

The 32nd British Rowing National Tour on the Norfolk Broads - Rivers Bure, Waveney and Yare 4th - 7th June 2026

Note

The morning row on Friday will start at Norwich Rowing Club. Wellies or wet shoes will be required as the slipway area is covered by water at high tide.

The morning row on Saturday and Sunday will start at Yare Boat Club launching from a pontoon.

Morning row downstream

This route takes you to remote part of the River Yare and there is nowhere to disembark. If safe, you can stop anywhere for a break or drink and biscuit.

On Friday, from the Norwich Rowing club, join the river and row off on the right. After a short distance you will see a rail bridge on the left. Stay on the main river. Another railway bridge is about 1km further on. Stay on the main river.



On Saturday and Sunday start at Yare Boat Club.



Launch with the boat heading to the right and progress down a narrow part of the river between Thorpe Green with a day hire boat company on the left and 'live-aboard' boats on the right. Keep a good look out as this can be busy with small boats.

There is a tight bend to go under a railway bridge. Row through with bow pair only and keep a lookout for traffic on the main river. Cross the river and travel off to the left.

Wherever you have started, you are now on the same stretch of the river.

The river now flows all the way to Great Yarmouth but the recommendation for the morning is to row to 'Surlingham Ferry' a distance of 7km from this point. You can of, course, turn sooner if you wish to.

There are many bends on the river, the first two fairly soon, one to the right and one to the left. There is then a long stretch of river with boats moored on the left, marinas and the Broads Authority dockyard. Follow the bend to the right under the A47 flyover and shortly afterwards you will notice on your right the discharge from the local sewage works!



You are now on a stretch of water all the way to the turning point which is away from habitation. Look out for kingfishers, heron, grebe, swans, geese and possibly an otter. A sharp bend to the right takes you to a wide and fairly straight stretch of water.

At the end you will find another bend to the left taking you past the Water's edge pub.

The river from here is wide with bends until you reach the Surlingham Ferry pub after a further 3km.



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This is a good place to pull over and have a rest, drink and biscuit before the return journey of 8 km.

You can of, course, turn sooner if you wish to.

Return

On Saturday and Sunday, the morning row will return to the Yare Boat Club for lunch.

On Sunday, the morning row will return to Norwich Rowing Club.

As you return, having passed under the A47 flyover, there are boat marinas on the right. Beware of boats entering and exiting the marinas. Pass the Broads Authority yard, follow the two sharp bends and pass Broadland Paddlesport on the right. Ahead you will see a railway bridge ahead.

On Friday and Saturday, line up carefully, row under the bridge with bow pair only and be ready for a sharp turn to the left. Proceed 500 m to find the **Yare Rowing Club** on the left. Stop for lunch.



On Sunday morning, do not go under the bridge but turn to the left on the main river to return to **Norwich Rowing Club**.

At the end of the next reach, there is a cut to the left. **Take this and disembark at the slipway on the left at Whitlingham Boathouses** where Norwich Rowing Club has its base.

Wellies or water shoes will be required as the landing area is covered by water at high tide. Take the boats out of the water and either put them on your trailer, on the racks if Whitlingham boats or on trestles away from the landing area. Lunch will be available on the first floor of the boathouse.

Afternoon row upstream

The afternoon tour is a short trip upstream passing through the approaches to Norwich. **From Yare Boat Club point the boat to the left and in 500 m pass under a railway bridge and turn onto the river.** At the end of the next reach, there is a cut to the left but stay on the main river bending to the right.

This is now the River Wensum, a tributary of the River Yare. Evidence of the river's historical use as a means of transport for goods and trade from the continent is still visible.

Having passed under the mainline rail bridge and the narrow Carrow Bridge, you will see mills, quays and industrial remnants as well, as modern apartments, as you pass two modern footbridges and reach Foundry Bridge near the station.



Further on is Pulls Ferry, which marks the start of a canal originally used in the 12th century. to transport stone from Caen in Normandy to build Norwich Cathedral. The cathedral can be seen on the left.



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You can pass under the narrow Bishop's Bridge.

There is a sharp bend around Cow Tower on the left.

At the next tight bend is St James's Mill, the first steam powered factory in Norwich for mechanised weaving.



After the next bridge, Whitefriars Bridge, where medieval warehouses would have been, many buildings contain remnants of 17th and 18th century structures incorporated into modern dwellings.

There are four more bridges - Fye Bridge, St George's Bridge dating to 1784, Duke's Palace Bridge built in 1972, and St Miles Coslany Bridge dating to 1804 - take you to your turning point at New Mills Sewage Pumping Station dating to 1898.

It was not until the industrial age of the 19th century that a proper solution was found and the sewage pumping station was built in 1898. It is believed to be one of only two surviving examples of this type of machinery, the other being in the Houses of Parliament.



This is as far as the river is navigable and you need to turn here.

Return

Beware of other boats coming in the opposite direction, as you now know how narrow the river is.

On Friday and Saturday, make the return journey. After the mainline rail bridge go under the small rail bridge on the left and return to **Yare Rowing Club** 500 m further on the right.

Note: This trip may only be available on Sunday if there is time.

Depending on time, make the return journey. After the mainline rail bridge, the Whitlingham Boathouses, where **Norwich Rowing Club** is based, will appear on the right. Turn sharp right through some buoys and disembark at the slipway on the left at Whitlingham Boathouses.

More information on the Bridges of Norwich from The Norwich Society at <https://www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk/files/awards/Bridges-of-Norwich-printable-format.pdf>

Note: Please do not use any of the images in these notes for any other purpose. Thank you
