

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.

1

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.

3

Work out the time you need to leave your previous mooring by working backwards from the time you need to be in Great Yarmouth. It will take about 2¼ hours to get to Great Yarmouth from Acle and about 2 hours from Reedham or St Olaves. Make sure that you won't be navigating in the dark – hire boats are not allowed to navigate before sunrise or after sunset as they have no navigation lights. Check the weather forecast – don't cross if visibility is poor or there are strong winds.

4

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.

5

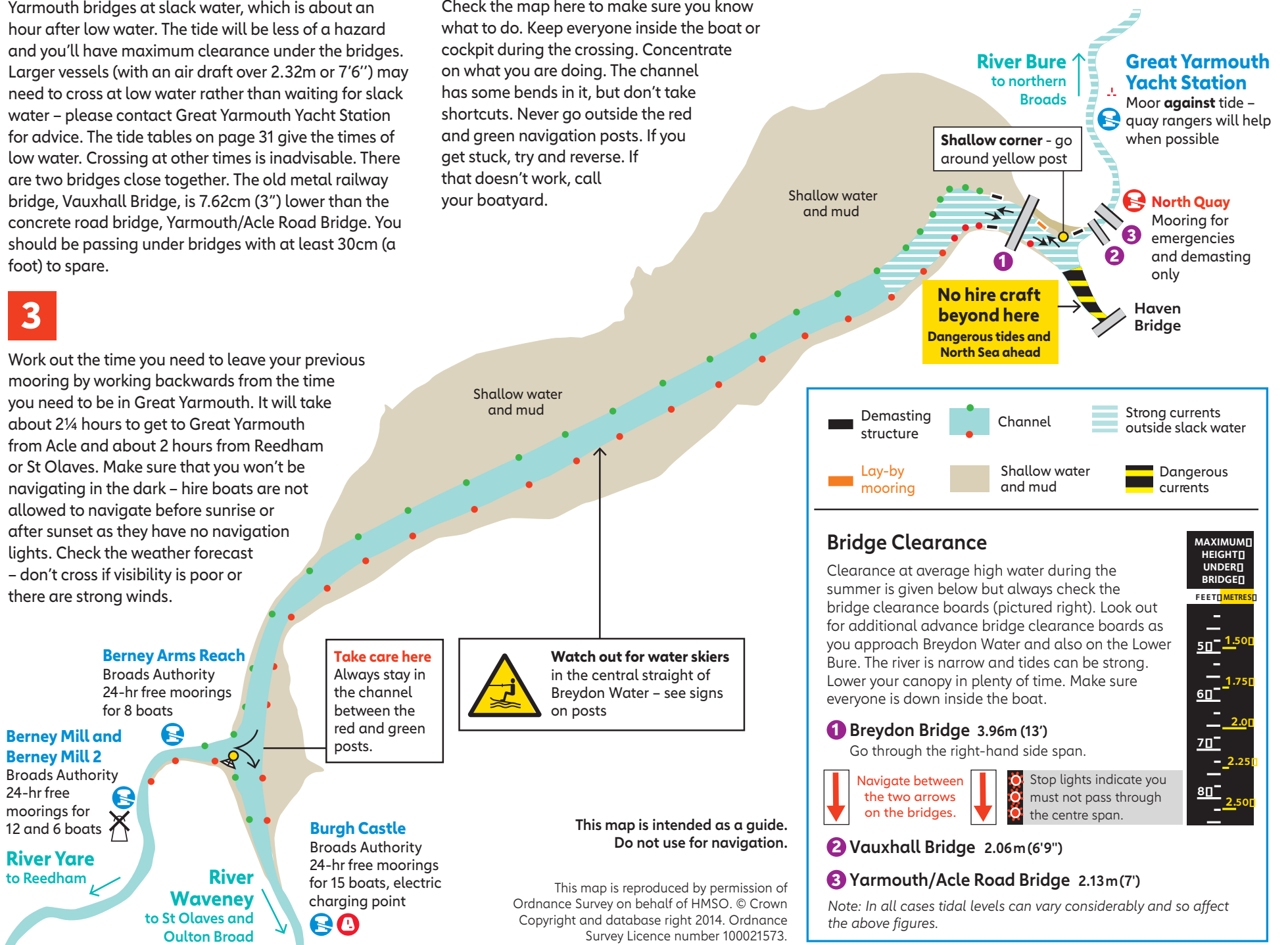
Check the map here to make sure you know what to do. Keep everyone inside the boat or cockpit during the crossing. Concentrate on what you are doing. The channel has some bends in it, but don't take shortcuts. Never go outside the red and green navigation posts. If you get stuck, try and reverse. If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

In an emergency call the coastguard on 999 or 112



MIKE PAGE

This map is reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2014. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100021573.