

For over 100 years, the Bittern Line has connected the fine city of Norwich with the coast as it passes through the Broads National Park and the scenic beauty of North Norfolk.

Connections along the line include – at Hoveton and Wroxham – the Bure Valley Railway, a narrow gauge line which runs through the Norfolk countryside to the market town of Aylsham. The Bittern Line terminates at Sheringham, opposite the start of the superbly restored North Norfolk Railway which runs steam and diesel services via Weybourne to Holt. At Sheringham, you can also catch the Coasthopper Bus, which allows you to explore even more of the North Norfolk coastline through to Hunstanton.



Norwich

Norwich was the second largest city in medieval Britain and its skyline is still dominated by the magnificent Norman Cathedral and Castle Keep. Today, this thriving city is the commercial and cultural centre of Norfolk featuring an array of museums, theatres, cinemas, music venues and The Forum, home to the city's library. Major shopping areas within the city centre include Castle Mall and Chapelfield, linked together through the city by numerous department stores, national retailers, independent shops and the famous open-air market. A short walk from Norwich Station leads to Carrow Road, home of Norwich City Football Club. It is said that Norwich once had a church for every week of the year and a pub for every day of the year, so leave plenty of time for a visit!

The Bittern Ranger

The Bittern Ranger ticket offers one day's unlimited travel on the Bittern Line. Tickets are valid from 08.15 on Mondays to Fridays and at any time on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The Bittern Ranger costs £9 per adult, and accompanying kids pay half price. No Railcard discounts are available. A Bittern Ranger ticket offers discounted and unlimited travel on the Coasthopper bus service to explore the beautiful North Norfolk Coast between Mundesley and Hunstanton. Show the bus driver the Bittern Ranger ticket to get the saving; for more information, see the Greater Anglia website.

The Bittern Family Ranger

There is a Family ticket available for £20 which allows two adults and up to two children (aged 5-15 inclusive) unlimited travel in the Bittern Ranger area. In other words, two children travel for £1 each when accompanied by two paying adults.

The Bittern Senior Ranger

The Bittern Senior Ranger is available to everybody over 60 years of age for just £6. Time restrictions are the same as for the Adult ticket and no Railcard is required to take advantage of this discount.

GroupSave

With the GroupSave offer, you can get 1/3 off all fares for groups of three to nine adults travelling together Off-Peak. Book at the station or online in advance at greateranglia.co.uk

National Rail Enquiries

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Greater Anglia Customer Relations

0345 600 7245 (option 8) | greateranglia.co.uk

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 The Bittern Line

 www.bitternline.com

Please visit greateranglia.co.uk for train timetables & travel information

This guide is produced by Community Rail Norfolk for the Bittern Line Community Rail Partnership. The partnership encourages and supports use of the railway running between Norwich, Cromer and Sheringham. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure details in this publication were correct at the time of going to press, Community Rail Norfolk accepts no liability for any inaccuracies or subsequent changes to information that may occur.


New life for local lines

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Bittern Line

Explore Norfolk by train



Find out more at: www.bitternline.com



Salhouse

The station was opened in 1874 by East Norfolk Railway. Salhouse is a small village served by a vintage tearoom, Prima Rosa, and a pub, the Bell Inn. A pleasant wander down Vicarage Road leads to Salhouse Lodge, a country pub set within 7 acres of beautiful gardens. Just around the corner from Salhouse Lodge, you can find the thatched All Saints Church, which dates from the early fifteenth century and is accessible by public footpath through surrounding fields. A two-mile walk from the tranquil village of Salhouse leads to Salhouse Broad, where there are over forty acres of beautiful natural surroundings. It's a beautiful place to cycle or hire a kayak or canoe, explore nature trails or go camping. The picturesque nearby village of Woodbastwick has been home to Woodforde's Brewery for more than three decades. Visitors can book brewery tours in advance, browse in the brewery's shop or pop into the Fur and Feathers pub for a hearty, locally-sourced meal.

Hoveton & Wroxham

The villages of Hoveton & Wroxham are the busiest locations within the Broads National Park, with a host of family attractions within easy reach of the station. Water-based activities including boat hire and boat trips are readily available, and the village centre is a popular shopping destination for locals and tourists alike, many of whom make their way to Roy's, which is often described as the world's largest village store. A pathway from the Sheringham-bound platform leads to the recently restored Wroxham Signal Box, which hosts open days throughout the year. It also leads to the Bure Valley Railway, a narrow gauge railway which takes visitors through nine miles of glorious Norfolk countryside.

Worstead

A short walk from the station leads to Worstead village, which is dominated by the church of St Mary, one of the most magnificent medieval churches in Norfolk. The church is a testament to the wealth that was brought to the region by the wool trade. The famous Worsted cloth's name comes from Worstead village, where it was produced for at least five centuries. The annual Worstead Festival is one of the most popular events along the Bittern Line. For keen explorers interested in discovering Norfolk at their own pace, there are two self-guided Worstead Heritage Trails featuring 40 sites that celebrate the area's heritage. The trails and maps can be downloaded from Worstead Parish Council's website.

North Walsham

The busy market town of North Walsham is dominated by the partially ruined tower of St Nicholas Church. Like nearby Worstead, North Walsham grew considerably in the Middle Ages and its wealth came from the wool trade with the arrival of Flemish weavers in the 14th century. Walsham cloth was a lightweight, summer-use cloth compared to Worstead cloth. Between 1768 and 1771, English naval hero Horatio Nelson was educated at Paston Grammar School (now Paston College) which was founded by Sir William Paston in 1606. Nearby Bacton Woods dates back to Saxon times and is an excellent place for rambling, cycling, horse riding, wildlife watching and cross-country running. The town's close proximity to both the Norfolk Coast and Norfolk Broads make it a good base for a holiday. The Norfolk Motorcycle Museum is adjacent to the station.

Gunton

Gunton station serves the villages of Thorpe Market and Southrepps. The Vernon Arms in Southrepps is a quintessential English country pub 1.4 miles away from the station. Just under 2 miles away in the other direction lies the beautifully restored and critically acclaimed Gunton Arms pub, nestled within a lush thousand-acre deer park.

Roughton Road

Roughton Road station is a halt located on the outskirts of Cromer. Built in 1985, it is the newest station on the line and located close to the now disused Cromer Tunnel, reputed to be the only railway tunnel in Norfolk. The National Trust property, Felbrigg Hall, is a 2.2 mile walk from the station.

Cromer

Cromer is one of the oldest and most famous seaside resorts in the UK. Built high on the cliff, the town overlooks Cromer Pier, a Grade II listed 151-metre-long traditional Victorian pier which is home to the Cromer Pier Pavilion Theatre, Cromer Lifeboat Station and traditional family amusements. The town centre features a cinema, national retailers and independent shops along with a host of eateries in which you can sample a delicious Cromer crab. The tower of the Church of St Peter and St Paul is the tallest in Norfolk and is often open to the public, providing panoramic views of the town and coast. Cromer beach, Cromer Pier, Cromer Museum and the Henry Blogg Museum are within easy walking reach of the station.

West Runton

The West Runton Mammoth, a fossilized skeleton of a steppe mammoth, was found in the cliffs of West Runton in 1990 – it is the most complete set of steppe mammoth bones that has been unearthed in the world, and you can see some of the bones on display in Cromer Museum. About a mile south of the village of West Runton, you'll find Beacon Hill which is the highest point in Norfolk, granting a great view of both land and sea.

Sheringham

Once a small fishing village, Sheringham has grown to become one of the most popular towns on the Norfolk coast. In the centre of town, you'll find a unique mix of shops as well as the popular Sheringham Little Theatre, which provides a year-round programme of shows and films. Sheringham beach is approximately a ten-minute walk from the station. The terminus of the Bittern Line at Sheringham is located just across the road from the original Sheringham station and no visit to the area would be complete without a trip on the North Norfolk Railway from the town via Weybourne to Holt. From Sheringham, the Coasthopper Bus runs around the Norfolk coast to Hunstanton, allowing the opportunity to enjoy even more places of interest including Holkham Hall, Wells-next-the-Sea, Blakeney and Cley-next-the-Sea. Above the town, delightful woodland walks lead from Sheringham to Pretty Corner Woods and the National Trust-operated Sheringham Park.



West Runton cliffs

Attractions

SALHOUSE BROAD

Nearest station: Salhouse

Location: Salhouse Broad is located on the River Bure between Wroxham and Horning. It is approximately 45 mins away on foot through the village of Salhouse from the station.

www.salhousebroad.org.uk | 07795 145475

Details: The 40-acre Broad is open to the public all year round and people visit to enjoy its beautiful landscape and relaxed atmosphere. Several guided walks held here throughout the year include a ferry ride from Salhouse Broad moorings up the river to Hoveton Great Broad Nature Trail.

ROY'S

Nearest station: Hoveton & Wroxham

Location: The shops are a five-minute walk along Station Road towards the town centre.

www.roys.co.uk | 01603 782131

Details: Described as the world's largest village store, Roy's was founded in 1895 and today remains an independent, family-owned business. With six stores spread across Wroxham, Roy's is a one-stop shopping destination at the heart of the beautiful Norfolk Broads.

WORSTEAD HERITAGE TRAILS

Nearest station: Worstead

worsteadpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Details: In 2012, the Worstead Heritage Trails and Map were unveiled by the Worstead Guild of Weaver, Spinners and Dyers at the Worstead Festival. 40 sites are listed in the self-guided trails which celebrate the parish's rich heritage and are a great way to explore the area. You can download a free copy of the trails from Worstead Parish Council's website.

AMAZONA ZOO

Nearest station: Roughton Road

Location: The zoo is a ten-minute walk away via Roughton Road.

www.amazonazoo.co.uk | 01263 510741

Details: Amazona Zoo is home to more than 200 tropical animals including jaguars, monkeys, snakes, flamingos and tapirs. It has an indoor soft-play area and an outdoor play area, as well as a Jungle Café.

Note: Please remember to check opening times and ticket prices (where applicable) before your visit

HENRY BLOGG MUSEUM

Nearest station: Cromer

Location: The museum is a ten-minute walk away via Holt Road and West Street. Cross Church Street to reach the Esplanade.

www.rnli.org/henryblogg | 01263 511294

Details: Founded to commemorate a local legend who became a national hero, the family-friendly Henry Blogg Museum celebrates the life of the most decorated lifeboatman in RNLI history. Coxswain Henry Blogg carried out 387 rescues and helped to save 873 lives. On display are model lifeboats, photographs, paintings and Henry Blogg's impressive collection of medals.

CROMER PIER

Nearest station: Cromer

Location: The pier is a ten-minute walk away via Holt Road, West Street and Garden Street.

www.cromerpier.co.uk | 01263 512495

Details: A historic and unique attraction on the beautiful North Norfolk coast, Cromer Pier is one of only five UK seaside piers with a full working theatre. It is also home to the only end-of-the-pier show in the world which offers live variety acts at their best, all year round.

WEST RUNTON BEACH

Nearest station: West Runton

Location: The beach is a ten-minute walk away from the station, along Station Road and Water Lane.

Details: West Runton's sand and shingle beach is popular for rockpooling, fossil-spotting and dog-walking. There are several miles of footpaths and bridleways in the surrounding area.

SHERINGHAM LITTLE THEATRE

Nearest station: Sheringham

Location: The theatre is a three-minute walk away from the station, along Station Road.

sheringhamlittletheatre.com | 01263 822347

Details: Sheringham Little Theatre is well-loved community arts venue that offers a year-round programme of events including film screenings, live theatre and music, art exhibitions and its summer repertory season which runs annually from July through September.

Events Listing

CRAB & LOBSTER FESTIVAL

Date: 18 – 20 May 2018

Nearest station: Cromer

Location: Evington Gardens, Runton Road, Cromer NR27 9HT

www.crabandlobsterfestival.co.uk

Details: The Crab & Lobster Festival is an annual weekend celebration of two of Norfolk's premier seaside destinations, Cromer and Sheringham. Dedicated to promoting local seafaring heritage and the active fishing community, it raises money for local charities and offers visitors a friendly and entertaining weekend by the sea.

POTTY MORRIS AND FOLK FESTIVAL

Date: 7 & 8 July 2018

Nearest station: Sheringham

Location: Following a procession through Sheringham, there will be singing and dancing throughout the town and at Lifeboat Plain.

www.pottyfestival.com

Details: 2018 sees the 25th anniversary of the popular Potty Morris and Folk Festival in Sheringham. Morris dancing groups from all over the UK come together on this colourful and musical weekend.

WORSTEAD FESTIVAL

Date: 28 & 29 July 2018

Nearest station: Worstead

Location: The festival field is a fifteen-minute walk away from the station, along Station Road and Westwick Road.

www.worsteadfestival.org

Details: Worstead festival will kick off with its annual village road run on 27 July along with evening entertainment. This highly popular weekend festival has been running for more than 50 years and offers families a great day out in Norfolk, while raising funds for charity.

SHERINGHAM CARNIVAL

Date: 28 July – 5 August 2018

Nearest station: Sheringham

www.sheringhamcarnival.com

Details: Organised by the Sheringham Carnival Association, the annual Sheringham Carnival is a fun-filled week of family-friendly entertainment. Thousands of people attend its popular annual parade, and participate in races and competitions.

CROMER CARNIVAL

Date: 11 – 17 August 2018

Nearest station: Cromer

www.cromercarnival.co.uk

Details: Cromer Carnival takes place annually in August, in the week that includes the third Wednesday of the month. Highlights of this year's carnival, now in its 49th year, include the Grand Carnival Parade and Grand Fireworks Display.

THE 1940S WEEKEND

Date: 15 – 16 September 2018

Nearest station: Sheringham

www.nnrailway.co.uk | 01263 820800

Details: The 1940s Weekend is a phenomenally popular event on the North Norfolk Railway's calendar and is considered to be one of the best events of its type in the country. Visitors are encouraged to come in uniform or 1940s civilian dress and step back in time and the event is celebrated throughout the town and along the railway.

41ST NORWICH BEER FESTIVAL

Date: 22 – 27 October 2018

Nearest station: Norwich

Location: St Andrew's & Blackfriars' Hall

norwichcamra.blogspot.co.uk

Details: The annual Norwich Beer Festival draws crowds from all over the country and its 41st edition will feature more than 200 cask-conditioned real ales from independent brewers, along with draught and bottled beers from Continental Europe. More than 70 varieties of traditional ciders and perries will also be available.

EXPLORE
NORFOLK WITH
THE BITTERN LINE

