

# The Griffon Guide

## The Maritime Trail

This wonderful trail will take you on a journey through North East Norfolk's maritime history, providing insights into the lives of fishermen, lighthouse keepers, lifeboat men and naval heroes. It ends at Waxham Great Barn, which houses a permanent historical display on the theme of coastal life in the area.





### **1. The Fishermen's Heritage Centre** **The Slipway, West Cliff, Sheringham NR26 8J** **(map ref OS 615343)**

This museum is the home of the Henry Ramey Upcher row and sailing lifeboat built in 1894. It is run by volunteers and tells the story of the private Sheringham lifeboats, independent of the R.N.L.I. Other exhibits showing the life of fisherfolk are displayed in restored Victorian longshore fishermen's sheds.



Walk along the sea wall at Sheringham sea front and see the story of Sheringham's fishing heritage painted upon it.



### **2. The Mo Sheringham Museum** **Lifeboat Plain, Sheringham NR26 8BG** **(map ref OS 615343)**

This is an attractive and fascinating museum which brings to life the story of Sheringham's R.N.L.I. lifeboats, fishing boats and social history. Displays are engaging and there is something for all the family here, with special displays and activities for young people.



The most convenient car park for all these Sheringham attractions is the Pay and Display on Morris Street, Sheringham NR26 8JY.



### **3. The Henry Blogg Museum** **The Rocket House, The Gangway, Cromer NR27 9ET** **(map ref OS 622342)**

Henry Blogg G.C. was the greatest of all the local lifeboat men and one of the bravest men who ever lived. This superb museum celebrates the achievements of Henry, his crews and lifeboats in Cromer.

There are disabled parking bays on the slipway beside the museum. The nearest large car park is the Pay and Display on Meadow Road, Cromer NR27 9HZ.



### **4. Mundesley Maritime Museum** **12, Beach Road, Mundesley NR11 8BG** **(map ref OS 631336)**

This is one of the smallest museums in the country but it is packed with all manner of artefacts and photographs that tell the story of Mundesley's maritime and coastal history.

The nearest car park is the Pay and Display on Beach Road, Mundesley NR11 8BH.



## **5. St Mary's Church and Graveyard** **Church St, Happisburgh NR12 OPN** **(map ref OS 637331)**

In the graveyard at St Mary's Church you will find the memorial to HMS Invincible that was wrecked off Happisburgh when on her way to join a fleet with Admiral Nelson at Copenhagen on 16 March 1801, with the loss of 400 lives. 119 of the crew are buried in the mound under the stone. There are also a number of other maritime graves to be found here.

The tower of St. Mary's is often open and if you have the head for heights and a clear day you will get some of the finest views of our coastline from here. For a history of the tower and a schedule of opening times, please visit the web site at

<http://www.happisburgh.org/church/openings>



## **6. Happisburgh Lighthouse** **Lighthouse Lane, Happisburgh NR12 OPY** **(map ref OS 638330)**

A matching pair of lights were established in Happisburgh by the Trinity Brethren in 1791. They were soon known as the 'High Light' on the cliff top and the 'Low Light' 20ft lower down the cliff. When the cliffs deteriorated the 'Low Light' became impractical. It was sold off by tender in the 1880s and demolished. The distinctive red and white stripes of Happisburgh Lighthouse were first painted in 1883. The tower is 85 ft (25.9 m) tall, putting the lantern at 135 ft above sea level. The Happisburgh Light has a light characteristic of Fl (3)30s (3 white flashes, repeated every 30 seconds) at a height of 135 ft (41.1 m) and has a range of 14 miles (22.5 km). Trinity House gave notice of closure of the lighthouse in 1987 but its fate has been saved by an energetic and enthusiastic group of local people and is today the only independently operated lighthouse in Great Britain. It is also the oldest working lighthouse in East Anglia.



The first floor houses a historical exhibition about this and other lighthouses around the UK, and has an interesting display of light bulbs. Young people might like to ask for the quiz sheet, which will encourage them to learn more about the lighthouse and its history.

For a history of the lighthouse, and information about opening times, see the Happisburgh village website here:  
<http://www.happisburgh.org/lighthouse/open-days>

There is a large new Pay and Display car park on Beach Road, Happisburgh NR12 OPP. There is a footpath leading to the lighthouse just behind the toilet block. It is also an easy walk back to the church from here.



## **7. Waxham Great Barn**

**Coast Road, Waxham NR12 OEE**  
**(map ref OS 644324)**

Built in the latter 16th century, this magnificently restored barn contains a display featuring Elizabethan agriculture, the Woodhouses who built the barn, smuggling and shipwrecks. It often runs special themed historical activities. Entrance is free, via the coffee shop. The barn has its own large car park.

You can learn more about its history, and see a restoration picture archive here:

[http://www.norfolkhistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk/projects/past/028\\_waxham\\_great\\_barn.htm](http://www.norfolkhistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk/projects/past/028_waxham_great_barn.htm)