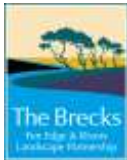


Tales from the River

Imogen Radford

One of 24 projects about the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund



Supplied by Pat Baldwin

The main rivers and tributaries in the Brecks and Fen Edge





Tales from the River

The Brecks Fen Edge
and Rivers Landscape
Partnership Scheme
(BFER)
project area

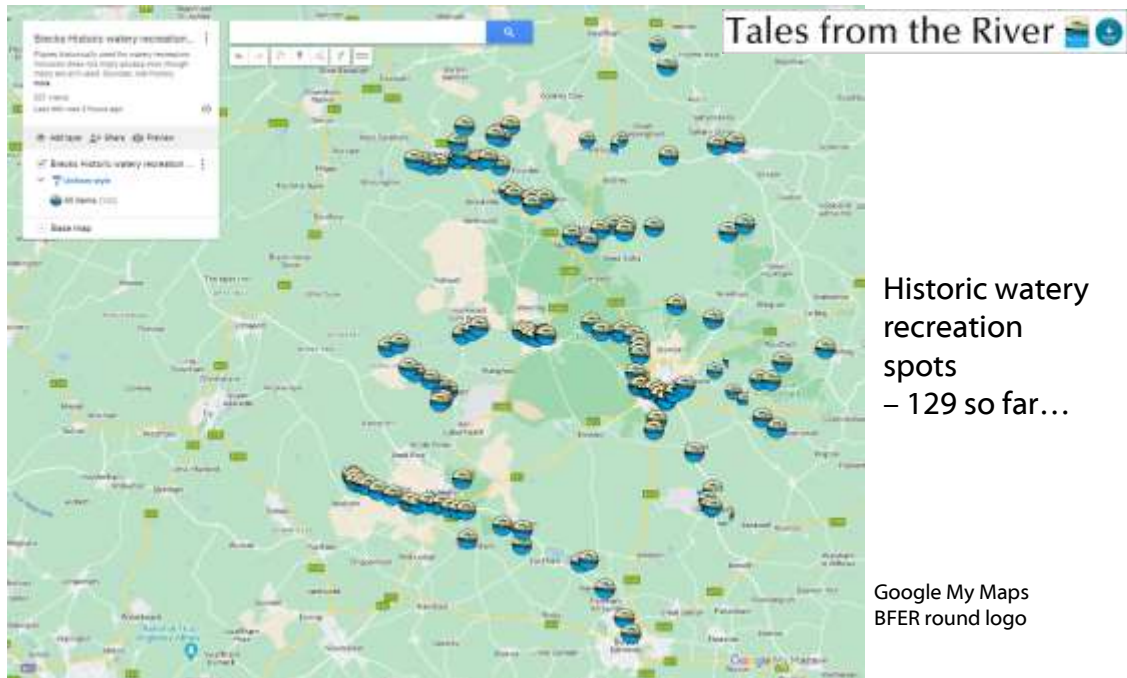
Interactive map

Click on the map to display elevation.

Tales from the River



The Brecks and Fen Edge, topographical map



Gathering stories:
oral history
interviews,
written input,
chats at
events,
walks,
talks,
social media



Lakenheath Mill Pond, 1947. Shared with permission of Lakenheath Heritage Group

Tales from the River

Gathering stories and photos: of recreation in/on/by rivers and other waters; and of trade, industry, travel



Brandon Bridge, 1943. Supplied by Pat Baldwin

Places for river recreation: fords, bridges, ferries, staunches, mills, quarries...



Burwell cock up bridge



Santon Staunch, 1947. Supplied by Pat Baldwin



A gang of Mildenhall Fen Drainage Board lighters, 1913

Tales from the River

The Pepperpot, originally a wind powered pumping engine



Mildenhall and District Museum



Sugar beet being delivered by horse and cart, Cantley sugar beet factory, 1912



Tales from the River

Sugar beet being carried by barges
Wissington sugar beet factory, 1970

Supplied by Roger Warner



*The Isleham Ferry drawbridge about 1900. The man in the middle is Pastor Wilson of the Pound Lane Baptist Chapel.
(Arthur Houghton collection.)*

A Good Confession—Baptism.



Isleham Ferry,
Autobiography,
Charles Spurgeon 1897

A baptism at Isleham Ferry
Isleham Society

Tales from the River

Baptisms in the 'River Jordan'



Tales from the River

Baptism at Judes Ferry, West Row, 1914

Mildenhall and
District Museum



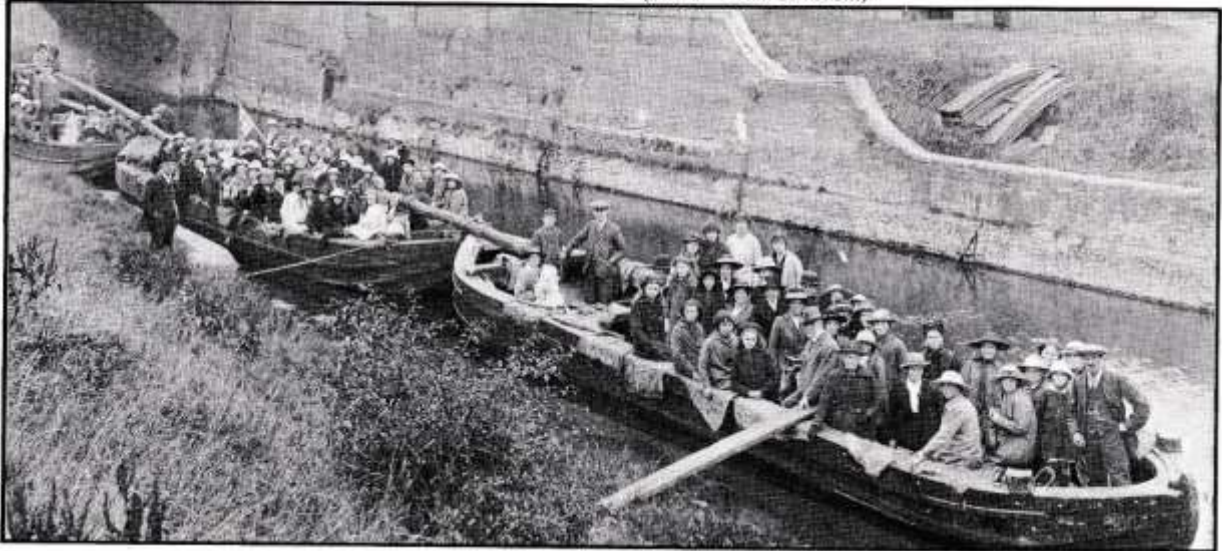


Pastor Eric Woodroffe baptising an American serviceman in the Little Wash at Isleham on 11 September 1982; this was the first river baptism for some ten years. (Vernon R. Place.)



An Isleham Church Street Baptist Chapel outing in about 1900. (Arthur Houghton collection.)

Below – The steering pole of the second lighter and the jorming pole of the rear lighter can be clearly seen in this three-lighter gang about to depart on a Sunday outing. from March c. 1905. (Photo—Brian Hillsdon.)



Mildenball Gala and Aquatic Fete 1889

River Lark at Wamil

Tales from the River 



Mildenhall and
District Museum







Looking downstream to Turf Lock with lighters

Tales from the River  



Supplied by
Ivan Cane

Looking upstream to Town Bridge with lighter

Tales from the River  



Supplied by
David Addy, St
Edmundsbury
Chronicle website

Tales from the River



Workers at
Mildenhall
Turf lock
around
1889

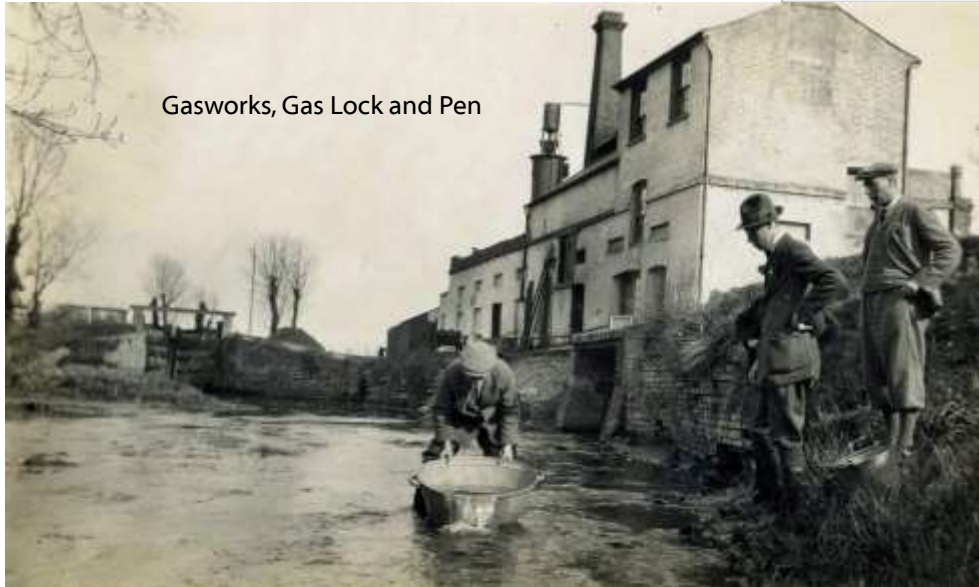
From the collection of
the late Alan H. Faulkner



MILDENHALL GAS WORKS: PART OF THE GASOMETER CAN BE SEEN ON THE LEFT

Tales from the River

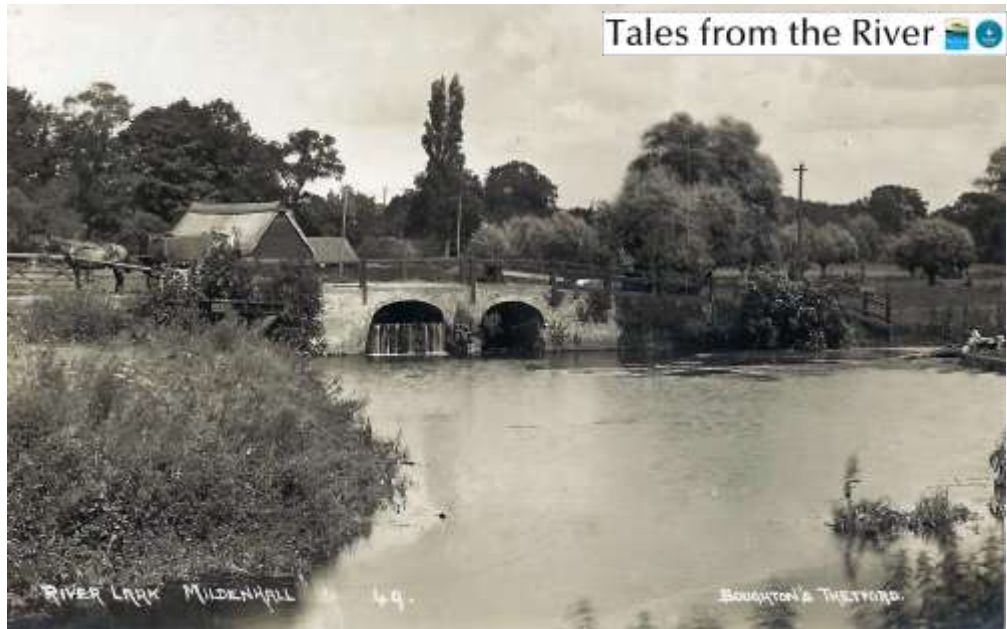
Gasworks, Gas Lock and Pen



Mildenhall and District Museum

Tales from the River

Gas Pool



Supplied by
David Addy, St
Edmundsbury
Chronicle website

Parkers Mill,
rebuilt 1908,
the Ship Inn,
1960s

Mildenhall and
District Museum



Parkers Mill,
the Ship Inn,
1980s

Mildenhall and
District Museum



The Ship Inn,
1980s,
Parkers Mill,

Mildenhall and
District Museum



The Dolvers, now
Jubilee Fields

Mildenhall and
District Museum

Tales from the River



Barton Mills

Mildenhall and District Museum



Icklingham Mill, early 20th century

Mildenhall and District Museum

Tales from the River

Marstons Mill, Icklingham, mid 20th century





Temple Bridge in 1976, built 1912
Supplied by David Addy, St Edmundsbury Chronicle website

Tales from the River

Temple Bridge in 2007
© Bob Jones, Geograph



Tales from the River

Icklingham
(Farthing)
Bridge with
staunch
and lock
remains,
about 1905

Supplied by
David Addy, St
Edmundsbury
Chronicle
website

Tales from the River

Soldiers at
Duck Sluice,
Fornham
August 1915

Walton Burrell collection,
reproduced with permission
of Suffolk Archives



Soldiers at Duck Sluice, Fornham, August 1915

Tales from the River

Walton Burrell
collection,
held at
Suffolk Archives



Cavenham, Icklingham & the River Lark

Cavenham Reach, managed by Natural England

Floodwaters were released for flood control on the River Lark and River Arun in early September. The release is expected to be completed on a National Scheme between 1 and 4pm on 14th September. Heavy rain storms bring and sustain high flow. Please do not flood the river in the event of heavy rain. It is important that you do not flood the river. It is important that you do not flood the river. It is important that you do not flood the river.

The River Lark Catchment Partnership

The River Lark Catchment Partnership is a group of people who live in the catchment area of the River Lark. They are working together to improve the health of the river and the environment. They are also working to improve the health of the river and the environment.

Water safety

Water safety is important for everyone who lives in the catchment area of the River Lark. It is important that you do not flood the river. It is important that you do not flood the river. It is important that you do not flood the river.

Icklingham and Cavenham Mills

Several water mills are located in the Cavenham area of 2000 on the east and south side of the river. The mills were built in the 18th century.

A hydroelectric power station and water mill, Cavenham Mills, is located in the Cavenham area. It is a small power station that generates electricity from the river.

Memories of swimming and fishing in the Lark

Many a childhood spent hours in the Lark. It was a place of freedom and fun. It was a place where you could swim and fish. It was a place where you could enjoy the outdoors.

It is a place where you can still enjoy the outdoors. It is a place where you can still swim and fish. It is a place where you can still enjoy the outdoors.

Tangle Bridge

The Tangle Bridge is a small bridge over the River Lark. It is a simple wooden bridge that is used by people who live in the area. It is a place where you can enjoy the outdoors.

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Celebrating the rivers that run through the towns and villages of the Brecks

This is one of the projects being the winners of the Brecks Awards. It is a project that is being run by the Brecks Awards. It is a project that is being run by the Brecks Awards.

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Maps of the river Lark

Rivers snake across the Brecks, important in a landscape that is forest, heath and farmland. Long used for transport and moving heavy things, often the reason why towns or villages grew up where they are, important for biodiversity and wildlife, and valued by people for recreation and appreciation of nature.



Map highlighting the rivers crossing the Brecks

The river Lark rises south of Bury St Edmunds, flows through villages, Mildenhall, then joins the Great Ouse that flows out through King's Lynn to the Wash.

Swimming memories



Jean in the river Lark

Icklingham memories on Facebook

Colleen. On hot days in the early 90's we would be in the water at Temple bridge for half of the summer holiday. And I remember a night or two taking a rubber dinghy down the weir in the dark whilst camping. Woke up to find we'd pitched the tent in an adders nest 🐍

Tracey. I remember when I was young and as a family going to Temple and going down the waterfall. I'm sure my stepdad Barry and his brothers and sister probably learnt to swim in the river Lark. Out all day scrumping apples 🍏 and out all day until tea.

Icklingham Mill artist

The painter Alfred Richard Blundell lived at Icklingham Mill in the early 20th century and became renowned for his architectural and landscape paintings and drawings.

This image shows Icklingham Mill in drypoint, a technique similar to engraving.



Alfred Blundell, 'The Old Water Mill at Icklingham', drypoint, possibly 1920s, supplied by David Addy, St Edmundsbury Chronicle website.

Boat trade on the river

For centuries, the river was the best way to carry heavy goods. Bury St Edmunds Abbey was rebuilt in around 1080 with Barnack stone carried up the river Lark from Peterborough.

In the 18th and early 19th century the river was busy, with coal and corn being taken from Mildenhall up to Bury and to villages along the way. In 1845 10,000 tons of goods were carried in river barges called lighters on the 16-mile (26 km) navigation.



'Temple Lock, Icklingham', Alfred Blundell, early 20th century etching.

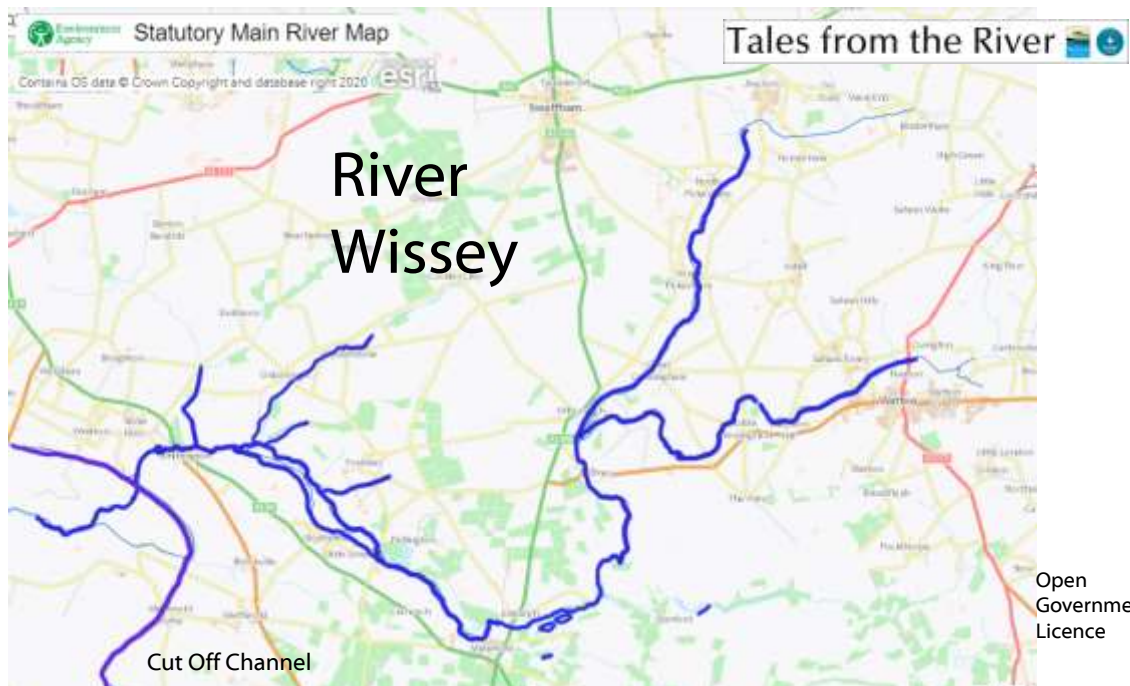


A skating match at Littleport in 1891; Tommy Wells, the author's uncle, is the skater on the right. (Illustrated London News.)



Philip Doubleday with daughters Angela, r, Caroline, Jan 1966





Open
Government
Licence

Tales from the River

Thanks
To you for listening
To our oral history interviewees
and all who told us their stories
and let us use their photos

More information:
osbrecks.co.uk ;
<https://brecks.org/>;
BFER YouTube channel



West Row (?), early 1940s. Supplied by Colin Ashton