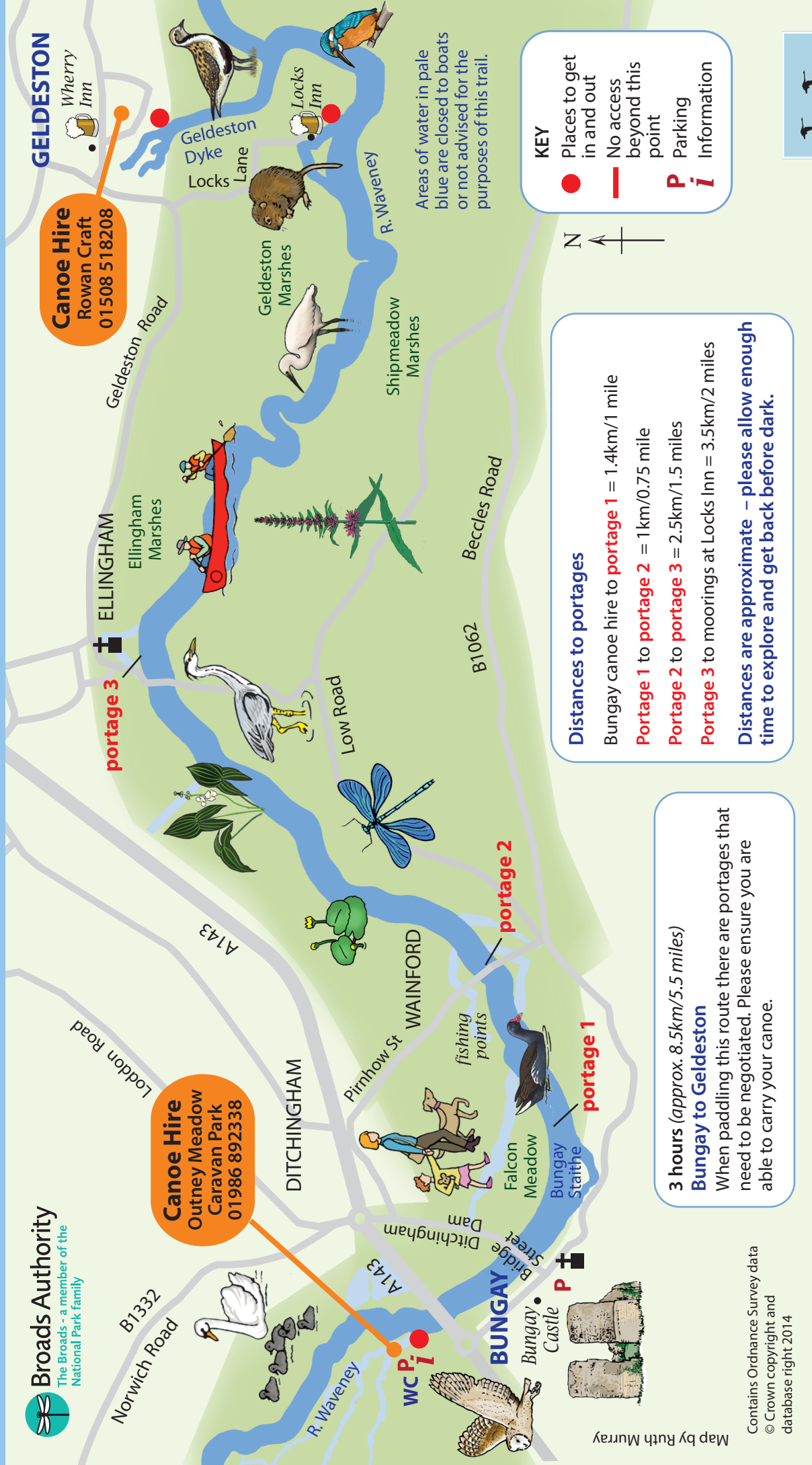


# BUNGAY TO GELDESTON LOCK

www.enjoythebroads.com



The Broads - a member of the National Park family



**Canoe Hire**  
Rowan Craft  
01508 518208

**Canoe Hire**  
Outney Meadow  
Caravan Park  
01986 892338

**KEY**

- Places to get in and out
- No access beyond this point
- P** Parking
- i** Information

**Distances to portages**

Bungay canoe hire to **portage 1** = 1.4km/1 mile  
**Portage 1** to **portage 2** = 1km/0.75 mile  
**Portage 2** to **portage 3** = 2.5km/1.5 miles  
**Portage 3** to moorings at Locks Inn = 3.5km/2 miles

**Distances are approximate – please allow enough time to explore and get back before dark.**

**3 hours (approx. 8.5km/5.5 miles)**

**Bungay to Geldeston**

When paddling this route there are portages that need to be negotiated. Please ensure you are able to carry your canoe.

If you have any problems please contact Broads Control on 01603 756056, staffed daily 9am-6pm from April to October and 9am-5pm during the winter. If the incident is more serious please call 999 or 112 and ask for the appropriate emergency service, which may be the coastguard.

**These maps are for illustrative purposes and are not drawn to scale. Please do not try to use them for accurate navigation.**

- The Broads is an ideal place to enjoy paddling, with little or no experience required.
- Please park sensibly and only use the indicated launch points.
- We advise you to wear a life jacket, and to check weather and tide information prior to starting your trip.
- The waterways in the Broads are open to all forms of navigation so please be aware of other craft and also anglers fishing from the riverbanks.



Contains Ordnance Survey data  
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Map by Ruth Murray

# BUNGAY TO GELDESTON LOCK CANOE TRAIL

No experience is necessary and the route is suitable for families with children. Please check opening times and other details for places mentioned below.

[www.enjoythebroads.com](http://www.enjoythebroads.com)

- All along the **Waveney** valley there are remnants of the industrial significance of this area in the 18th and 19th centuries. Navigation to **Bungay** was improved following an Act of Parliament in 1670. The river had been navigable from Great Yarmouth to Bungay before this, but over the years, due to neglect, it had become obstructed and clogged up with weed and silt so boats couldn't get beyond Beccles. As a result, goods had to be transported by land, which was more expensive and brought hardship further upstream, especially to Bungay. The waterway improvements included building four locks at **Wainford, Ellingham, Shipmeadow** and **Geldeston**. Improved navigation brought considerable trading wealth to Bungay until this privately owned navigation closed in 1934.
- Start at **Outney Meadow** campsite and turn right on to the River Waveney. Paddle under the **road bridge** and towards Bungay.
- **Ditchingham Dam**, the Neolithic long barrow on Broome Heath (to the north of Ditchingham Dam conservation area), is evidence of prehistoric settlement. The discovery of Roman urns in the village in 1864 suggests that there was also some settlement here during the Roman occupation.
- Follow the river under **Bridge Street**. Just beyond the bridge, on the right, the top of **St Mary's Church** tower looks over the town. A tale is told that on one Sunday in 1577 when the townsfolk were sheltering from a terrifying thunderstorm, the devil appeared as a black hell hound and attacked the congregation, slaying many of them. As suddenly as it appeared, the hound fled in the direction of Blythburgh Church, where it mauled and killed more parishioners. Today the story is known as the Black Dog of Bungay and it is said that the dog would return if a person walked round the church 13 times.

- **Falcon Meadow** on the left hand side of the river is an excellent spot for fishing, with access for disabled anglers.
- Continue to **Bungay Staithe**, which used to be the heart of the town. For centuries Bungay was involved in the construction of wherries due to its position on the Waveney and the quality of local oak trees. In 1860 William Brighton, who worked in the Bungay Staithe area, developed a special version of the traditional wherry for use on the Waveney, with boats measuring no more than 70 by 16 feet. He also built the famous wherry Albion.

You'll need to portage canoes at this point. The word portage comes from the French 'porter' and means the carrying of boats and supplies overland between two waterways or around an obstacle to navigation.

Around the **canoe portage** there is wealth of yellow water lilies, common in still or slow moving water. The yellow water lily is also known as brandy bottle, due to the scent, which is like the dregs of wine. Once the lily finishes flowering the ovary swells to a pod the size of a tennis ball, detaches itself from the stem and floats downstream. Eventually it sinks to the river bed where it takes root.

- The next **portage** is at Wainford Mill, allowing access around the mill area. During the American War of Independence, 1775-1783, Bungay, Wainford and Ellingham Mills produced flour for export to America.
- In the summer you can see banded demoiselles damselflies flitting along the river edges, briefly resting on the lilies. The males compete on the wing for breeding territories and then court a female with a special flight display. The males have a distinctive black band across the width of their wings and are metallic blue in colour, while the females' wings are transparent and their bodies are green with a bronze tip.
- Ellingham Mill is the last **portage** on the River Waveney and downstream from Geldeston Lock the navigation is managed by the Broads Authority.

*Trail map and information designed by Ruth Murray*



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## Planning your trip...

- Wear bright clothing for high visibility and footwear which will protect your feet.
- Things to take in a waterproof bag (provided) to go in the canoe:

charged mobile phone

first aid kit and antiseptic wipes

torch and spare batteries

waterproof clothes and spare warm clothes

sun screen, sun hat and sunglasses

hot and cold drinks plus lunch or snacks

anything you need to protect such as a camera

## At the launch site...

- Everyone must always wear a buoyancy aid when on or near the water. Don't remove it until you have left the water's edge.
- Beware of Weil's disease (leptospirosis) – it is very rare but serious. Cover all cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters.

## On the water...

- Canoes are light and easy to tip over. Keep the canoe balanced at all times. Step into the middle when getting in and out. Sit or kneel in the canoe – don't stand up or change places unless you can hold on to the bank. Don't lean over and don't hit the bank.
- Stay on the right hand side of the river or channel. Don't cut corners on bends. Keep close to the banks unless advised otherwise.
- Keep track of time – allow enough time for the return journey. Make allowances for winds and currents which may slow you down.
- Paddle gently and at a distance from wildlife to minimise disturbance.
- Keep a lookout for other boats and anglers and give them plenty of room – they may not have seen you.
- Be considerate when entering other designated water sports zones.
- Keep clear of overhanging trees and branches.
- Don't grab hold of ropes from other boats, even if moored.
- For safety reasons don't drink alcohol on the water.
- Clean your hands with antiseptic wipes before eating or drinking.
- Never enter the water to rescue someone – reach, or throw a rope or anything that will float.
- If you capsize stay with the canoe – it will float. Swim with it to the bank, empty it out and use it to collect anything lost overboard.

## And if you have your own canoe...

- Make sure your equipment, including a buoyancy aid for everyone, is suitable and in good order.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you are safely off the water.
- Take into account the weather forecast, tides, and water flows and levels in relation to your equipment and your ability, and that of others if you are in a group.
- Don't cause an obstruction when parking or obstruct footpaths with gear.
- Make sure you have permission to use the launch site and use the designated paths.
- Launch and land with care and where the bank has vegetation.



We need to minimise the spread of invasive alien species such as *Dikerogammarus villosus* or the 'killer shrimp'. So after canoeing please remember to:

**Check** equipment and clothing for live organisms – particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect. If you come across any killer shrimp, leave them at the water body where you found them.

**Clean** and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

**Dry** all equipment and clothing – killer shrimp can live for up to two weeks in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water to another place.

[www.checkcleandry.com](http://www.checkcleandry.com)

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

If you have any problems please contact your Canoe Hire Centre. You can also contact Broads Control on 01603 756056, staffed daily 9am-6pm from April to October and 9am-5pm during the winter. If the incident is more serious please call 999 or 112 and ask for the appropriate emergency service, which may be the coastguard.