



# Sailing



## Sailing on The Broads

Sailing is a quiet and environmentally friendly way of enjoying The Broads. Day boats and holiday boats are available and it's also a great place to learn to sail. If you are using your own boat you must have a Broads Authority boat licence.

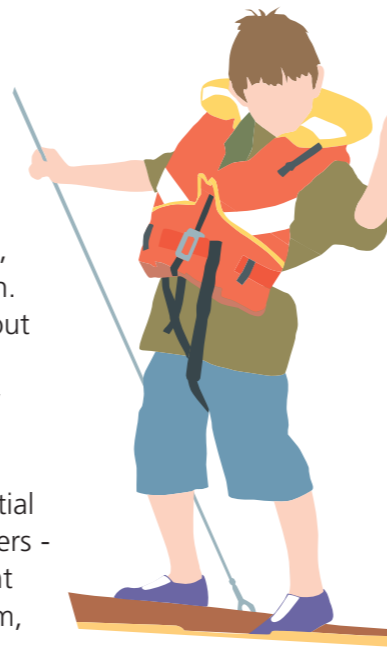
More info from Broads Information Centres at Beccles, Hoveton, Potter Heigham, Ranworth, Toad Hole Cottage and Whitlingham Visitor Centre or [www.broads-authority.gov.uk](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk).

## Getting ready

- Going out on your own? Let someone know where you are going, when you are likely to return and when you are safely off the water.
- Always wear a life-jacket both in and around your boat and especially while it's under way. It's much easier to rescue a person wearing a life-jacket and much safer for the rescuer.
- If you are likely to come into contact with the water, beware of Weil's disease (leptospirosis). Cover all cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters. Weil's disease is a very rare but serious infection with flu-like symptoms. If you have any concerns seek medical advice immediately.
- A tidy boat is a safer boat - avoid trip hazards and keep all ropes coiled neatly.

## Out on the water

- Keep an eye on everyone on board, particularly children. Keep a good lookout and remind others on board that they should too.
- Be aware of potential blind spots for others - although you might be able to see them, they might not have seen you. Plan manoeuvres accordingly.
- Always stay on the right hand side of the river or channel whenever possible, but remember it might be more shallow than you expect on the inside of the bends.
- Give clear instructions to those on board and make them aware of potential hazards on board such as winches, booms, etc.
- Some Broads users don't know much about sailing, so keep an eye on other boats and plan ahead. If they seem unsure what to do, give clear instructions.
- In a potential collision situation you have a duty to avoid the collision even if you have right of way.
- Be aware of overhead power cables - look out, look up!



## Hazard markers

Keep clear of banks, buoys, channel markers and red hazard markers.

A red marker may be marking a group of hazards rather than a specific point. Always pay attention to warning signs on the bank. Beware of shallows and take extra care in periods of very high water as you may not be able to see the riverbank.

## Mooring up

- Always moor up against the tide, current and wind, and wherever possible on a windward shore. At staffed moorings, please follow the directions of the quay rangers.
- Anglers should not obstruct boats at moorings or de-masting points, but give them time to move their gear.
- Never jump ashore - the ground could be slippery. Do not run along the moorings.
- If mooring stern on, use your mud weight as added security and to stop the bow swinging.
- Do not trail mooring lines across footpaths, causing a trip hazard or blocking access.
- Allow slack in mooring ropes for changes in water level due to tide - check ropes regularly.
- If you go ashore in the evening, take a torch and spare batteries. Plan your route back, try not to return alone and remember, due to tide, the water may be higher or lower than before.

## Bridges



Plan ahead when approaching a bridge. Always lower your mast well beforehand. Most bridges have moorings reserved for de-masting.

Mind your head and keep everyone inside when going under bridges.

In most situations give way to boats sailing against the wind, but at bridges, always give way to any boat travelling with the tide.

## Bridge pilots

Most hire companies require you to use the bridge pilot at Potter Heigham. At Wroxham certain hire boats must use the pilot - please refer to your boat manual.

Swing bridges will open for you but you may have to wait. If two red flags are shown the bridge is in-operable and you may need to lower your mast.

## Plan ahead for crossing Breydon Water at Great Yarmouth

Have your boat ready for the bridges well before you get there. Arrive at the mouth of the River Bure at slack water (about one hour after low water at Great Yarmouth Yacht Station).



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

## Useful numbers

<b>Emergencies</b> .....	999
<i>Coastguard, Police, Ambulance, Fire</i>	
<b>Problems/advice</b> .....	Broads Radio Control
<i>Broads Authority</i>	01603 756056
<b>Police</b> .....	0845 4564567
<i>non-emergency number for crime and anti-social behaviour</i>	

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



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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](mailto:broads@broads-authority) [www.broads-authority.gov.uk](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk)