

What is a wherry?

A wherry is a very large cargo boat. They were used all over the Broads, before road transport became easy and cheap.

Some wherries were also used as pleasure boats for holidays.



Albion is the only cargo wherry left now.

She was built in 1898 to work mostly on the River Waveney to carry materials for the beer-making industry.

Lorries do the same sort of job today.

This lorry carries the same amount of cargo as Albion sometimes carried - 40 tons.



How big is a wherry?

Albion is 18m long; (if you include the rudder she is 20m long).

That's a bit more than fourteen average 10 year old children lying down.

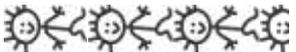


1. Measure your height and work out how many of you that is.

2. How many children holding hands are needed to make a human chain

20 metres long.  ?

Albion is 4.6m wide.

That's a bit more than 3 average 10 year olds lying down. 

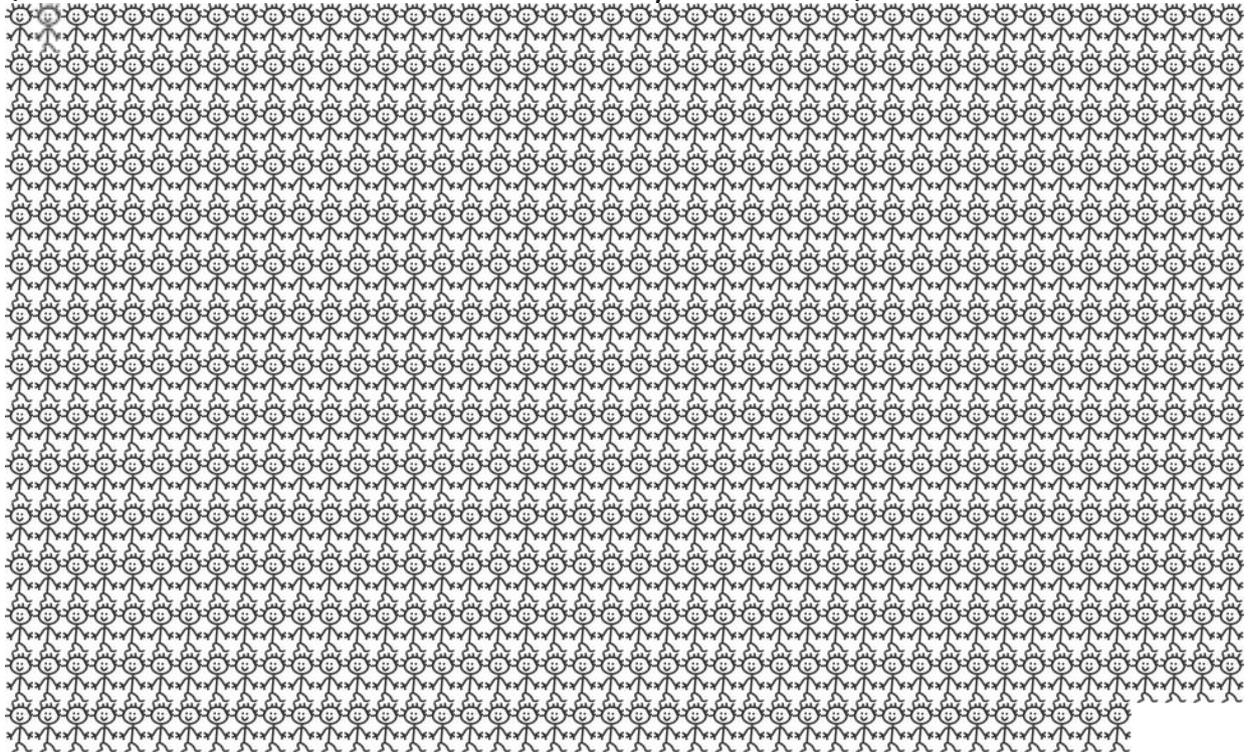
Albion needs 1.4m of water to float in.

That's the same height as 1 average 10 year old. 

Albion's mast is 12.8m tall. How many of your friends would have to stand on each other to reach the top ?

Albion weighs 23 tons without a cargo.
That's the same as 657 average 10 year olds.

(Is that heavier than all the children in your school?)



Albion's first cargo was coal from Lowestoft to Bungay for a shilling a ton.

On board there is a little cabin with 2 bunks, and a stove for cooking and heating.

Geldeston Lock

The river was the major transport route up and down the Waveney valley. The lock made the river deep enough for these big boats to get upstream as far as Bungay. Most of the early customers for the Locks Inn at Geldeston must have been working and travelling on the wherries.

