

Guide to canoeing the Waveney. No.2

Bungay to Ellingham



Introduction

This guide is aimed to give you an enjoyable day paddling a canoe along the river Waveney from



the Outney meadow Campsite downstream to Ellingham Mill. Outney Meadow Campsite needs

permission to launch from an alternative is to launch from Bungay staithe where there is limited parking.

This route is more committing than route 1 around the loop. There are a number of weirs on the route that will need to be walked around or portaged.

Background Information

- Some scholars believe that the river Waveney is one of the southern most valleys created in the last ice age.
- The river used to be navigable to Bungay with sailing Wherries.
- The Waveney is a Natural river that flows from Lopham Fenn just west of Diss to Great Yarmouth.
- The river is home to a great deal of wildlife and further examples are given later.
- Follow this route on Ordnance Survey map OL 40 grid ref TM 334903 for Outney Meadow Campsite. Contact the site on 01986 892338

Wildlife

Canoeing is an excellent way to explore wildlife as you can get to places others can't and you can do it quietly. All of these can be seen on the river, but some are quite rare.

Swans. Can often be seen on the river. They are territorial so can swim in front of you, and then decide to turn back and swim past you. Swans on this part of the river are used to seeing people and are usually safe, but swans can be dangerous especially with their young. Keeping to one

side and quiet is a good idea.
Mute swan



Whooper swan



Otters. Are rarely spotted, but are living on the river.



Kingfishers are nesting along the river, but they are easily scared so you will need to be quiet and observant to see them.



Herons are often spotted on the river or flying overhead. They like the clear water for fishing.



Freshwater Mussel



Tench

Main types of



fish include:

Rudd



Perch

Steering an open canoe

The wind has a big impact on an open canoe. If the wind is behind you, you want slightly more weight in the back of the canoe. If you are paddling into the wind more weight in the front of the canoe. This is called the "trim" of the canoe. You may be able to alter this by moving people or bags etc.

Safety

Safety when near and on the water is always important. Follow guidance given to you from the hire centre and everyone should keep their buoyancy aids on.

Weirs and other water control features are very dangerous and you should keep well clear of all features.

In an emergency

The bank is **private land and should not be landed on at any point.**

Other Points

Please have respect for other users of the water and the land around. Ask fishermen which side to pass them on and do so quietly.

For more information about canoeing in your area contact The British Canoe Union.
Tel: 0115 9821100



Information correct at time of writing. No liability can be accepted for people following this guide.
L.Chapman April 2004



Ellingham. The Sluice here is also extremely dangerous and you **MUST** stay well clear of it. Land upstream on the right, near a bigish tree and drag boats to the road. Getting on the other side of the road/ sluice can be very difficult as this is the limit of the tide and the drop can be very big.



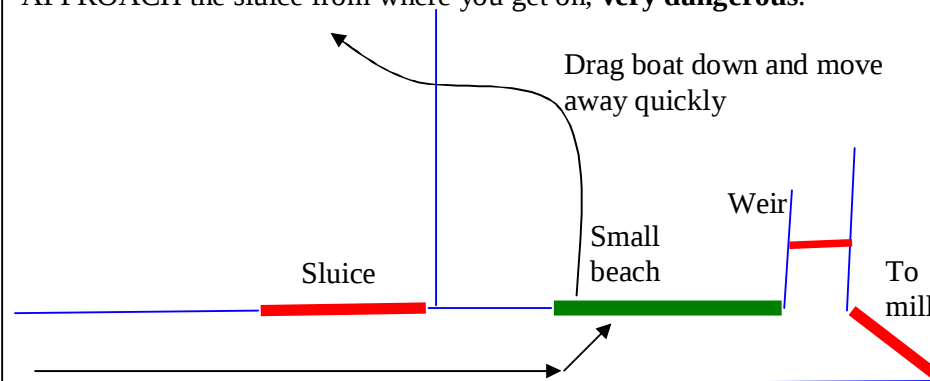
Deep wide river

Start at the campsite. Go under the main road.



A143

Wainford, Great caution is needed here, there is a big sluice, a weir and a mill channel! Best approached on the right hand side of the river as you are travelling downstream, to miss the sluice, then cut across to a small beach, carry the canoes carefully down the slope to the left to get back in. **DO NOT APPROACH** the sluice from where you get on, **very dangerous**.



Bungay staithe, The sluice here has recently been rebuilt but is still dangerous to most canoeists. Get out on the portage stage on the right hand side, then carry or drag the canoes around to get in the other side. The staithe is the home of Waveney Valley canoe club and their new club house can clearly be seen complete with public toilets.

The trip is **approximately 3 hours** paddling time, so why not take a picnic with you.

--- path --- track --- land here
--- river --- Danger

These photographs were taken in early spring, and therefore trees etc will look different at other seasons!

