# 30 Boating Basics

# How to cross Breydon Water

Beautiful Breydon Water, on the edge of Great Yarmouth, is an internationally important site for water birds. A cruise across it takes you to and fro between the northern and southern rivers. It can be challenging, so you need to prepare and take care.

### Follow our guidance here for a safe crossing.

Think about your journey well ahead. You can contact our staff at Great Yarmouth Yacht Station on 01493 842794 or 07766 398238 (see page 25). They'll work out the best time for you to cross and give guidance. If anything's not clear to you, ask again. Leave a message if necessary (with your telephone number) and they will get back to you.

## 2

Plan your crossing so that you can go under Great Yarmouth bridges at slack water, which is about an hour after low water. The tide will be less of a hazard and you'll have maximum clearance under the bridges. Larger vessels (with an air draft over 2.32m or 7'6") may need to cross at low water rather than waiting for slack water - please contact Great Yarmouth Yacht Station for advice. The tide tables on page 31 give the times of low water. Crossing at other times is inadvisable. There are two bridges close together. The old metal railway bridge, Vauxhall Bridge, is 7.62cm (3") lower than the concrete road bridge, Yarmouth/Acle Road Bridge. You should be passing under bridges with at least 30cm (a foot) to spare.

No hire craft 3 beyond here Dangerous tides and North Sea ahead Work out the time you need to leave your previous mooring by working backwards from the time Shallow water you need to be in Great Yarmouth. It will take and mud Demasting about 2¼ hours to get to Great Yarmouth Channel structure from Acle and about 2 hours from Reedham or St Olaves. Make sure that you won't be Shallow water Lay-by navigating in the dark - hire boats are not moorina and mud allowed to navigate before sunrise or after sunset as they have no navigation **Bridge Clearance** lights. Check the weather forecast Clearance at average high water during the - don't cross if visibility is poor or summer is given below but always check the there are strong winds. bridge clearance boards (pictured right). Look out for additional advance bridge clearance boards as **Berney Arms Reach** Take care here Watch out for water skiers Bure. The river is narrow and tides can be strong. **Broads** Authority Always stay in in the central straight of Lower your canopy in plenty of time. Make sure 24-hr free moorings Breydon Water - see signs the channel everyone is down inside the boat. for 8 boats between the on posts red and green 1 Breydon Bridge 3.96m (13') **Berney Mill and** B posts. Go through the right-hand side span. Berney Mill 2 **Broads Authority** Stop lights indicate you Navigate between 24-hr free must not pass through the two arrows ŏ moorings for on the bridges. the centre span 12 and 6 boats This map is intended as a guide. **Burgh Castle** Do not use for navigation. Broads Authority 2 Vauxhall Bridge 2.06m(6'9") **River Yare** 24-hr free moorings River to Reedham 3 Yarmouth/Acle Road Bridge 2.13m(7') for 15 boats, electric This map is reproduced by permission of Waveney charging point Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Note: In all cases tidal levels can vary considerably and so affect to St Olaves and Copyright and database right 2014. Ordnance the above figures. R (-) Survey Licence number 100021573 **Oulton Broad** 

Always wear life jackets when on deck. Have your canopy or mast lowered ready for passing under the bridges. Before going under any bridge check your boat height (shown on a plate in the cockpit or in the skipper's manual). Check the bridge clearance boards to make sure that your boat will fit under the bridges. Don't steer your boat from the outside steering position - if something goes wrong you are vulnerable.



Check the map here to make sure you know what to do. Keep everyone inside the boat or cockpit during the crossing. Concentrate on what you are doing. The channel has some bends in it, but don't take shortcuts. Never go outside the red and green navigation posts. If you get stuck, try and reverse. If that doesn't work, call your boatyard.



Crossing Breydon Water at slack water - note how the navigation channel runs through extensive mudbanks

MOORING - tie the front rope first. Be aware of the rise and fall of the tide in this area (about 2.2m or 7') and adjust your ropes and fenders.

