

Rver Wensum: Taverham Mill

GR: TG158 138

Important TEMPORARY portage arrangements

Taverham Mill fishery is owned and managed by Anglian Water. Canoe England met recently with the fishery manager, Simon Wrigglesworth, who explained the plans that AW have to modify the watercourse at the Fishery.

At the moment the river Wensum flows over a weir and through the main fishery. A small amount of flow runs through a series of broken sluices on the river left and right. None of these weirs and sluices are passable without considerable risk to boats and paddlers.

AW plan to remove the sluices and fill in that area, creating a new channel, without weirs or sluices, leaving the river before the point on the map marked "Portage here" and rejoining the river just before the road bridge. When completed, this cut will be easily negotiated by canoes and kayaks and will be the route around the mill for all craft travelling from Ringland to Norwich.

In the meantime, whilst this work is being carried out, ALL PADDLERS are asked to use the marked portage route around the fishery.

Travelling from Ringland, disembark on the right bank above the main weir and the clearly marked portage point.

In the fishing close season (15 March to 15 June inclusive) use the short portage as marked and re-join the river in the main pool opposite the lodge and centre. (1)

In the fishing season (all other times) Leave your boat at the portage briefly and check to see if there is anyone fishing in the main pool – normally on the opposite bank right outside the centre complex and marked by a little figurine of a sheep! If there is, then use the long portage across the boardwalk and rejoin the river just above the bridge (2). Carry (do not drag) boats. A trolley would be useful. Please do NOT attempt to rejoin the river sooner. However, if no one is fishing, then you are welcome to use the shorter portage and rejoin the river at the pool below the weir as in the close season.

Under no circumstances should paddlers attempt to land on the left bank, shoot the weir or negotiate the sluices.

The remedial work should be completed in by early 2012, when we will be able to use the new cut without a portage.

PADDLERS ARE WELCOME AT TAVERHAM. The Fishery has a coffee shop and sell ices, so before you lug your boat around the portage, walk (without your boat) across the footbridge over the weir to the main centre, shop and café, and chill out with a cake, coffee and ice-cream. You will be made very welcome.

Note on access at Ringland The Parish Council has erected a notice forbidding canoeing from the green. This is mainly a reaction to a commercial operator launching / recovering a large number of canoes across the whole width of the bank rather than using the stony / gravelly section. Canoe England are working on this one at the moment, so be patient! In the meantime, there is nothing to stop small parties launching / egressing from the bank by the road bridge just before the village.

