike in excess of thirty pounds would be recorded from Broadland.



Jim Vincent

# Pike of the Broads; a brief history.

An extract from *The Pike of Broadland*  
Stephen Harper



Bill Giles with one of his big herring-caught pike.

However, Broadland is not only the Thurne system, and its demise coincided with a remarkable rise in the fortunes of other Broadland pike fisheries, in particular, the River Bure and its Broads, followed by the Waveney and the Yare; all popular to some degree, whilst the Thurne was forgotten. And they all produced quality pike fishing at some point, but could not compete with the monster pike that the Thurne system had produced in the past.

Then, in 1979, came the first signs of recovery, initially from limited areas of the Thurne system, and they would be so dramatic as to almost overshadow the pike captures that had occurred prior to 1969.

And with them would come once again a new breed of fisherman - the 'specialist angler' - highly motivated and determined, resourceful and well equipped with state-of-the-art tackle, but above all, open-minded to any and every method that might catch his intended quarry - the re-discovered

Andrew Cottrell with a 37 lbs 8 oz pike from 1982.



monster pike of Broadland.

In 1985, this new 'heyday' of pike fishing on Broadland was to culminate in the capture of a new English record pike. On 2nd February 1985, Neville Fickling staggered the angling community by landing a pike of 41 lbs 6 ozs from the River Thurne, and in August of the same year, Derrick Amies captured the same fish at 42 lbs 2 ozs.

So another chapter in Broadland's pike fishing history was written, the 1980s seeing several repeat captures of the record fish, and other notable big pike captures in excess of 35 pounds. The 1990s would not be so memorable, however, and throughout that decade the Thurne system became a very hard nut to crack (as it still is).

During the last few seasons of the 20th century, the River Yare reached its peak as a fantastic pike fishery, producing many 20-pounders, backed up with numerous double-figure fish, but unfortunately this was not to last. The pike fishing on the Yare simply got harder as the seasons progressed - the pike population seemed to have dwindled, and I wonder if the intense angling pressure of that time had something to do with this; however, some of the largest pike that survived did get bigger.

As the new century dawned, the River Yare began to produce 30-pounders - pike of a size unheard from the Yare in living memory. These captures were topped by new river records; a 34 lbs 5 ozs in February 2001 for Rob Childs, and a 35 lbs 6 ozs for Colin Smith in March 2006. This latter fish finally put the River Yare into the Thurne's coveted 35-pounder league, and was an important milestone in Broadland pike fishing. A fish of this size had not been heard of from the Yare since Halliday's rumoured 36-pounder of 1939 (since confirmed by the discovery of the cased fish). Things were looking very good for the River Yare.

And then came the Autumn of 2006. High tides and salt surges pushed high up the river and wreaked havoc with fish stocks. Innumerable fish of all species were killed in the boatyards, on the adjoining Broads and in the main river, and many pike, including some very large ones, died as a result.

Now, in the 21st century, the real 'monsters' from Broadland are few and far between. Thirty-pounders have once again become a very rare occurrence. The Thurne system, the jewel in Broadland's crown, is again in decline, due to



Neville Fickling landed a staggering pike of 41 lbs 6 ozs from the River Thurne in February 1985.

recurring Prynnesium outbreaks. Numbers of large pike, in excess of twenty pounds, are now a thing of the past. Twenty-pounders are still present, but much rarer. The occasional very large pike does still appear from time to time; however, these are probably the product of a declining and unbalanced fishery.

Jack Spall's 38 lbs 1 oz pike, from 2006, was just such a capture. This pike was recaptured in 2008 by Jorgia, Jack and Karl Gidney and recorded at 39 lbs 12 ozs. The next year it was to make its final appearance, when captured by John Goble at 45 lbs 8 ozs to become Broadland's record pike.

And so, with such a rich history, it is interesting to speculate on what the future will hold for Broadland piking. With the ever-increasing popularity of pike angling and the pressure put upon the sport by outside influences, how will the next generation of

pike anglers shape their sport and protect it from old and new enemies? No doubt new problems will arise, such as global warming and the rise in sea levels that has been much discussed in recent years. If this does happen, the results for Broadland will be disastrous. We can only hope that the measures that will have to be taken to safeguard financial considerations, such as property and tourism, will also benefit angling, for as always, angling will be found well down on the list of priorities should any such catastrophe ever occur.

We derive so much pleasure from our chosen pursuit, and long may this continue on the waters of Broadland for the generations of pike anglers to come. I hope they, too, can fish with freedom for its wild and crocodile-headed monsters.



# Pike fishing on the Norfolk Broads

by John Currie

Broadland, in line with most of Britain, witnesses all levels of experience from visiting and local anglers targeting pike. The one thing we hope you all have in common is the care of your intended quarry, and to this end we hope you have researched what you need to deal with this fragile fish. A visit to the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain website would reveal a wealth of information, and a few sessions spent with an experienced pike angler would be even more beneficial. What about the old paper trail - read a book! It isn't fair on you or the pike to target this magnificent fish unless you are prepared in terms of knowledge and equipment.

A visit to most tackle shops will see you leaving armed with a suitable pike rod and reel. Please do not be tempted to use a rod that is not designed for the job - at best you will break it, and at worst you will leave a hooked bait in a pike. As a compromise, most carp rods with a minimum test curve of two and a half pounds will suffice at a push. The reel should be loaded with a minimum of 15-pound nylon or the equivalent diameter braid - approx. 40 pounds BS. The end rig will be a wire trace about 18 inches long with hooks to suit, preferably barbless. These traces can be shop-bought, but it won't be long till you are making your own after you gain some experience. Hooks, floats, and all other sundries will all be found at your local tackle shop. It would be advisable to use an up-trace whilst float-fishing - this is a length of wire about 6 inches longer than your hook-trace, and helps to alleviate the danger of a pike's teeth

biting through your main-line if it comes into contact with it.

Shop-bought or home-made, the up-trace can be adapted for use as a lure-trace, because I dare say you will venture into lure-fishing at some stage of your piking career. There are many lure rods available, and they can make the experience of lure-fishing far more efficient and enjoyable than trying to use an unwieldy bait-rod.

Hopefully, with your mentor's advice and the tips you have picked up in your research, you will catch a pike. Fantastic - so you have had the heart-stopping fight and the pike is safely in that 42-inch net with fine mesh you are so glad you bought, even though you thought it looked rather large! When you're ready, you can lift it onto the unhooking-mat. On your person or near the mat will be your forceps or pliers, or even a purpose-made unhooking tool. The mat will help prevent the pike from damaging itself on unseen objects, perhaps a stone lying amongst the grass. Place the net over



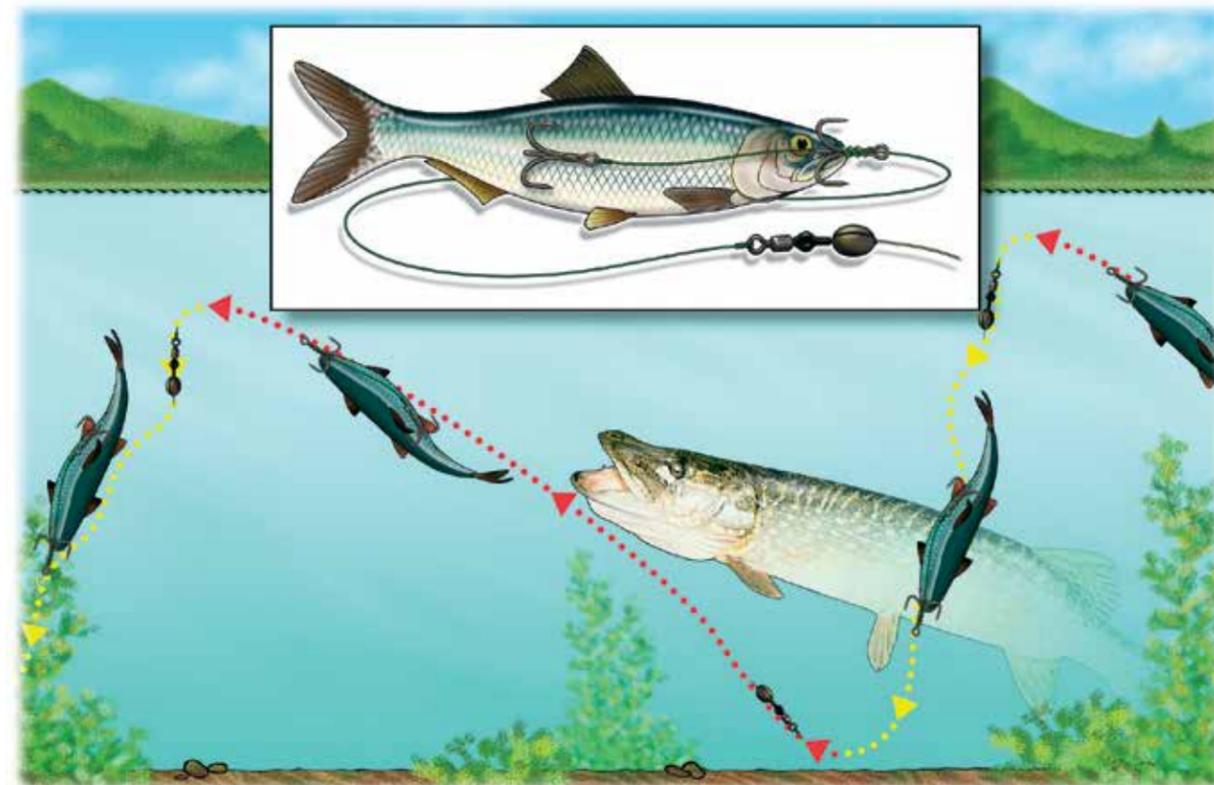
the mammoth pike that swim were once the size of the fish that awaits your attention. This efficient camouflaged hunter with strong jaws, impressive teeth and powerful body hides a weakness - out of its environment it is a fragile animal.

You should have been shown what comes next, or at least seen DVDs showing the correct way to remove hooks. It is dangerous to the pike and yourself to presume you can safely unhook it. Remember to have your bail-arm open or Baitrunner on - it helps if the line is running freely should you have to move around the bank. It also

the wetted mat, remove the pike from the net, and kneel astride it on the mat. Be careful that you don't put any weight or pressure on the pike; take great care of what lies before you - all

helps not to be dragging your rod around. Using all the information you have gathered, proceed confidently: take a firm hold of the pike's lower jaw by inserting your hand under the gill-cover; making very sure to avoid the gill-rakers. Run your finger up to the centre of the 'V' of the jaw joint and gently pull the lower jaw open; you should be in complete control and looking at an open mouth. Locate the hooks, remove them, and place them out of harm's way. If a photograph is needed, keep the pike over the net and low to the ground - a kneeling position is by far the safest way to present it to the camera - and be as quick as you can: you need to get the pike back into the water.

Sometimes you may wish to weigh your catch. Lots of pikers use a combined unhooking-mat-cum-weigh-sling, while some use a separate weigh-sling. Make sure the sling is wet, then, again keeping the fish low to the ground, weigh your prize. Keeping the pike in the sling, transport it back to the water. We don't want to carry a struggling fish in our arms - the sling is safer. Open the sling and make sure the pike swims away; don't panic if it doesn't dart away, just keep an eye on it till it does. Perhaps it may roll onto its side; simply gently



Sink and Draw

take hold of its tail root and correct its position, keeping a gentle hold until it swims away. As you gain experience, your handling skills will improve, and you will be able to assess when it may be easier to unhook a pike in the water and not use a net in certain circumstances. Only experience will enable you to get to that stage, so it is important that you always have your net and mat at hand.

Local byelaws and common-sense dictate that you should not be wandering away from your rods. The consequences of leaving your rods unattended could be a fine, or worse still a deeply-hooked pike. On the subject of byelaws, it is also worth noting that it is illegal to fish from a moving boat unless propelled by oars. If you are fishing from your static boat, please remember to have your mat and net at hand.

The drawings accompanying this article show some basic rigs that may help you put a pike in the net. Make sure you use a weak bomb-link, perhaps 6 pounds BS. It is also advisable to make sure you know the depth of your swim; it helps you set up your float correctly, and will enable it to register the most sensitive of bites. It only takes a few moments, and can make the difference between a missed run and a pike in the net.

Perhaps if you have rod-rests with you, legering may be an alternative. Make sure you have some form of bite indication, though: a drop-off indicator or bite-alarm. It's not advisable to leger from a boat until you are experienced and properly equipped. The same rule applies to both float-fishing and legering: don't hesitate - strike at once. Those hunting this super-fast predator would do well to remember its fondness for scavenging an easy meal in the form of a dead-bait presented on the bottom. Take care of the pike, and possibly you or someone else will have the pleasure of catching it again, perhaps at a heavier weight.



# What the hell is that boat doing?

by Philip Ollier

Anglers and navigators share an interest in enjoying the Broads, but from time to time, enjoyment of their activities brings them into conflict. NSBA and BASG have a common interest in reducing potential conflicts by ensuring that we have a mutual understanding of each other's point of view, and by helping both groups to pursue their activities in a spirit of co-operation. This article attempts to explain to anglers some of the reasons why boats do the things they do.

There is a wide range of types of boat in use on the Broads (from canoes and windsurfers to wherries and commercial passenger boats), and a wide range of experience and competence displayed by those at the helm (from absolute beginner to professional skipper), so generalisations are dangerous, but it's worth trying to explain some of the behaviours the angler might observe in the species 'navigator'.

Boats handle differently, and there are limits to the options available to helms in particular circumstances. Generally, powered craft have more options than sailing craft, and boats engaged in towing other craft, either strapped alongside or on a line astern, have fewer options for manoeuvring or altering speed than unencumbered ones.

Powered craft can be expected to travel along the channel, parallel to the bank and on the right-hand side of the centre-line. When going against the current (remember Broads rivers are tidal and the current can flow both ways), it is common for them to stay closer to the bank, because the current will probably be weaker there and they can make more economical progress. They can also be expected to stay on the deep-water side of channel marker posts. Conflict can arise between anglers and powered craft when the





boat's helm fails to see the angler or their gear and fails to pull away from the bank. Anglers can help to avoid this situation by making themselves visible on the bank. Remember, the helm is probably looking around at the wildlife and scenery as well as scanning the water in front of the boat. The light conditions can make fishing gear hard to see, and there will be times when the helm cannot pull away from the bank.

Sailing boats are more likely to give anglers problems, as they depend on the wind for their motive power. They cannot sail towards the wind – to be more exact, the best they can manage is around 45 degrees from the wind direction on either side. If they want to head to windward they have to follow a zigzag course, gradually getting closer to where they want to go. This is called 'tacking'. Remember also that the wind is not a constant factor; it varies direction frequently. This is exacerbated by local factors such as trees and houses - which form eddies - and dykes and stands of trees - which funnel the wind. So the helm is trying all the time to make best use of the wind and the width of the waterway to take the boat in the right direction. Where do sailing-boat problems

come from? Sailing boats will sneak up on you, being silent, and will give you little time to lift your gear. They will not see you. The helm will be looking at the burgee at the top of the mast to second-guess the wind direction, and at the front of the sails to spot fluttering and to see whether the boat is pointed in the best direction relative to the wind, and also at the boat which is on a collision course on the opposite tack, while wondering who has right of way and who should give way. The last thing they will be looking for is an angler tucked into shelter behind a bush with fishing gear below the line of the bank, virtually invisible and streaming towards them with the current. Of course, all these factors come into play in spades when the boat is racing and there is the whiff of competition in the air.

Sailing boats also seem to have an unnatural attraction for the side of the river. It looks as if they will follow a zigzag course, reaching the bank and turning away. But, no: for some strange reason they will then flatten out and stick to the bank way beyond the point that you would have expected them to tack off. This is due to two things: they will find it easier to make progress along the

bank when the current is against them, and they will often get a 'lift' in wind direction off the bank and find that they can continue to sail along the bank for a short distance without needing to tack away. Remember, Broads Authority Byelaw 29 (3) says "Any person fishing from a boat or the bank shall show reasonable consideration to any other person using the navigation area and shall ensure that his rod or line does not obstruct the passage of a vessel along a channel".

Mooring is another situation where conflict occurs. Boats want to moor alongside the bank for a whole number of reasons: lunch, a shopping trip, an overnight stop, tea, to drop their mast prior to passing under a bridge, or to raise it again on the other side. In general they are allowed to do so, and in particular they have a right to do so at Broads Authority 24-hour moorings. Fishing is allowed at many BA 24-hour moorings, but when it is, the signs tell anglers they must make room for boats wishing to moor. Problems will arise when either party has failed to see the other one in time to take action. Anglers may not realise that a sailing craft has only one chance to lose power from the sails and coast into the bank to pick up the mooring. Misjudgement will mean failing to reach the bank, or worse, crashing into it with limited control and possible damage.

Racing takes place at many places on the Broads. Inevitably, when that happens, helms' attention will be focused on sailing their boats as fast and efficiently as possible, while avoiding the other craft on the river, whether or not involved in the race. They will find it even harder to spot the well-camouflaged angler. Remember also that there will be a lot of activity in the vicinity of the start and finish lines and the buoys which serve as marks of the course and which boats must turn round. In these places, boats have very few options on the manoeuvres they can perform, particularly when there are other boats nearby. These are not sensible spots to set yourself up to fish on days when racing is scheduled. Dates of regattas and other events can be found in the Green Book, published each year by the NSBA. This book is available from many chandleries on the Broads and direct from the NSBA, cover price £5. It contains much useful information, including slipways and launching facilities. Much of its content is also available on the

NSBA website [www.thegreenbook.org.uk](http://www.thegreenbook.org.uk).

With a little give and take and good manners on both sides, angling and boating can co-exist to their mutual benefit on the Broads. Many people enjoy one or both activities. Long may they continue to do so.

Philip Ollier  
Committee Member, NSBA.



## Do's and Don'ts

### Do

- Make yourself visible to boat helms approaching along the channel
- Move your gear out of the way when it obstructs a boat's passage
- Acknowledge a helm's attempts to keep out of your way

### Don't

- Obstruct a boat's passage along the channel
- Throw objects at passing boats
- Shout abuse
- Set yourself up in a spot that is likely to create conflict with other users of the Broads

# The Trinity Broads

Hannah Gray

**Situated north-west of Caister-upon-Sea lie Ormesby, Rollesby, Lily, Ormesby Little and Filby Broads, collectively known as the Trinity Broads. They are a series of interconnected shallow lakes isolated from the main river system and virtually undisturbed.**

As the main landowner, Essex & Suffolk Water's primary aim is to maintain the role of the Trinity Broads as a drinking water supply for Great Yarmouth and surrounding villages. They also have a responsibility to protect and improve the nature conservation value of the area. The water resources of the Trinity Broads are important to the wider community for recreation, wildlife conservation and agricultural irrigation.

The Trinity Broads project was set up in 1997 to manage the conservation work and recreation in the area. It is managed through a partnership with Essex & Suffolk Water, the Broads Authority, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The overall aim of this partnership is to restore the Trinity Broads to benefit nature conservation, public water supply and recreation. Five-year management plans have been drawn up in consultation with the local communities and other Trinity Broads users.

## WHAT MAKES THE TRINITY BROADS SO SPECIAL?

The Trinity Broads are isolated from the River Bure by a sluice, constructed in the mid-19th century and located in the Muckfleet drainage channel. This has protected the Trinity Broads from the effects of saline intrusion and increased nutrients from the River Bure; therefore the water quality remains relatively good compared with some other Broads. As there are no motor cruisers and limited petrol outboards, the Trinity Broads have remained a

peaceful, preserved and tranquil place.

The Trinity Broads are particularly important for wildlife because of the good water quality and low levels of disturbance. This was recognised by their designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1998 and their status as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the European Habitats Directive.

In common with other Broads, the Trinity Broads have been subject to continuous human use for many hundreds of years, which maintained areas of open water and reed swamp. This management was neglected in the second half of the last century. Fortunately, work has been underway since the project began to manage these habitats to ensure the wildlife living in them is conserved.

The open water supports an array of different aquatic plants including notable species such as flat-stalked pondweed and some stoneworts. Extensive fringes of common reed, reedmace and bullrush surround the margins of the open water. The landscape of alder and oak woodland behind these reedbeds provides a screen from arable land and settlements beyond and creates a sense of isolation that adds to the 'wilderness' feeling of these Broads.

The diversity of woodland and reedswamp creates a variety of habitats for foraging and nesting birds, including bittern, marsh harrier, sedge warbler, kingfisher and Cetti's warbler. The open water supports nationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl including pochard, tufted duck, shoveller and goldeneye.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PERMITTED ON THE TRINITY BROADS?

Traditionally the Trinity Broads support a low level of activity. Boating, sailing and angling are regulated

in order to maintain current and appropriate levels of use.

Access rights exist for a limited number of boat owners whose properties lie adjacent to the Broads. The local parishes of Ormesby St Margaret, Ormesby St Michael, Fleggburgh and Filby also have local parish staithe (from the Norse for landing stage). There are currently three small-scale outlets that hire rowing boats to the public for angling and pleasure rowing. This is the only public access onto open water.

Angling is mainly carried out from rowing boats and broadshore angling is only permitted from fishing platforms at Rollesby Bridge (A149) and Filby Bridge (A1064). Both of these locations have car parks and fishing platforms that are accessible to wheelchair users. Between 15th March and 15th June the Environment Agency's Closed Season is enforced and at all times when angling please remember your rod licence (available online from the Environment Agency).

## THE BIOMANIPULATION PROJECT AT ORMESBY BROAD

Ormesby Broad is currently being restored to clearer water conditions through the biomanipulation of fish. This is a technique designed to reduce predation of water fleas by bream and roach fry. Clear water is essential for the establishment of aquatic plants (which help oxygenate the water) and water fleas play a vital role in maintaining clear water as they consume algae. If fry consume too many water fleas, the algae blooms and this results in cloudy water. Aquatic plants are an important feature of the Broads and provide habitat for fish and insects.

The biomanipulation of fish began in 1994 and at first was very unpopular with the local angling community. In 1998 the Trinity Broads Project set

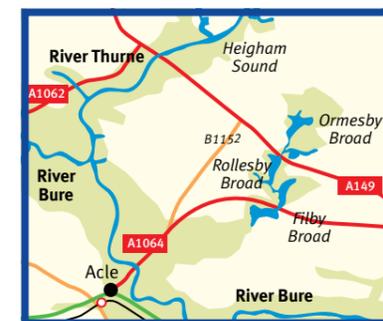
up a Fisheries Conservation Group and through this forum local anglers are informed and consulted on the biomanipulation work.

## WHY NOT CHECK OUT THE TRINITY BROADS FOR YOURSELF?

Filby Bridge car park (A1064) is a good place to start. From the car park a boardwalk goes through the woodland to a bird hide overlooking Ormesby Little Broad. You can also walk to the new Filby Broadshore Walkway from the car park and across the main road, where the fishing platforms are located. The Rollesby Bridge car park (A149) has toilets and fishing platforms. Alternatively, why not have some food whilst enjoying Broads views at Filby Bridge restaurant (A1064) or the Eels Foot Inn (signed off the A149 at Ormesby St Michael). At both of these eateries you can hire out rowing boats but remember if you row out to conserve energy for the row back!

As Trinity Broads Catchment Officer, my role involves day-to-day management of the area: patrolling, habitat management, wildlife surveying, public events and liaising with landowners in the catchment area. I am the point of contact for the local community on issues relating to the Trinity Broads Project and general Broads Authority issues. There is also a network of volunteer wardens who assist with certain areas of work. If you would like more information on the Trinity Broads please contact:

Hannah Gray  
Trinity Broads Officer,  
Broads Authority, Yare House,  
62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich  
Norfolk NR1 1RY.



## Fishing boat hire:

**FILBY BRIDGE RESTAURANT**  
Mr R. Barnes  
Main Road, Filby NR29 3AA.  
Tel: 01493 368142  
[www.filbybridgerestaurant.com](http://www.filbybridgerestaurant.com)

**ORMESBY BROAD**  
Norwich and District Pike A.C. General  
secretary and boat bookings  
**Phill Cotton:** 01508 578701

**THE WATERSIDE**  
The Waterside, Main Road, Rollesby Great  
Yarmouth NR29 5EF Tel: 01493 740531  
[www.thewatersiderollesby.co.uk](http://www.thewatersiderollesby.co.uk)

# Angling and wintering waterfowl in the upper Thurne

by Julia Masson

The Broads waterways are recognised for their recreation opportunities whether for angling, sailing, boating or wildlife watching. These activities are integral to the status of the Broads as a national park.

The angling interest is most famously represented by huge pike, including some to over 40lb. However, bumper catches of bream, specimen rudd and large tench have also added to the area's reputation as an angler's paradise.

However, the importance of the area for conservation is highlighted by the autumn arrival of thousands of waterfowl to the Upper Thurne wetlands, which migrate here to feed and roost for the winter (see Point 1). These waters and wetlands provide ideal winter quarters for the birds, with reed fringed lakes, large open water bodies, quiet bays for roosting and plenty of food. The numbers of migrating waterfowl are recognised in the national and international designations applied to the upper Thurne (see Point 2). Therefore, there is a considerable challenge in managing these interests to the benefit of all.

Many of these wintering waterfowl are highly wary of humans; it is a natural survival instinct for them to take flight when they feel in danger. Some species, such as teal are highly flighty whilst others, such as tufted duck can tolerate some degree of human disturbance. Disturbance can lead to lack of condition for the birds as they have less time for feeding in their preferred areas, and expend energy flying away. This could eventually jeopardise their breeding success and further additions of young

birds into the population.

There is a need to balance people's recreation enjoyment of the upper Thurne water with the requirements of the wintering waterfowl. A series of refuges or no-disturbance areas have been in place on the open waters of the upper Thurne for a number of years. At Horsey Mere, angling by boat is restricted by permit only from 1st November to 28th February inclusive. Applications for permits must be made by post to the Horsey Estate and obtained in advance of fishing. At Martham, where there is no public fishing right, the refuge concept is managed using angling permits. These operate on the North Broad from October to March inclusive, allowing access three days a week for a maximum of two boats. There is no fishing on the South Broad, which provides a year-round refuge for waterfowl.

Hickling Broad has three voluntary refuges in Pleasure Island Bay, at Heigham Corner and Ling's Mill Bay and one in Duck Broad in Heigham Sound. Anglers and other users are being asked to make a voluntary commitment to stay outside these refuges from November to March inclusive to provide a quiet area for waterfowl. To assist with this approach a Code of Practice has been produced with local anglers (see Point 3) to provide advice to anglers enjoying winter fishing on Hickling Broad.

The refuges at Hickling, Horsey and Martham have been closely monitored for bird numbers and their response to any waterborne disturbance recorded to give a better idea of how the birds respond to disturbance and how the refuge system can be improved.

#### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The upper Thurne waters will continue to be critical to the wellbeing of the waterfowl that migrate here to winter and feed before returning to their summer breeding grounds. Equally, these waterways will continue to provide angling opportunities, which people come to the Broads to enjoy. We must continue to work together to find creative ways of accommodating both interests.

The Broads would be a poorer place without the spectacle of thousands of birds arriving here for

Visit [www.thurnefisheries.co.uk](http://www.thurnefisheries.co.uk) for more information and details of the application process for Horsey Mere permits. For a copy of the leaflet 'Reducing disturbance to winter waterfowl' please send an A5 SAE to: **Winter Waterfowl, Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich Norfolk NR1 1RY.**

the winter, or without places where we can enjoy these natural resources, whether angling, sailing or wildlife watching.

Julia Masson  
Formerly Conservation Manager,  
Broads Authority

## Useful Information

### 1: Arrival of wintering waterfowl

Amongst wintering waterfowl are wigeon, teal, shoveler, gadwall, tufted duck, pochard and goldeneye, which arrive from northerly summer breeding grounds mainly in Iceland, northern Scandinavia and northern central Russia into Siberia. The numbers of ducks overwintering in the Upper Thurne are significant in international terms – 2,000 birds can be regularly present on Hickling Broad, and over 4,000 birds, mainly wigeon and teal, on Horsey Mere.

### 2: Upper Thurne National and International designations

The whole of the upper Thurne carries all four designations: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a National designation protecting nationally important habitats and species. Natural England has responsibility for identifying and protecting SSSIs in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

Special Protection Areas are protected sites classified in accordance with the EU Wild Birds Directive (April 1979). The sites are classified for their rare and vulnerable birds, and for regularly occurring migratory species.

Special Conservation Areas are protected sites designated under the EU Habitats Directive (May 1992) and includes both habitats and species most in need of conservation at a European Level.

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. Many sites are selected with an emphasis on their importance for waterbirds.

### 3: Code of Practice for the Hickling Broad refuges

1. Avoid refuge areas if at all possible.
2. If a refuge needs to be entered, navigate refuge areas with care, trying to avoid disturbing any wintering birds.
3. If a refuge area needs to be entered, use only electric outboards or oars within these areas. Do not use petrol outboards within the refuge areas, except in emergencies.
4. Go quietly, be seen but not heard.

## Help us find these aliens in Norfolk

YOU can help with the fight against invasive non-native species thanks to the launch of a new Smartphone 'App' developed by the RINSE (Reducing the Impact of Invasive Non-native Species in Europe) project.

The App has been developed to allow anyone to report sightings of invasive plant and animal species including Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, floating pennywort and mink. The App is free and can be downloaded from the project website: [www.rinse-europe.eu](http://www.rinse-europe.eu) the Apple App Store and Google Play.

### Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

**Description:** An annual herb up to 2m in height with pink / purple, slipper shaped flowers, a fleshy stem and explosive seed heads.

**Where to look:** Prefers to grow in damp areas, and is particularly abundant on river banks where it out-competes native vegetation.

**Why is it a problem?** Fast growing, quickly becomes the dominant species in an area. Die back in winter leaves river banks bare and susceptible to erosion.



### Australian Swamp Stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*)

**Description:** Can be aquatic and terrestrial. Small round fleshy leaves arranged along the stem in opposite pairs. White flowers with small petals.

**Where to look:** Found in a variety of habitats, have be submerged, emergent and terrestrial forms.

**Why is it a problem?** Forms dense impenetrable mats, can grow 200 times faster than native pond plants and can easily smother and out compete other species.



### Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)

**Description:** This aquatic plant has characteristic kidney shaped leaves which can be free floating or emergent. It has fleshy stems and fine, white roots.

**Where to look:** Emergent or floating on the surface of still or slowly moving freshwater.

**Why is it a problem?** With a peak growth rate of 20cm per day, floating pennywort can rapidly dominate a water body!



### Killer shrimp (*Dikerogammarus villosus*)

**Description:** Up to 30mm in length, body curled and semi-transparent, may have striped pattern. Two cone shape projections on its tail are key distinguishing features.

**Where to look:** Likes to live within colonies of zebra mussels, on wood, concrete, gravel and rope. Attracted to man made structures.

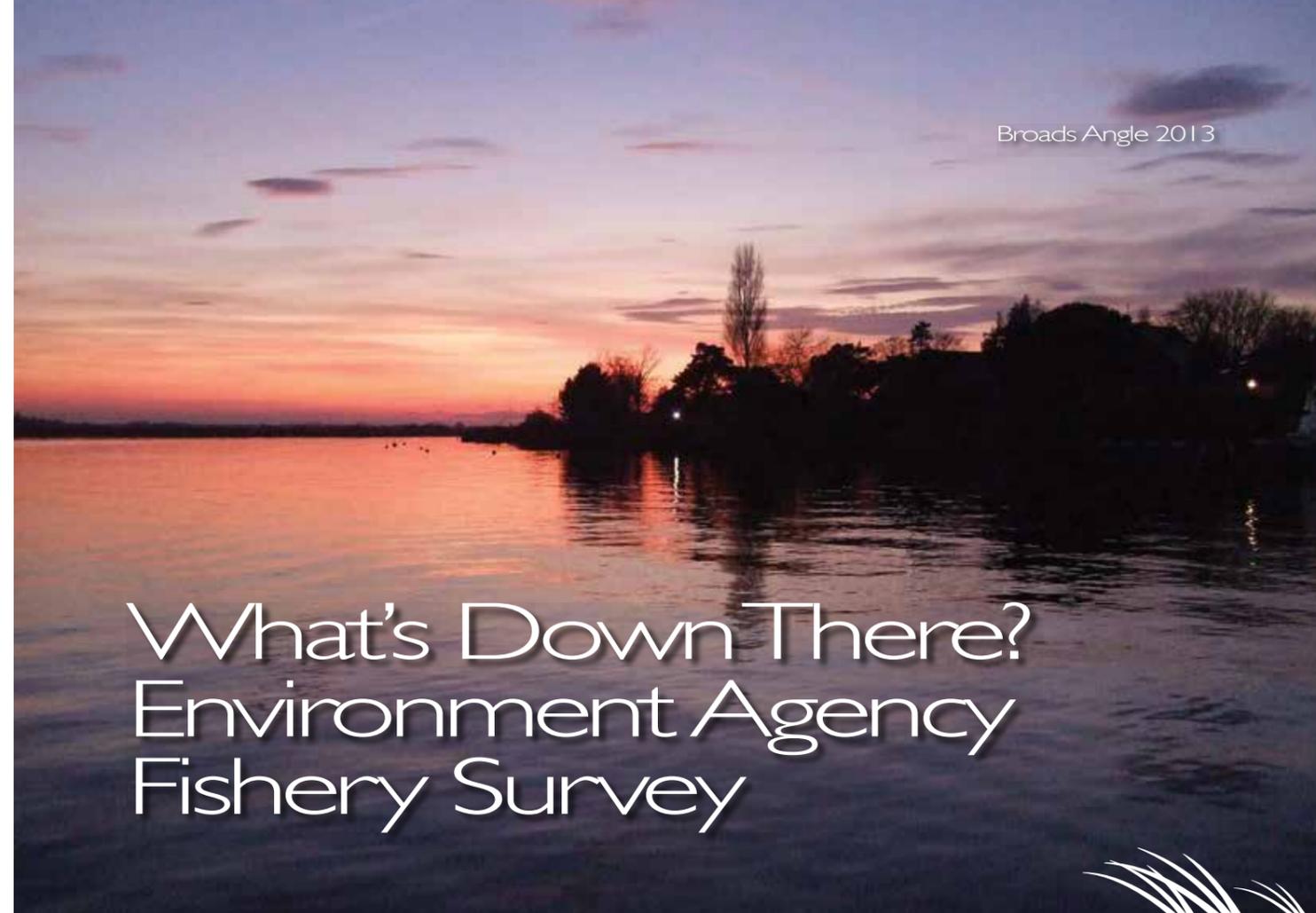
**Why is it a problem?** A voracious predator, it kills a range of native species, including young fish, mayfly and caddisfly larvae. Has the potential to seriously alter ecosystems it invades.



Please tell us if you find any of these invasive alien species. You can report them via the new app, or online via [www.norfolkdiversity.org/nonnativespecies](http://www.norfolkdiversity.org/nonnativespecies)

Records should contain information about: **What** you saw (photos are a great help); **When** you saw it; **Where** you saw it (a grid reference if possible); and **Who** you are.

For more information about the RINSE app, or non-native invasive species in Norfolk please contact [michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk), or get in touch by phone 01603 228977



# What's Down There? Environment Agency Fishery Survey

For the angler, one of the most exciting aspects of fishing a large river or Broad is never quite knowing what's down there! But when it comes to managing fisheries, this can also be one of the most difficult aspects. Fisheries specialists Andy Hinds and Steve Lane from the Environment Agency tell us why we need to know, some of the ways we can find out, and some of the ways we can use the information to help improve angling and fisheries.

#### WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

The presence of a healthy, thriving fish population is vital for angling in the Broads. Fish also play an important role in the ecology of the Broadland waterways. So an understanding of the current state of the fish stocks can not only help us to ensure good fishing, but also to maintain and improve the health of the water and its wildlife. Fisheries surveys may also enable us to detect changes in fish populations, which may affect the quality of angling now and into the future, and enable angling access projects to be planned where they can be most beneficial. Now you can see how important knowing what's down there is when it comes to managing the Norfolk Broads and its fisheries.

#### HOW DO WE FIND OUT?

Fisheries surveys on the Broads are typically carried out in late summer, from July to September. We are also conducting surveys at other times of the year to assess which habitats fish prefer; for example to identify spawning areas in the spring and winter habitats that may need future protection from the effects of saltwater incursions. A number of different methods are used to sample fish populations on the Broads:

**Seine netting** is used to sample fish in open water. This technique involves setting a 100m seine net with a 'cod end' into the water in a horseshoe shape. Once set, the net is slowly drawn in, and the fish within it are captured and recorded.

**Electric fishing** is used to sample the edges or margins of the Broads and enables us to effectively catch fish in amongst reeds, branches and other vegetation. The equipment is set up in a small boat, powered by a generator. Specially trained fisheries officers immerse hand-held electrodes in the water, and fish are drawn by the electric field towards the boat, where they can be safely netted and recorded.

Seine netting and electric fishing surveys can help to provide the following information about





the fish population:

- mean biomass of fish in the river or Broad (mean weight of fish per square metre of water);
- mean density of fish in the river or Broad (how many individual fish there are per square metre of water);

Physically catching samples of fish is also important because it enables us to obtain key information about the fish species composition, health and performance of fish stocks. Generally, the more fish that are sampled, the more accurate the information will become. For example, we can study the age and growth rate of a fish by measuring its length and carefully removing a scale sample. The scales contain rings, or annuli, similar to the rings on a tree. By carefully counting the number of these annuli we can tell how old the fish is. By measuring the distance between the rings we can also estimate the length of the fish when it was younger. The gaps between the annuli can tell us how fast the fish has grown throughout its life, highlighting particularly good or bad years for particular species. Fisheries specialists can also look out for evidence of poor health, disease or non-native species.

**Hydroacoustic surveys** were introduced in 2003 to sample fish densities in large lengths of Broadland rivers without needing to catch any fish. Mounted on a specially designed boat, the equipment emits sound waves at pre-determined frequencies into the river. These sound waves bounce off the swim-bladders of fish and are reflected back to the survey boat where they can be analysed. The river is surveyed up-stream and down-stream over two nights to ensure a good representation of river habitats is obtained. This

technique enables stretches up to 40km to be surveyed in one evening, providing information on fish density and distribution throughout the river that would not be possible with conventional techniques.

Hydroacoustic data are being used directly to help progress many of the objectives of the Broads Angling Strategy. A key example is where fish density distribution mapping is being overlaid onto maps of bank-angling access across the Broads using GIS. This technique is enabling us to prioritise new bank-angling opportunities and improvements and maintain important existing sites. In addition, we can use the information to better inform the strategies of other Broads interests that may otherwise impact on the angling resource; for example, the provision of new boat mooring sites. By combining strategies in this way, it is often possible to identify improvement projects that could deliver benefits for a range of Broads users and would consequently be more likely to attract funding from different sources, not just from rod-licence money.

#### BROADS FISH POPULATIONS

Broads fish communities tend to be dominated by roach (*Rutilus rutilus*) and common bream (*Abramis brama*). The principal predator of fish is pike (*Esox lucius*). Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) is also a significant predator of smaller fish.

#### GENERAL SUMMARY OF BROADS FISH STOCKS

Fish stocks appear to be favourable, with high fish densities being recorded in hydroacoustic surveys in recent years. This reflects excellent pleasure- and match-fishing returns over the same period. Principal species are roach and bream, with

numbers of perch and pike also present. The River Thurne consistently outperforms the other Broadland rivers in surveys, with densities as high as 181 fish/1000m<sup>3</sup> of river volume.

Good angling opportunities exist in most Broads, with fine examples of roach to be caught at Wroxham Broad. Large numbers of smaller fish are well distributed throughout most other Broads. Large bream can be caught in Barton Broad, as well as other areas, and pike are to be found on most Broads.

Recent studies have been instigated using tagging experiments to monitor bream movements in order to better understand fish behaviour.

We are working with the pike-angling community on a unique pike-tagging project on part of the Norfolk Broads in order to better understand pike populations and the factors affecting them. It is hoped to expand and extend the project across the Broads in the coming years.

Scarcity of eels throughout the Broads is of grave concern. Current fisheries surveys are looking more closely at eels in an attempt to gain a better insight into their population dynamics. Several specific monitoring projects are in progress, and schemes to enhance eel stocks are being undertaken.

**For more detailed information on fisheries surveys on the Norfolk Broads, contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506.**



## Did you know?



#### SEEING FISH WITH SOUND

The Environment Agency is using high-tech survey equipment, which enables fisheries staff to 'see with sound'. Known as DIDSON (Dual-frequency IDentification SONar) and ARIS (Adaptive-Resolution Imaging Sonar), the devices use multiple beams of sound to produce high-resolution near-video-quality images of the underwater world, even in cloudy water or darkness.

Fisheries Technical Specialist Stephen Lane said: "DIDSON and ARIS technology is helping to revolutionise the world of fisheries monitoring. We now have the tools to accurately see the underwater world in all conditions, being able to count and even measure fish in their natural habitat without needing to catch or disturb them".

DIDSON and ARIS are poised to make more significant contributions to managing fish stocks, particularly when it comes to investigating fish behaviour and illegal fishing activity. "The equipment has already enabled us to study how fish are using parts of Oulton Broad in the winter months. In turn this is helping us to make progress to resolve a series of historic fish kills," said Steve. "We are also looking to use ARIS to find and assess groups of spawning pike in the Broads, which will give us information about pike numbers and important areas of habitat for pike recruitment". DIDSON has also been used by Fisheries enforcement officers to find and recover illegal fyke nets.

**For more information how on this exciting technology is helping the Environment Agency to maintain and improve fisheries, be sure to watch the FREE Broadland Pike DVD attached to your Broads Angle magazine.**

# The Broads: Overview

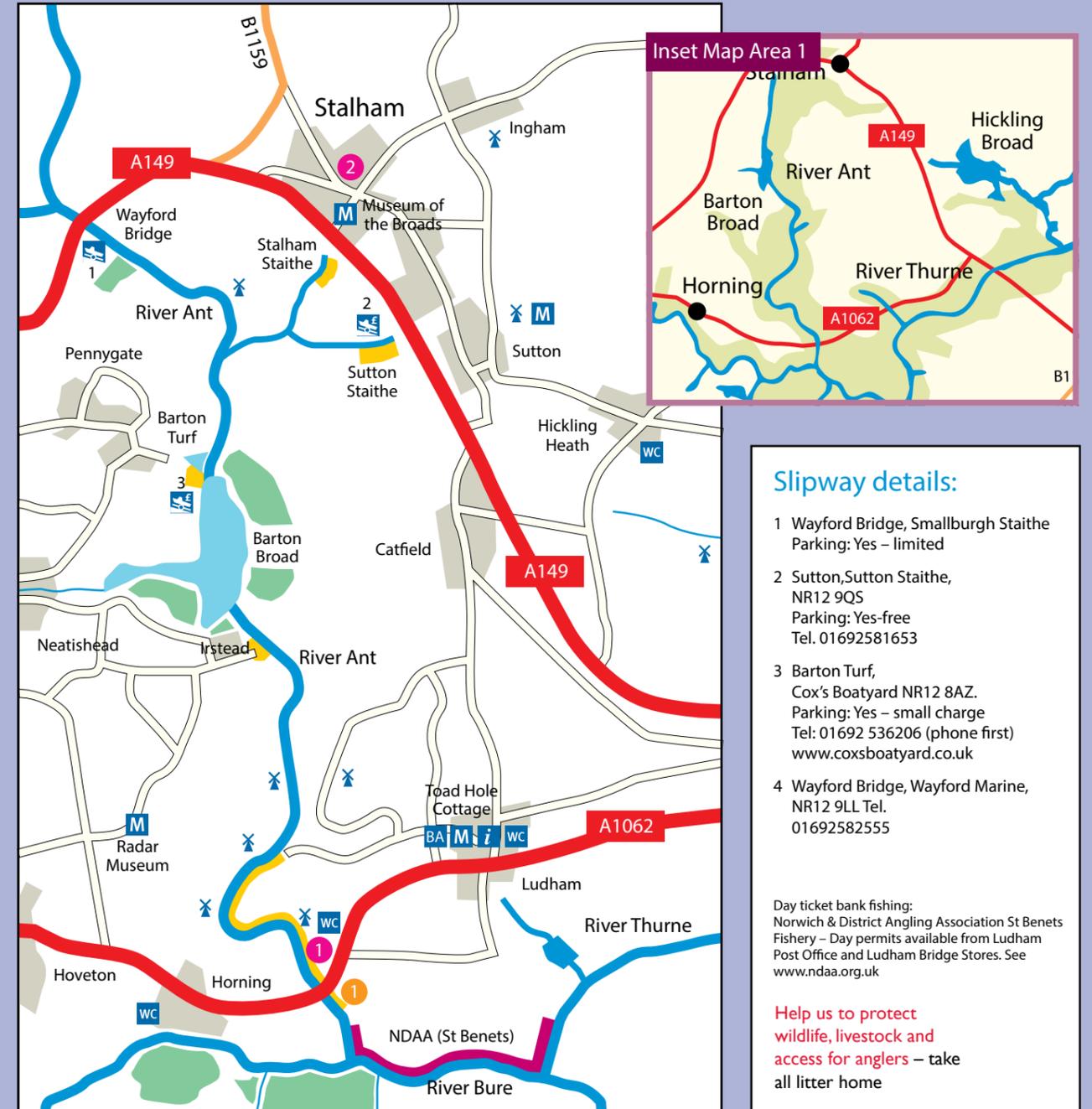


**Fishing from Broads Authority  
24 hour moorings:**  
Anglers are generally welcome but must give way to boats trying to moor – Check bankside signs before starting to fish

### Maps key:

Major A road	Railway station	The Broads	Conservation Refuges	Museum
Minor A road	Railway line	River/sea	Slipway	Windmill
B road	Narrow gauge line	Day ticket bank fishing	Slipway (with fee)	Visitor centre
Other road	Built up area	Free bank fishing	Tourist Information	Broads Authority information
Cycle route	Woodland	Private broad	Toilets	BA Yacht Station

# Map I: River Ant



### Slipway details:

- 1 Wayford Bridge, Smallburgh Staithe  
Parking: Yes – limited
- 2 Sutton, Sutton Staithe, NR12 9QS  
Parking: Yes-free  
Tel: 01692581653
- 3 Barton Turf, Cox's Boatyard NR12 8AZ.  
Parking: Yes – small charge  
Tel: 01692 536206 (phone first)  
[www.coxsboatyard.co.uk](http://www.coxsboatyard.co.uk)
- 4 Wayford Bridge, Wayford Marine, NR12 9LL Tel. 01692582555

Day ticket bank fishing:  
Norwich & District Angling Association St Benets Fishery – Day permits available from Ludham Post Office and Ludham Bridge Stores. See [www.ndaa.org.uk](http://www.ndaa.org.uk)

Help us to protect wildlife, livestock and access for anglers – take all litter home

### Fishing tackle shops:

- 1 Ludham Bridge Stores  
Ludham Bridge, Ludham, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5NZ.  
Tel: 01692 630322
- 2 Broadland Angling & Pet Centre  
Stone House, High Street, Stalham, Norfolk NR12 9AN .  
Tel: 01692 580959
- 3 A.J.B. Angling, Unit 1&2, Ludham Bridge, Norfolk, NR29 5NX  
Tel: 01692 630990 or mob. 07717 117440

### Fishing boat hire:

- 1 Ludham Bridge Boatyard  
Ludham Bridge, Ludham, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5NX.  
Tel: 01692 631011  
[www.ludhambridgeboats.co.uk](http://www.ludhambridgeboats.co.uk)

# Map 2: River Bure

## Slipway details:

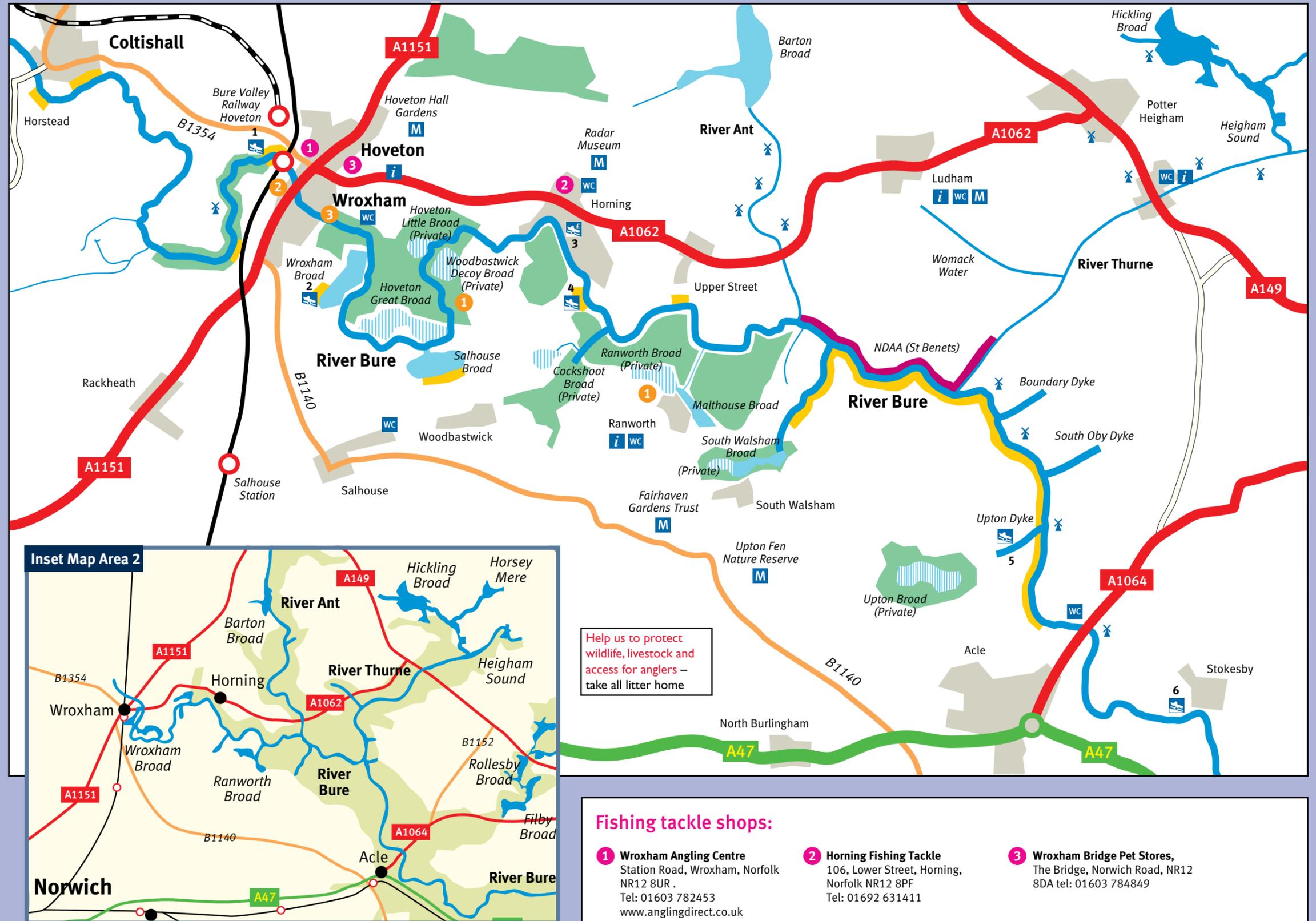
- 1 Hoveton, Riverside Park  
Parking: Yes – free (small craft only)
- 2 Wroxham Broad, Wroxham Broad  
Parking: Yes – pay and display
- 3 Horning, Horning Parish Staithe,  
Parking: Yes – pay and display and limited free  
Tel: 01692 630434
- 4 Woodbastwick, Woodbastwick  
Parking: Yes – limited
- 5 Upton Dyke, Upton Dyke  
Parking: Yes – free  
Tel: 01493 750430
- 6 Stokesby, Stokesby Staithe  
Parking: Yes – free (no overnight)

Day ticket bank fishing:  
Norwich & District Angling Association St Benets Fishery – Day permits available from Ludham Post Office and Ludham Bridge Stores. See [www.ndaa.org.uk](http://www.ndaa.org.uk)

Hoveton Little Broad  
Boat fishing only from 16th June to 31st October

## Fishing boat hire:

- 1 **Ranworth Broad and Woodbastwick Decoy Broad**  
Mr M Major (Norwich & District A.A.). Tel: 01953 789541  
[www.ndaa.org.uk](http://www.ndaa.org.uk)
- 2 **Mr Mark Tibbitts, (Wroxham A.C.)**  
Tel: 07876595279
- 3 **Norfolk Broads Fishing Ltd**  
George Smith & Sons, The Rhond Riverside Road, Hoveton NR12 8UE.  
Tel: 01603 782527  
[www.fishthebroads.com](http://www.fishthebroads.com)



Help us to protect wildlife, livestock and access for anglers – take all litter home

## Fishing tackle shops:

- 1 **Wroxham Angling Centre**  
Station Road, Wroxham, Norfolk NR12 8UR.  
Tel: 01603 782453  
[www.anglingdirect.co.uk](http://www.anglingdirect.co.uk)
- 2 **Horning Fishing Tackle**  
106, Lower Street, Horning, Norfolk NR12 8PF  
Tel: 01692 631411
- 3 **Wroxham Bridge Pet Stores,**  
The Bridge, Norwich Road, NR12 8DA tel: 01603 784849

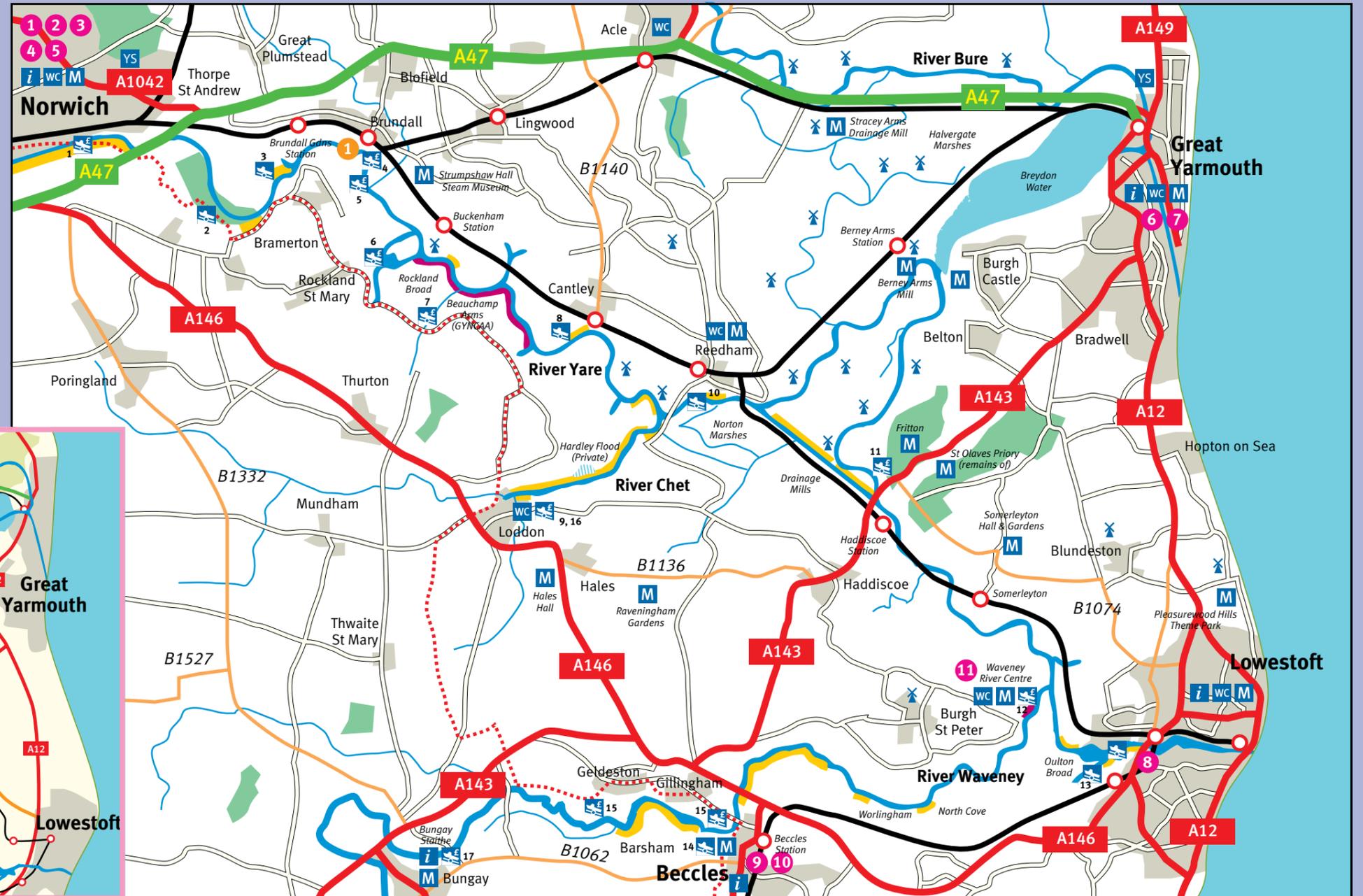
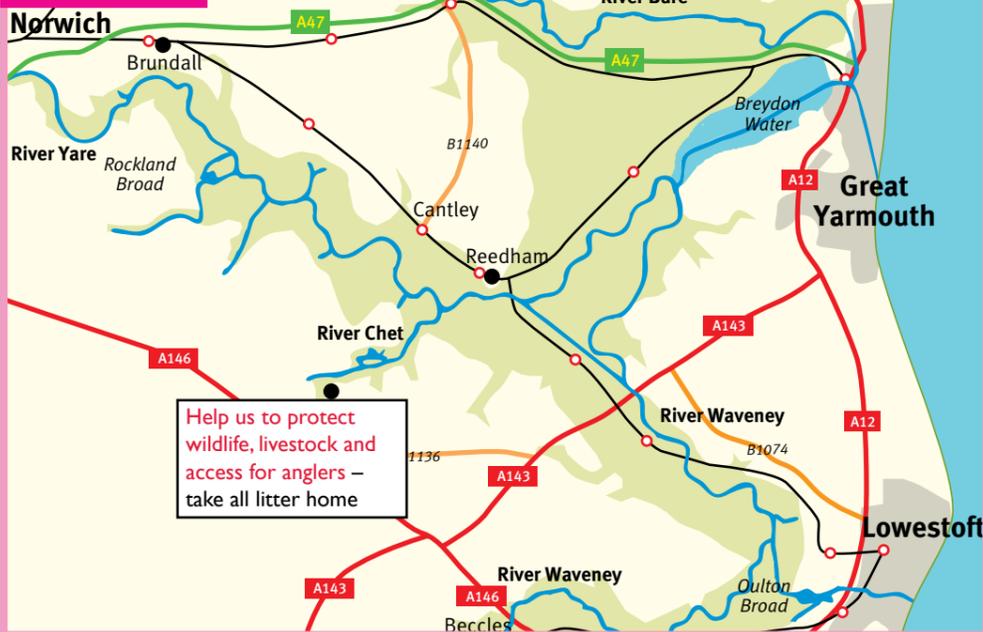
# Map 3: Southern Rivers

## Slipway details:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b> Thorpe St Andrew Griffin Marine Boatyard<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01603 433253</p> <p><b>2</b> Bramerton, Bramerton Woods End Pub<br/>Parking: Yes</p> <p><b>3</b> Postwick, Postwick Wharf<br/>Parking: Yes - limited</p> <p><b>4</b> Brundall, Brundall Bay Marina<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01603 717804 (phone first)</p> <p><b>5</b> Brundall Fencraft Boatyard<br/>Parking: Yes - limited<br/>Tel: 01603 715011<br/>08:00 - 17:00 (phone out of hours)</p> <p><b>6</b> Rockland, Rockland Staithe<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01508 538622</p> <p><b>7</b> Carleton St Peter Buckenham Sailing Club<br/>Parking: Yes - limited/free/pub charge</p> | <p><b>8</b> Cantley, Next to Reedcutters<br/>Parking: Yes - free</p> <p><b>9</b> Loddon, Prestige Cruisers<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01508 520353 (phone first)</p> <p><b>10</b> Reedham Ferry, Next to Ferry Inn.<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01493 700429</p> <p><b>11</b> St Olaves, Next to St Olaves Bridge<br/>Tel: 01493 488230 (phone first)</p> <p><b>12</b> Burgh St Peter, Waveney River Centre.<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01502 677343 (by arrangement)</p> <p><b>13</b> Oulton Broad, Oulton Broad Yacht Station<br/>Parking: Yes - pay &amp; display<br/>Tel: 01502 574946 (on request)</p> <p><b>14</b> Beccles, Beccles Quay<br/>Parking: Yes - free<br/>Tel: 01502 712225</p> | <p><b>15</b> Geldeston, Rowan Craft<br/>Parking: Yes - charge<br/>Tel: 01508 518208<br/>08:00 - 17:00 (phone first)</p> <p><b>16</b> Loddon, Greenway Marine,<br/>Parking: Yes<br/>Tel: 01508 520397 (phone first)</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Day ticket bank fishing:  
Gt Yarmouth & Norfolk Country Angling Association - day tickets available from bailiff on the bank.  
Waveney River Centre - Tel: 01502 677343

## Inset Map Area 3



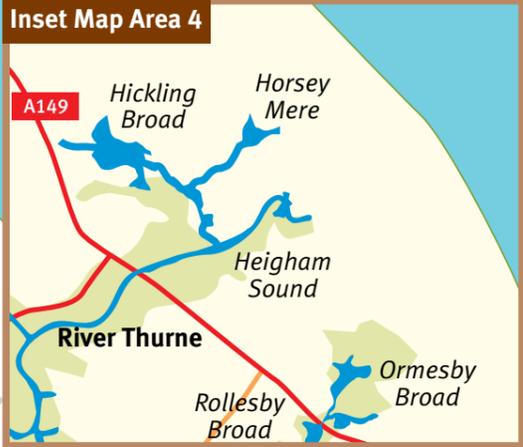
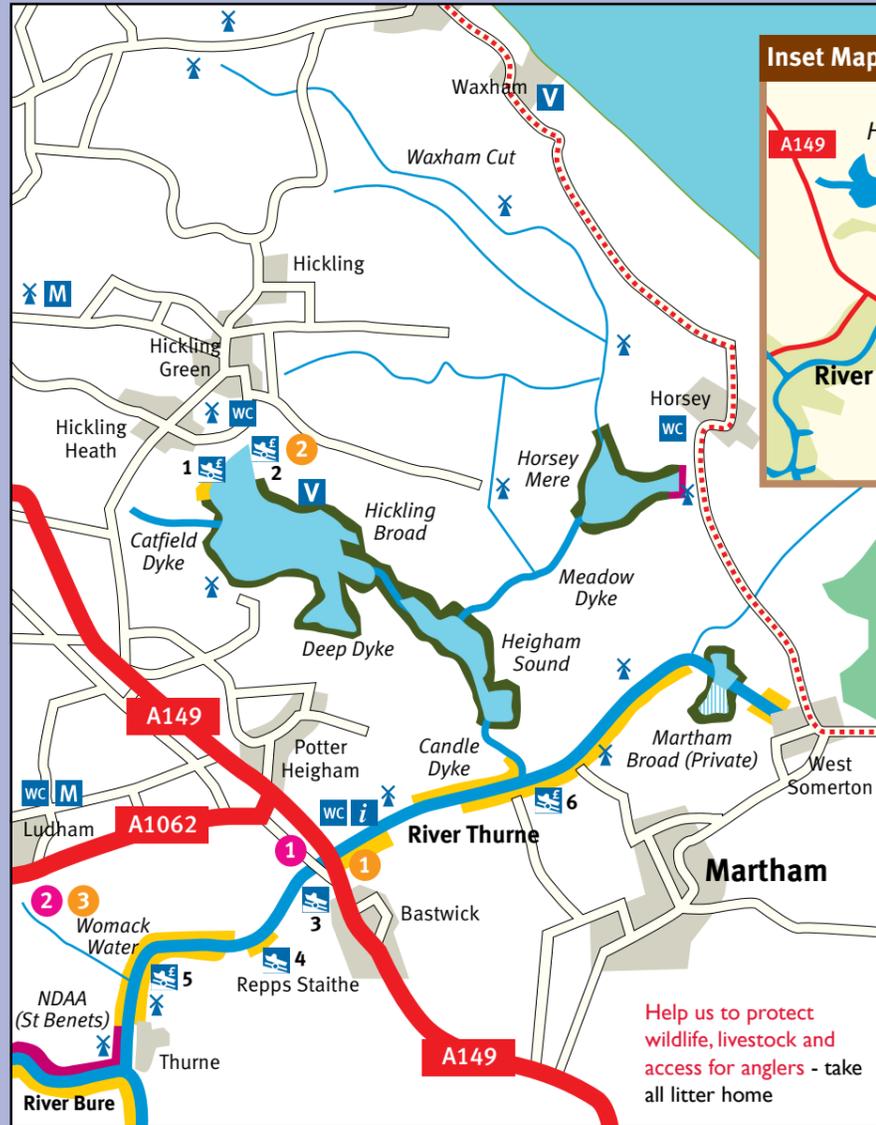
## Fishing tackle shops:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b> Angling Direct<br/>277 Aylsham Road,<br/>Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2RE.<br/>Tel: 01603 400757<br/>www.anglingdirect.co.uk</p> <p><b>2</b> AC Browne &amp; Son<br/>194 Norwich Road, Costessey,<br/>Norwich, Norfolk NR5 0EX.<br/>01603 747679</p> | <p><b>3</b> Avenue Angling<br/>16 Denbigh Road,<br/>Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3AA.<br/>Tel: 01603 764004<br/>www.avenueangling.co.uk</p> <p><b>4</b> Cordy's Tackle Den<br/>390B Bowthorpe Road,<br/>Norwich NR5 8AG.<br/>Tel: 07810 006094</p> | <p><b>5</b> P.W Angling,<br/>59, Long John Hill,<br/>Norwich NR1 2JJ.<br/>Tel: 01603 619381</p> <p><b>6</b> Pownalls, 74 - 75,<br/>Regent Road, Gt.<br/>Yarmouth, Norfolk<br/>NR30 2AJ.<br/>Tel: 01493 842873<br/>www.pownalls.com</p> | <p><b>7</b> Gorleston Tackle Centre<br/>7-8 Pier Walk, Gorleston,<br/>Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 6DA.<br/>Tel: 01493 662448<br/>www.gorlestontackle.co.uk</p> <p><b>8</b> Oulton Broad Fishing Tackle<br/>6 Yacht Station, Bridge Road,<br/>Lowestoft NR33 9JS.<br/>Tel: 01502 539593</p> | <p><b>9</b> Angling Direct(Suffolk)<br/>Unit 3, Taylor Square</p> <p><b>10</b> Avenue Angling (Suffolk),<br/>The Business Park, Ellough<br/>Industrial Estate, Nr Beccles,<br/>NR34 7PE<br/>Tel: 01502 710963<br/>www.avenueangling.co.uk</p> | <p><b>11</b> Waveney River Centre<br/>Staithe Road,<br/>Burgh St Peter,<br/>Suffolk NR34 0BT.<br/>Tel: 01502 677343<br/>www.waveneyrivercentre.co.uk</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Fishing boat hire:

- 1** Alpha Craft  
Riverside Estate,  
Brundall NR13 5PS.  
01603 713265  
www.alphacraft.co.uk

# Map 4: River Thurne



### Slipway details:

- 1 Hickling, Hickling Staithe Parking: No
- 2 Hickling, Whispering Reeds Boatyard, NR12 0YW. Parking: Yes – free Tel: 01692 598314 www.whisperingreeds.net
- 3 Potter Heigham, Phoenix Fleet Parking: Yes – limited Tel: 01692 670460 (phone first)
- 4 Repps cum Bastwick, Pug Lane, Staithe Parking: Yes – free
- 5 Thurne, Thurne Staithe Parking: Yes – limited (up to 5m long & 0.3m draught only)
- 6 Martham, Martham Boat Building Company NR29 4RF. Parking: Yes – small charge Tel: 01493 748365 www.marthamboats.com

**Day ticket bank fishing:**  
**Norwich & District Angling Association**  
 St Benets Fishery – Day permits available from Ludham Post Office and Ludham Bridge Stores. See www.ndaa.org.uk  
 Horsey Estate, Horsey Mere – Day tickets from the bailiff on the bank.

**Free bank fishing**  
 Please note there is no public access for bank fishing from private bungalow frontages.

**Conservation Refuges**  
 To prevent disturbance of over-wintering waterfowl, angling access may be seasonally restricted in certain areas of the Thurne Broads. Anglers should seek further guidance and information prior to fishing – see page 42 and visit: [www.thurnefisheries.co.uk](http://www.thurnefisheries.co.uk) for more information.

### Fishing boat hire:

- 1 **Maycraft (Boat Service) Ltd**  
 North West Riverbank, Potter Heigham, Norfolk NR29 5ND.  
 Tel: 01692 670241  
[www.maycraft.co.uk](http://www.maycraft.co.uk)
- 2 **Whispering Reeds Boats Ltd**  
 Hickling, Norfolk NR12 0YW.  
 Tel: 01692 598314  
[www.whisperingreeds.net](http://www.whisperingreeds.net)
- 3 **Anglia Boats Ltd., Ludham, Norwich, Norfolk NR29 5QG**  
 Tel: 08448001212  
[www.angliaboats.co.uk](http://www.angliaboats.co.uk)

### Fishing tackle shops:

- 1 **Lathams**  
 Bridge Street, Potter Heigham, Norfolk NR29 5JE.  
 Tel: 01692 670080  
[www.lathams-fishing.co.uk](http://www.lathams-fishing.co.uk)
- 2 **Anglia Boats Ltd., Ludham, Norwich, Norfolk NR29 5QG**  
 Tel: 08448001212  
[www.angliaboats.co.uk](http://www.angliaboats.co.uk)

### Angling Clubs

- AYLSHAM & DISTRICT A.C.**  
 Mr K Sutton, 17 Town Lane, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6HH  
 Tel: 01263 732433
- BUNGAY CHERRY TREE A.C.**  
 Mr. D. Gladwell, 16, Florence Way, Ellingham NR35 2LX  
 Tel: 01508 518798 [www.bungaycherrytree.co.uk](http://www.bungaycherrytree.co.uk)
- FLEECE A.C.**  
 Mr Nigel Poll, 7 Green Park, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 9DT  
 Tel: 01379 853571
- GEORGE PRIOR, ENGINEERING A.C.**  
 Mr N Jarmy, 42 Rosedale Gardens, Belton, Great Yarmouth NR31 9PN  
 Tel: 01493 780531
- GREAT YARMOUTH & NORFOLK COUNTY A.A.**  
 Mr Andy Wilson-Sutter, 18, Aveling Way, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft NR33 8BU  
 Tel: 01502 531776 Mob: 07990572729  
[www.riveryare.co.uk](http://www.riveryare.co.uk)
- HARLESTON, WORTWELL & DISTRICT A.C.**  
 Mr Nigel Poll, 7 Green Park, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 9DT  
 Tel: 01379 853571
- KESSINGLAND & CARLTON COLVILLE A.C.**  
 Mr L Ellis, Orchard House, Market Place, Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7TD  
 Tel: 01502 740975
- MARTHAM & DISTRICT A.C.**  
 Mr K Chaplin, 33 Hemsby Road, Martham NR29 4QQ  
 Tel: 01493 748365
- NORFOLK ANGLERS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**  
 PO Box 61, Norfolk NR17 2AL  
[www.norfolkanglers.co.uk](http://www.norfolkanglers.co.uk)
- NORTH COVE & BARNBY A.C.**  
 Mr R Bird, 17 Rectory Road, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft NR33 8BB  
 Tel: 07796 437381
- NORWICH DISABLED A.C.**  
 Mr Goose, 45 Stafford Avenue, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0QF  
 Tel: 01603 745290  
[www.david45.worldonline.co.uk](http://www.david45.worldonline.co.uk)
- NORWICH & DISTRICT A.A.**  
 Mr M Major, Tumbleweed, Flaxlands, Carleton Rode, Norwich NR16 1AD  
 Tel: 01953 789541  
[www.ndaa.org.uk](http://www.ndaa.org.uk)

**NORWICH & DISTRICT PIKE CLUB**  
 Mr Stephen Roberts, Comfrey Cottage, Swardeston, Norwich NR14 8LG  
 Tel: 01508 578359  
[www.norwichpike.com](http://www.norwichpike.com)

**ODDFELLOWS A.C.**  
 Mr M Clare, 8 Calthorpe Road, Norwich NR5 8RX  
 Tel: 01603 503514

**SHRUBLANDS A.C.**  
 Mr. K. Howlett, 17, Suttons Rd, Worlingham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7SJ  
 Tel: 07801674757

**STALHAM A.C.**  
 Mr C Jonas 32, Keeble Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth. NR31 7NA  
 Tel: 07818425914 [www.colin-jonas@stalhamac.co.uk](http://www.colin-jonas@stalhamac.co.uk)

**SUFFOLK COUNTY A.A.**  
 Mr Nigel Poll, 7 Green Park, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 9DT  
 Tel: 01379 853571

**WROXHAM & DISTRICT A.A.**  
 Mr Mark Tibbitts, 139, Bull Close Road, Norwich NR3 1NY  
 Tel: 07876595279 [www.wroxhamanglingclub.co.uk](http://www.wroxhamanglingclub.co.uk)

### Holiday and Day Boat Hire

**BARNES BRINKCRAFT**  
 Riverside, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 8UD  
 Tel: 01603 782625

**BUCCANEER BOATS**  
 Riverside Estate, Brundall Norwich Norfolk NR13 5PL  
 Tel: 01603 712057 Mob: 077746793445  
[www.buccaneerboatsmarina.co.uk](http://www.buccaneerboatsmarina.co.uk)

**NORFOLK BROADS DIRECT - FAIRCRAFT LOYNES**  
 The Bridge, Norwich Road, Wroxham NR12 8RX.  
 Tel: 01603 782207

**FERRY MARINA,**  
 Ferry Road, Horning NR12 8PS.  
 Tel: 01692 630392

**HERBERT WOODS BOATYARD**  
 Potter Heigham NR29 5JF.  
 Tel: 01692 670711

**HORIZON CRAFT**  
 Acle Bridge, Acle NR13 3AS  
 Tel: 01493 750283 (No day boats)

**HOSEASONS HOLIDAYS (No Day Boats)**  
 Sunway House, Lowestoft NR32 2LW  
 Tel: 01502 500505

**RICHARSON'S (STALHAM) LTD**  
 The Staithe, Stalham NR12 9BX.  
 Tel: 0844 770 5213

Expiry  
**31.03.2014**



Environment  
Agency



**got your  
new licence?**

**You must have a valid rod licence\***  
**Expect a big fine if you can't produce one**

**Rod licences expire on 31 March**

There are three ways to buy or renew your rod licence:

- Online at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence)
- At any Post Office® in England and Wales
- Telephone **0844 800 5386**

Lines open 8.30am to 8pm, 7 days a week March to September.  
Calls charged at local rate.



**Concessionary licences (now online), apply if:**

- You are aged 16 or under (Junior)
- You are aged 65 or over
- You have a Blue Badge parking concession, or are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance

**Non-migratory trout, freshwater fish, smelt and eels**

Full	£27.00
Concession	£18.00
Junior	£5.00
8 day	£10.00
1 day	£3.75

**Salmon and sea trout, AND non-migratory trout, freshwater fish, smelt and eels**

Full	£72.00
Concession	£48.00
Junior	£5.00
8 day	£23.00
1 day	£8.00

\* Licence applies to those aged 12 years or older fishing for freshwater fish, smelt, eels, trout or salmon in England, Wales or the Border Esk in Scotland.

**Remember – If you're coarse fishing with 3 or 4 rods, you'll need 2 licences**