

GELDESTON CANOE TRAILS

www.enjoythebroads.com

GELDESTON

Wherry Inn

The Street

Canoe Hire
Rowan Craft
01508 518208

visitors' moorings



Dunburgh Hill

DUNBURGH

Gillingham Road

GILLINGHAM

3 – 6 hours (approx. 10.5km/6 miles) Geldeston to Beccles and return
Keener paddlers will comfortably make it to Beccles and back in 3 hours. Within 6 hours you can go at a more leisurely pace with time for some breaks. This is a lovely, tranquil stretch of river with few large boats.

Paler blues areas of water are not open to any boats.

willows



1 hour (approx. 3km/2 miles) Geldeston to Geldeston Locks and return
From Geldeston village paddle down the dyke and at the end turn right on to the River Waveney towards Geldeston Lock.

To Bungay
If you have a little longer you can continue towards Bungay. There are no motorboats on this stretch so it's extremely peaceful with lots of wildlife.

Geldeston Lock/ Shipmeadow Lock

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Rowan Craft, Wherry Dyke, Geldeston, Beccles NR34 0LY
01508 518208
www.rowancraft.com

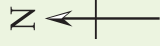
Here are some suggestions for your route, whether you are paddling your own canoe or hiring one. No experience is necessary and routes are suitable for families with children. Times are approximate.

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.



Broads Authority
The Broads - a member of the National Park family

KEY
● Canoe hire
● Places to get in and out



Lowestoft
Norwich A146

Gillingham Dam



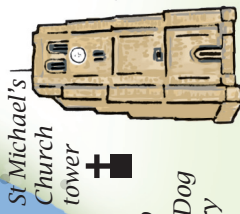
Waveney Meadow

Beccles Museum

The Thames barges Quay
Beccles Old Bridge

TRAIL ENDS HERE

BECCLES



St Michael's Church tower

lido

Big Dog Ferry



STEP

2 Mers Sout Zeeën
INTERREG IVA
PROJEKT - INNOVACIJA - SLOVENIJA



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GELDESTON CANOE TRAILS

Rowan Craft, Wherry Dyke, Geldeston,
Beccles NR34 0LY 01508 518208
www.rowancraft.com

The canoe hire centre makes a charge for launching your own canoe. This includes use of car park and toilets.

Here are some suggestions for your route, whether you are paddling your own canoe or hiring one. No experience is necessary and routes are suitable for families with children. Times are approximate and allow for a short stop on the 1 hour trail and breaks on the 6 hour trail. Please check opening times and other details for places mentioned below.
www.enjoythebroads.com

1 hour – Geldeston village to Geldeston Lock and return

- Owls and deer live around the **boatyard**. The good water quality produces a wealth of fish including bream, roach, perch and pike. Otters are back living in the wild on the river and have been sighted regularly within the yard for the first time in many years. Look out along the way for kingfishers and nesting swans too in spring.
- Paddle down the **dyke** and at the end turn right on to the **River Waveney**.
- The **Locks Inn** is one of the oldest pubs in the Broads, with a fascinating history. If you stop at the lock you can read a bit about the area or to find out more in advance of your visit watch *Memories of Geldeston* on www.enjoythebroads.com or listen to *Walk around Geldeston Lock* on www.broads-authority.gov.uk
- In 1670 an Act of Parliament was passed to improve the navigation upstream of Beccles and three locks were built, at Geldeston, Ellingham and Wainford. This made it possible for sailing wherries laden with cargo to travel to Bungay, with its brewing and malting industries. Ellingham and Geldeston were also railway stations on the now dismantled Waveney Valley Line, on the north side of the river, opened in the early 1860s.
- If you've no time to linger at the Locks, try the **Wherry Inn** at Geldeston village for refreshment before or after your paddle.

3-6 hours – Geldeston to Beccles and return

- Keener paddlers will comfortably make it to Beccles and back in 3 hours.
- With 6 hours you can go at a more leisurely pace with time for some breaks.
- This is a lovely, tranquil stretch of the river with few large boats.
- Paddle down the dyke and at the end turn left on to the River Waveney.
- As you pass **Dunburgh Hill** on the left (a hill in relative terms only!), look at the large area of reed on your right – marsh harriers nest there in the reed close to the ground.
- Continue past **Barsham Marshes** on your right. There is evidence here of a Bronze Age river crossing or ferry point.
- Towards Beccles the large buildings on the right hand side are part of the old industrial area of the town which included maltings, glassworks and tanneries.
- **Beccles Lido** is close to the river if you fancy a dip to cool off and the **information centre** down at the **quay** will help you with all the local information you may need.
- **Beccles Church** is unusual as its tower is separate from the rest of the building. The tower has three clock faces but not a fourth. The side without a clock is the one facing Norfolk – a reminder that the river is the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk. You can sometimes climb the tower for fantastic views across the marshes. If that's not possible the view from ground level is lovely too.
- **Beccles Museum** will tell you all about the history of the town and is located in the beautiful Sir John Leman House which dates originally from the 16th century.
- Beccles is a real market town with a market on Fridays in New Market Place. It's good for shopping and has places for all kinds of refreshments.
- If you go through Beccles and under the **Old and New Bridges**, you can moor up and have a walk on **Beccles Marshes** to see the site of recent archaeological explorations which have uncovered remains dating from 75 BC.



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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, 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

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

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