Since the Broads were formed in the Middle Ages they have been turning back into dry land. This natural process, which happens gradually over many years, is known as succession. It starts as the plants growing at the water’s edge trap mud and dead material between their roots and stems. Slowly layers are built up, the ground level is raised and becomes drier.

NWT Ranworth Broad is a fantastic site to see all the different stages in the succession between open water and woodland along the boardwalk trail.

Seasonal highlights
During the summer common tern nest on the artificial rafts and great crested grebe can be seen diving for fish. Otters are often seen and swallows and swifts hunt for insects over the water. The swallowtail butterfly is common here in early summer, while in later summer its caterpillars feed on milk parsley. Dragonflies are also common. Look for Norfolk hawker, and later in the season black-tailed skimmer sunbathing on the boardwalk. Osprey is often spotted in early autumn.

In the winter months large numbers of wildfowl such as teal, wigeon, shoveler, pochard and gadwall come here to feed. The broad is also a roost site for more than 400 cormorant, one of the largest inland roosts in Britain.

Ranworth Broad, part of the Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve, is one of a network of highly important sites for wetland wildlife which make up the Bure Valley Living Landscape.

In 1949 the Cator family gave Ranworth and Cockshoot Broads to NWT. Lieut.-Colonel Cator specified that the Broad should be absolute sanctuary for water birds, with the exception of The King’s right to shoot once a year. In 1976, on the occasion of NWT’s 50th anniversary, The Queen opened the innovative, floating Broads Wildlife Centre, accompanied by Prince Philip.

St. Helen’s Church Ranworth stands in a commanding position overlooking the River Bure. Known as the ‘Cathedral of the Broads,’ panoramic views of the Norfolk Broads can be experienced from the top of its tower. The mainly fourteenth and fifteenth century building contains treasures of international significance. The church is open daily from around 9.30am – 5.30pm (dusk during winter). Please see website for Visitors Centre opening times: www.ranworthchurch.com

Our reserves
If you have enjoyed visiting NWT Ranworth Broad why not visit another of our nearby beautiful nature reserves?

Thorre Marshes
Post code: NR7 0QA
Grid ref: TG 267 053

Martham Broad
Post code: NR29 4EB
Grid ref: TG 466 203

Hicking Broad
Post code: NR12 0BW
Grid ref: TG 428 222

Upton Broad
Post code: NR13 6EQ
Grid ref: TG 380 137

Further details on all NWT reserves can be found on our website: www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

Join us today!
Help us care for Norfolk’s amazing wildlife and landscapes.

Visit our stunning nature reserves for free. For more information, please visit www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

NWT Ranworth Broad
Postcode: NR13 6HS
Grid ref: TG 380 146
Tel: 01603 270479

Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Brewick-House, 22 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1RY
Tel: 01603 625540
Email: info@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk
Registered charity number 208734

Images: Richard Osborne, Terry Whittaker/2020Vision, Michael Sankey, Tom Mackie, Bob Carpenter, Elizabeth Oxen, Guy X. Osborne/2020Vision,

NWT Nature Reserve
RANWORTH BROAD
www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saving Norfolk’s Wildlife for the Future
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Brewick-House, 22 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1RY
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Images: Richard Osborne, Terry Whittaker/2020Vision, Michael Sankey, Tom Mackie, Bob Carpenter, Elizabeth Oxen, Guy X. Osborne/2020Vision,
Dam and the River Bure towards Cockshoot Dyke.
head across Malthouse Broad, then along Ranworth
Edwardian-style electric launch. Our 55-minute trips
Liana Boat Trips
from the 1880s to the 1980s.

holidays, in photos and extracts from archive films dating
the Broads. You can also experience a hundred years of

Please call in (or contact us) for all you’d like to know about
the Broads. You can also experience a hundred years of

•  April, May, October: Monday –
Saturday-Sunday 9am-5pm
April, May, October: Monday-
Friday 9am-1pm and 1.30-5pm;
Saturday-Sunday 9am-5pm
June-September: daily 9am-5pm
June-September: daily;
half-term, and
Easter week, local

Liana Boat Trips
Set off on a voyage of discovery on board our
Edwardian-style electric launch. Our 55-minute trips
head across Malthouse Broad, then along Ranworth
Dam and the River Bure towards Cockshoot Dyke.

•  April, May, October: weekends, bank holidays,
Easter week, local
half-term, and
June-September: daily;
10.30am, 2pm and 3pm
•  £10 adult, £8 child /
upp to two adults and
two children)

• Please book with the
Broads Information Centre

• Maximum number of
passengers (at driver’s
discretion): eight
• We’re sorry we cannot
take dogs, except
assistance dogs
• All passengers must
wear the life jackets
provided

Enjoying your visit
The nature reserve is open every
day, dawn till dusk. Free entry, donations welcome.

Please use the NWT car park in Ranworth village as there is no
parking at the nature reserve entrance. It is a short walk from
the village to the start of the nature trail along the boardwalk to
the Broads Wildlife Centre. DO NOT step off the boardwalk.

Take Damselfly, the electric NWT boat, which runs as a
ferry service between the staithe on Malthouse Broad and the
NWT Broads Wildlife Centre or join us on a longer boat
trail to explore the wildlife on the broad with one of our
experienced guides. The Broad is closed to boats so it is
the perfect way to discover the wildlife on the water. We
run themed trips throughout the summer: Full itinerary and
booking in the centre.

Can I bring my dog?
Only registered assistance dogs are permitted onto the
nature reserve and boat trail. The public footpath indicated on
the map is accessible with all other dogs.

I have limited mobility, where can I go?
The boardwalk and ground Floor of the Broads Wildlife Centre
are accessible. Unfortunately, there is no access to the boat
trail for wheelchair users but those with limited mobility can
be assisted on and off the boats.

Facilities
The floating Broads Wildlife Centre is open Easter to
October, 10am – 5pm. Beautiful views over Ranworth
Broad, with gift shop and light refreshments. Toilets are
available in Ranworth village.

At all NWT sites the responsibility for the safety of
visitors is seen as one that is shared between the
Trust and the visitor.

Visitors can help by:
• Observing all notices and signs during your visit
• Ensuring all gates are securely closed
• Not cycling on the reserve
• Following any instructions and advice given by Trust staff
• Ensuring that children are properly supervised at all times
• Wearing appropriate clothing and footwear

•  £10 adult, £8 child / (up to two adults and
two children)

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PHOTOS: NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL, JULIAN CLAXTON