

East Anglia Waterways: The Norfolk Broads

[B2]

Questo labirinto di fiumi, laghi e canali navigabili vicino alla costa dell'East Anglia è uno dei parchi nazionali più singolari della Gran Bretagna. Il suo bellissimo paesaggio, pieno di chiese e mulini a vento, possiede un'enorme varietà di fauna e di flora.



The Broads National Park is on England's East Coast, close to the North Sea. Extending like a watery web around the city of Norwich, it is Britain's largest nationally-protected [wetland](#). Also known as the Norfolk Broads (even though it crosses into the neighbouring county of Suffolk), the area comprises more than sixty lakes, known locally as 'broads', [linked](#) by seven main rivers and their tributaries. This is a magical land of [meadow](#), [marsh](#), [reedbeds](#), [fenland](#), [woodland](#), and, of course, broads...

[PEAT DIGGING](#)

Until 1960, most experts assumed that the Broads were a natural [geographical feature](#). However, research confirmed that they were actually the result of [peat digging](#) for fuel during the medieval period. When rising

sea levels filled the peat [pits](#) in the 14th century, they created a series of [shallow](#) lakes. Most of the broads are less than four metres deep.

WINDMILLS AND PUMPS

The towers of ancient churches rise above the water, while iconic [windmills](#) with giant [sails](#) punctuate the Broads' landscape. They were once used to [corn grind](#) and [flour](#), or as [wind pumps to drain](#) water from the [meadows](#) where farm animals [grazed](#). As technology changed and drainage systems became modernised, many mills and pumps [fell into disrepair](#). Some were later restored.

BOATING AND LEISURE

During the 19th century, visitors [flocked](#) to the area for [recreational boating](#). The first [leisure](#) boats were made available for hire in 1878. The tradition continues to this day, with eight million visitors coming to the Broads for this reason every year. There are no [locks](#) to navigate in the Broads, making it easy to cruise, [sail](#) or paddle from one waterway to the next. Out on the water, the only sounds are the [whispering](#) of the reeds, the distant call of birds and the gentle [slapping](#) of waves against the [hull](#) of the boat. On land, a network of [footpaths criss-cross](#) the 303-square-kilometres of the vast [flat parkland](#). It is a [mesmerising](#) and mysterious place that feels both protected and exposed beneath immense skies.

TRADE ROUTE

The Broads waterways were once part of a busy trade route, with [wherries](#) — wooden [barges](#) with large [canvas sails](#) — carrying [goods](#) to and from the coastal ports. The last trading wherry was built in 1912, but some of these distinctive [crafts](#) can still be seen on the Broads today. The Broads are [tidal](#), and the largest areas of water are Hickling Broad and Barton Broad to the north and Breydon Water to the east, near the holiday resort of Great Yarmouth. There is a strict speed limit on all waterways to prevent boats creating waves and damaging the river [banks](#). Whatever the purpose,

travelling on the tranquil Broads today first requires slowing down.
www.visitthebroads.co.uk

Glossary

- **geographical feature** = caratteristica geografica
- **sails** = vele
- **corn** = mais
- **grind** = macinare
- **peat digging** = estrazione della torba
- **windmills** = mulini a vento
- **flour** = farina
- **wherries** = battelli
- **canvas** = tela
- **meadow** = prato
- **to drain** = drenare
- **recreational boating** = navigazione ricreativa
- **locks** = serrature
- **hull** = scafo
- **goods** = merce
- **marsh** = palude
- **woodland** = bosco
- **shallow** = poco profondo
- **flocked** = accorrere
- **leisure** = di svago
- **slapping** = colpire
- **mesmerising** = affascinante
- **fell into disrepair** = essere abbandonati
- **whispering** = sussurrare
- **barges** = galleggianti
- **banks** = rive
- **linked** = unire
- **fenland** = palude
- **grazed** = pascolare
- **sail** = navigare
- **footpaths** = sentieri
- **criss-cross** = incrociare
- **parkland** = area verde

- **reedbeds** = canneto
- **wind pumps** = pompe eoliche
- **wetland** = zone umide
- **pits** = fosse, cave
- **flat** = piatto
- **crafts** = imbarcazioni
- **tidal** = legati alla marea