



Bridges



As you travel through The Broads, you will probably have to negotiate some of the road or rail bridges. This need not be a daunting task if you follow our guide.

Planning your journey

- Check bridge clearances and the tide tables and plan to arrive at a bridge when there is sufficient clearance beneath the bridge to allow your boat to pass through.
- Remember you may need to moor up somewhere if you need to get your canopy or mast down to clear the bridge.

Great Yarmouth Bridges

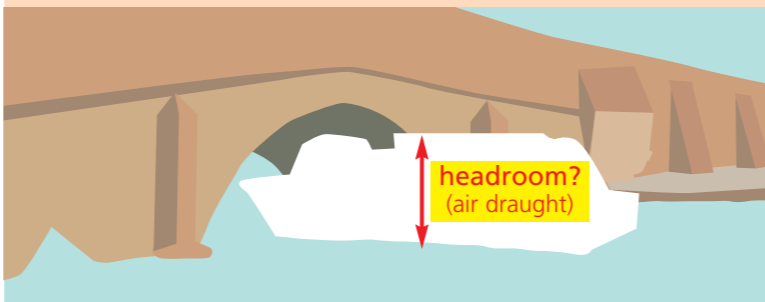
Always plan to depart or arrive at these bridges at slack water (about one hour after low water at Great Yarmouth Yacht Station). Tide will be less of a hazard and you will have maximum clearance under the bridges.

Bridge pilots

Potter Heigham Old Road Bridge
All hire boats **must** use the bridge pilot - available 8.30 am - 6.00 pm. Passage depends on tide and weather conditions. tel 01692 670460

Wroxham Bridges
Certain hire boats must use the bridge pilot - please refer to your boat manual. Make sure the back of your boat is clear of the bridge before you turn.

Measuring up

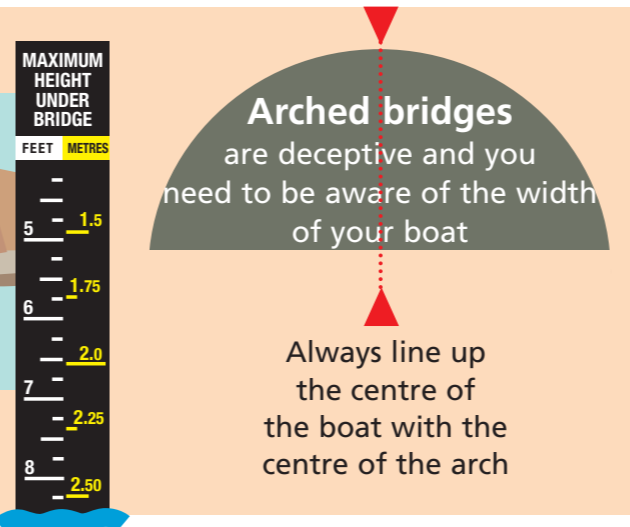


Make sure you know the **headroom** (air draught) your boat needs before trying to get under a bridge. This is the distance between the waterline and the topmost part of your boat.

Check the advance bridge **gauge** or **clearance** boards to see what clearance you have available and whether your boat will pass through.

Approaching the bridge

- Allow plenty of time to get your mast or canopy down – several bridges have de-masting points for this purpose.
- Always make sure you and your crew are safely inside the cockpit when going under a bridge - **watch your head!**
- Be mindful of other river users, but always try to pass through the centre of the channel when going under a bridge.
- At bridges, power driven boats travelling against the current or tide should give way to boats travelling with the tide or current.



Opening bridges

Most bridges do not need to be booked in advance. For **Trowse Swing Bridge** visit www.broads-authority.gov.uk for specific opening times. For **Carrow** and **Novi Sad Bridges** (Norwich) telephone Broads Radio Control 01603 756056.

Reedham and Somerleyton Bridges

If you need these bridges to open, give three long blasts on the horn or call on VHF channel 12. Bridges will not open for boats clearly able to pass under.

A single red flag indicates the bridge is operational and in service.

Two red flags indicate the bridge is not in service and is in-operable. You will also need to take note of any signs.

Bridge clearances

	central clearance high water normal tide	
River Bure		
••• Wroxham Railway	4.57m	15'
••• Wroxham Road	2.29m	7'6"
• Acle	3.66m	12'
around Great Yarmouth		
•• Yarmouth Acle Road	2.13m	7'
•• Yarmouth Vauxhall	2.06m	6'9"
• Yarmouth Haven	2.90m	9'6"
• Breydon Fixed Span	3.96m	13'
• Breydon Lifting Span	3.50m	11'6"
River Thurne		
••• Potter Heigham Bypass	2.36m	7'9"
••• Potter Heigham Old Road	2.03m	6'8"
River Ant		
•• Ludham	2.60m	8'6"
•• Wayford	2.13m	7'
River Yare		
• Reedham	3.05m	10'
• Postwick Viaduct	10.67m	35'
•• Thorpe Railway (2 bridges)	1.83m	6'
River Wensum		
• Norwich Trowse Railway	3.05m	10'
• Norwich Carrow	4.27m	14'
• Norwich Novi Sad	4.87m	16'
• Norwich Foundry	3.05m	10'
River Waveney		
••• Beccles Bypass	4.27m	14'
••• Beccles Old Road	1.98m	6'6"
• Oulton Broad Mutford	2.40m	7'10"
• Oulton Broad Lake Lothing	4.57m	15'
• Lowestoft Harbour	2.2m	7'1"
• Somerleyton	2.60m	8'6"
• St Olaves	2.44m	8'
Haddiscoe New Cut		
• Haddiscoe Flyover	7.32m	24'

NB In all cases, tidal levels can vary considerably and so affect the above figures.

- Arched Bridges – clearance is given at the centre.
- Canopies, windscreens, etc should be lowered and extra care taken.
- As references • and •• combined.
- Lift or Swing Bridges

Help! Try to take a mobile phone, make sure it is charged and know your number.

Useful numbers

Emergencies 999
Coastguard, Police, Ambulance, Fire

Problems/advice Broads Radio Control
Broads Authority 01603 756056

Police 0845 4564567
non-emergency number for crime and anti-social behaviour

If you have to telephone in an emergency be as specific as possible about your location. Give:

- the name of the boat
- how many people are on board
- the name of the river
- the nearest village
- any nearby landmarks/post number
- the nearest 24 hour mooring site - this may include a grid reference



Further information, Byelaws and Better Boating DVD available from the Broads Authority, Dragonfly House, 2 Gilders Way, Norwich NR3 1UB tel 01603 610734 fax 01603 756069 broads@broads-authority www.broads-authority.gov.uk