

# Great Yarmouth Venetian Waterways Access Audit



This is the access audit for the Venetian Waterways area of Great Yarmouth seafront.

This section of the seafront is easily accessed and offers everything needed for a fully supported visit to the beach

This walk offers a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the seafront in Great Yarmouth with seating available this route can be extended or shortened depending on ability.

Obstruction free and step free this route is great for everyone to enjoy

The Venetian Waterways are a hidden gem to discover on the seafront in Great Yarmouth



### Toilets and sea front access

Car parking is on road and access to the audit section of the route is via paving slabbed section of pavement

This is solid, stable surface with a minimal cross fall and a width of over 2.5 metres.

The next section of the route is a sealed surface. This has a change of colour to indicate the change in the surface and provides access to the seafront

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### Beach access

2.6 % slope from the road down to the board walk on the beach

Slope is concrete with no cross fall and is 1.3 metres wide

1 passing place which is 2.3 metres wide



### Boardwalk

The boardwalk is flat and even throughout

The boardwalk is 1.5 metres in width throughout

The boardwalk runs for over 100 metres out towards the sea



### Surface change

The boardwalk surface may change due to sand being blown across the surface etc

The boardwalk has a turning area at the end and steps to gain access to the beach itself





## Venetian Waterways - a short history

Great Yarmouth was once the largest herring port in the world and a smart resort in the late Victorian period. Great Yarmouth's fishing industry collapsed after the first world war, and by the early 1920s thousands were unemployed.

In 1926-8 the waterways were **built explicitly as a job creation scheme, giving a livelihood to hundreds of men and creating another tourist asset for the town out of the ruins of wartime (in some cases literally – the flowerbed borders, for instance, were made from the repurposed roadway of a local wartime aerodrome).**

Historic England records that the waterways were dug out by hand, providing work for many unemployed people after WWII and that over six and a half thousand tons of soil were brought in from Caister-on-Sea.

After their opening in August 1928, the Venetian Waterways quickly became a popular tourist attraction, benefiting later from the addition of illuminations for strolling in the evening, as well as replacing salt water with fresh for skating in winter, and music piped throughout.

Following the recent refurbishment over 20,000 new plants have been installed throughout the 3 hectares of the waterways.

Newly refurbished cottages, bridges and the footpath are some of the newly improved features of the waterways.



## Venetian Waterways access

The venetian waterways can be accessed either by flights of steps or directly from the sea front via a concrete slopes

The slope is less than 4 percent to access the waterways

The concrete path runs through the whole area of about 3 hectares



The footpath around the venetian gardens is accessible throughout. The path is paved throughout and has a lip to provide additional safety for users

There are benches, rest points and information boards throughout the whole of the area.

The newly planted flower beds and waterways provide a tranquil place to visit and enjoy.

For more able visitors there are stepped access points throughout





## What can I expect on this walk?



Easy access and obstruction free throughout the whole route

Free car parking on the road

Seating available overlooking the beach and the Venetian Waterways.

This route offers easy access to the beach and seafront throughout the year.

*What can I expect to see?*

One of the fully accessible routes on the National Trail. You will see seals in the sea from the viewing platform at the end of the boardwalk, see people walking through the area. Heron, duck and little terns during the spring and summer.

If accessing the Venetian Gardens then you will see newly planted flower beds and vegetation throughout, new waterways and people enjoying the use of the boats on the waterways

*What can I hear?*

Crash of the waves on the beach, gulls screeching overhead, the wind in the marram grass, the cry of people enjoying a walk on the beach.

*What facilities are there?*

Full range of local facilities can be accessed directly on the walk. There is a toilet on site, cafe facilities and seating. If additional facilities are required they can be accessed in Great Yarmouth.

Additional facilities are available at the Venetian Waterways including a lift to provide access to all points in the area

## How can I get there?

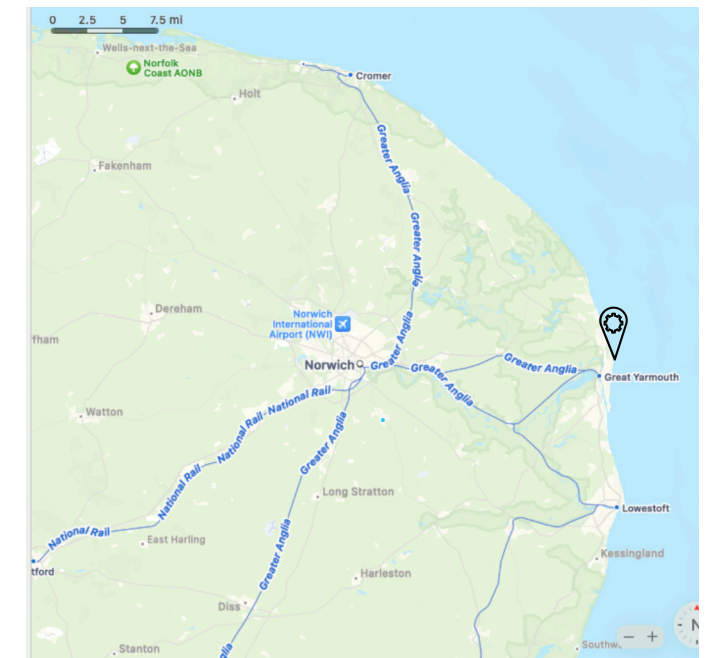
Great Yarmouth is 20 miles or 40 minutes from Norwich via the A47

On road parking adjacent to the Venetian waterways

Post code: **NR30 4EW**

Great Yarmouth is really connected via bus routes from Lowestoft, Cromer, Norwich and villages between.

Please check the travel line website for details and timetables



This is route and a destination which has something for everyone.

A great day out for people with any ability and facilities throughout to support all visitors

