



Welcome to Finding Natural Wonder

Our suggested walks around the mouth of the River Waveney and in Great Yarmouth will take you to some of Norfolk's most inspiring beauty spots. We would love you to take a book and have a read as part of your walk, as partnered with Waveney and Blyth Arts' Two Rivers Book Festival and Page Against The Machine – an initiative from Norwich's multi award winning independent bookshop,

The Book Hive. Listen to the podcast for a range of nature inspired book recommendations, or simply take your own. Norfolk Libraries have a great range of books, too.

Listen to the podcast while wandering, or before – it's up to you. See this as part workshop, part exploration, part reading retreat; the most important thing to is explore nature and enjoy it.

'Dreaming of Albion, Sailing With Maud'

The starting point to Natural Wonder was 'Dreaming of Albion, Sailing With Maud', a public poem by Ruthie Collins commissioned by Norfolk County Council due for install near the train station as part of the new wherry garden development. The poem celebrates wherries, walks and waterways in Norfolk and we'd love it to be a starting point for walks in the area – plus an invitation to connect to the natural world.



Photo: Ruthie Collins (right) Maud of Yarmouth, credit: Wherry Maud Trust (below)

<https://www.ruthiecollins.co.uk>



Finding Natural Wonder Walks

Location 1. Burgh Castle

The views from the Saxon Fort overlooking the River Waveney towards Breydon Water are second to none; a must-see at sunset. Perfect for taking the whole family for a picnic, take your book and your blanket to settle in. Walk down to the Waveney River itself, or up to the Yare, to immerse yourself in the sounds of the reed beds and water life.



Car parking at Burgh Castle itself is free.

Check https://www.visiteastofengland.com/attraction_activity/burgh-castle-walking-route

Location 2. Berney Marshes RSPB Nature Reserve

/ Breydon Water (Breydon Water in photo, right – credit: Norfolk Trails)

Expect wide open skies, sweeping meadows and a real sense of timelessness, space and calm as soon as you arrive at the train station and walk across the meadows to the marshes. You will intersect with the Wherryman's Way as you arrive at the RSPB nature reserve. Keep walking towards Great Yarmouth, to come to Breydon Water. *Check train times at Berney Arms station before travelling.*



Check Norfolk Trails' guided walks and maps around the Wherryman's Way:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/short-and-circular-walks/wherrymans-way>

Location 3. Venetian Waterways, Great Yarmouth

Another beautiful spot to walk in Great Yarmouth itself a stones throw from The Denes and the beautiful seafront, are the restored Venetian Waterways. This is a perfect place to spend the afternoon reading, walking or writing and there are plenty of spots to curl up on the grass, on a bench or at the café. Watch out for the sundials dotted about the Waterways, in memory of different authors connected to Yarmouth – from Anna Sewell to Charles Dickens.

Photo credit (below): Visit Great Yarmouth



Writing Prompts

Listening to the Land

There's a writing prompt as part of Finding Natural Wonder, to listen to the land. One of the inspirations behind 'Dreaming of Albion, Sailing With Maud', was the sound of the landscape itself, the sound of the reeds, in the wind, or the silt 'popping', all fed into the poem. As translator Nisreen Meddings mentions in the Finding Natural Wonder podcast, it's incredible how nature itself can influence the rhythm and pace of what you write.

So, while walking, take time to really listen to the land. What rhythm and pace can you sense? What sound words can you identify – eg. popping, banging, hissing, splashing, dripping? If the more-than-human world could talk in our language, from the land to the water, to the plants, what would it say to you?



Song Flight

"You were born a child of light's wonderful secret— you return to the beauty you have always been."

– **Aberjhani, Visions of a Skylark Dressed in Black**

Up at Burgh Castle, there are sky larks nesting. One of the most inspirational birds to poets and musicians, from Romantic UK poet, William Wordsworth to contemporary US writer, Aberjhani, their 'song flight' has a very distinct sound, made up of uninterrupted syllables.

Try writing like the sky lark, sing your heart out on the page and write completely uninterrupted for a minute – what brings you joy? Hope? Inspiration? If you returned to beauty, what would that mean for you?

We're aware some of you may still be taking precautions, isolating or staying at home. You can also try this exercise at home, listening to the sound of the sky lark as audio here: <https://www.british-birdsongs.uk/sky-lark>



Dreaming of Albion, Sailing With Maud

Ruthie Collins (2020)

From grey beginnings, the water streams, aglitter with havens, dark beauty and dreams.
Sail away to better things, yellow iris, where Summer's sky lark beauty sings;

lapwings calling, in Winter, geese. Take the tiller, with Albion and Maud,
to things worth saving, banks of peace. Load up with ice, under dreading terns,

quainting off, on clinkered beams, black sails vast, vane topped masts.
Turn through the wall into a timeless place, where golden sunlight streams

with grace. Give way to sail, Swallowtail, flying. Water glistening,
earth's old ways. Quest for magic, dragons, hare hopping. Marsh crackling,

silt popping. Reeds hissing, in shimmering space. Iceni banks of beauty, sweet.
Listen to the land, of chalk and flint, treasure life worth saving. This earth, at your feet.