

Wroxall Stream is a tributary of the Eastern Yar, the largest river on the Isle of Wight and flows from the Island's southern downland to where they meet at Merstone

The Wroxall Stream Trail or Link is an 8 mile trail which links the town of Ventnor to the village of Merstone. It can be enjoyed as a stand-alone walk or can be linked to the much longer Yar River Trail. We start our trail in Ventnor, as this affords fantastic views, but for a shorter and flatter trail join it in Wroxall at Point (3). These waymarkers will guide you along the Trail. They are attached to signposts, gates and fences.



Wroxall Stream Trail starts at the entrance to the yard of the former Ventnor Railway Station, now an industrial estate, located high above the town on Ocean View Road. (1) Take the path on the left side of the estate entrance and follow the fence to the open land of Coombe Bottom in front of you. Follow a path down the slope and along the coombe. At the far end climb up the track and head towards the masts of Ventnor Radio Station and Radar Station beyond, which played a crucial role in WW2. Stop at the top to get your breath back and take in the spectacular views across the southern tip of the Island and English Channel. Bear left along the side of the mast enclosure fence (V 1a) to reach the road. Turn left onto the road.



The view south

Turn right and head down bridleway V 8 (2), first stopping to admire the view north, this is the valley of the Wroxall Stream. Follow the steep path down through pretty Wroxall Copse and once in the fields look left to spot a shaft from the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long tunnel of the disused Shanklin to Ventnor railway line. Head to the farm buildings and along the lane to the main road by a pub (3). Continue down the road and just past St John the Evangelist Church turn right (Castle Road) to a disused railway bridge.



The view north

A footpath on the left leads down to the former railway track (4). Walk about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along the trackbed and soon after a farm and outbuildings below on the right, look for a path crossing the track and a waymark post. Go left into the field and stop to look left to the obelisk erected in 1774 in memory of Sir Robert Worsley of nearby Appuldurcombe Park before heading down to the road. Cross it slightly right into a bridleway (NC 43).

This bridleway passes through the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary (5) and down to a bridge over Wroxall Stream. Immediately on the far side of the bridge turn right. Eventually cross the stream again and exit onto a main road. Go left, carefully crossing the road to find a stile set back in a small group of trees (GL 29). Follow the path over several stiles, occasionally walking adjacent to the stream.



Wroxall Stream

At the approach to Bobberstone Farm (6) turn right on a path then a track that goes around the outside of the farm and outbuildings giving a sight of the now broader Wroxall Stream. Continue along the farm track and in a short distance a path starts right up steps (GL 29). Follow the straight path by the hedge until a road is reached at a corner. Continue right along the road until a path crosses (track to the left), then go left along the track (GL 28) (7). Follow the track with a hedge on your left then your right. Spot ducks in the reservoir to your left (8). Cross a culvert to a fingerpost and head right with a hedge on the left. Cross the corner of the field following waymark posts, through two hedges to continue across a grass field to a bridge on the right (9).



Reservoir

Cross the bridge and gently climb away from the stream to pass through a small copse. Join a track at a waymark post and continue straight on to a cross track with signpost. Go forward a short distance and turn left off the track on a grassy bridleway (A 22), with a ditch to your right. After a bridle gate and signpost the bridleway curves left by a waymark post and follows the hedge. You are now crossing pasture with a number of drainage channels. Head for a metal field gate and a bridge – this is your last crossing of Wroxall Stream before it joins the Eastern Yar! Go across the grass and straight across the middle of the field in front to reach a fingerpost in the far distance. (NB not the fingerpost visible half left). At the fingerpost the Yar River Trail is reached travelling right (10). You are now at Budbridge and a short distance to the north is a weir and the historic manor of Great Budbridge.



Onward walking

To reach Godshill (cafes and buses) turn left along the Yar River Trail track and take the second path on the right. (1.25 miles)

To reach Merstone (refreshments and bus stop) turn right and at a bridge over the disused railway go left down onto the trackbed to the former station (1.0 mile)

To reach Herringford (buses) follow the Yar River Trail for 2.4 miles

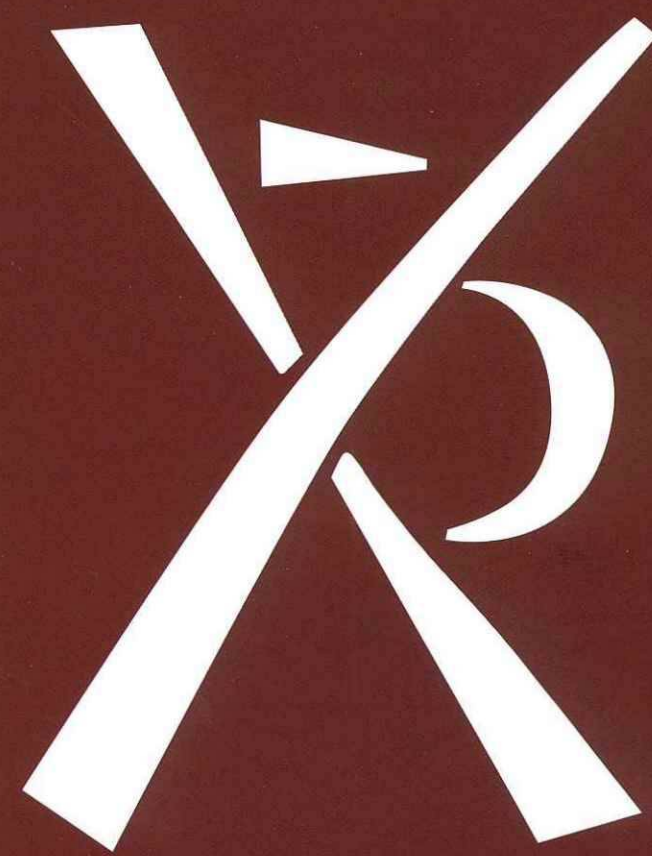


The Wroxall Stream Trail is one of three beautiful walks through the largest river catchment on the Isle of Wight. It is a link to the 19 mile long Yar River Trail. It can be joined at Ventnor (8 miles) or for a shorter and flatter route join at Wroxall (6 miles).

More information about the trail and maps can be found at islandrivers.org.uk/yar



Wroxall Stream Trail



Wroxall Stream Trail

 Keep a look out for...



Stitchwort



Common Buzzard



Small Copper Butterfly



Banded Damoiselle



Gt. Budbridge Manor



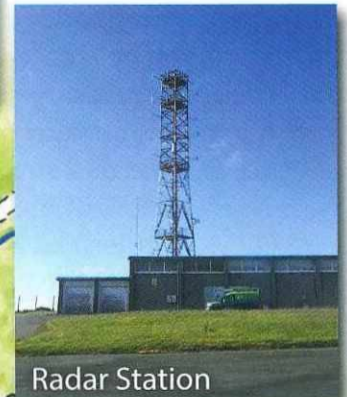
Godhill



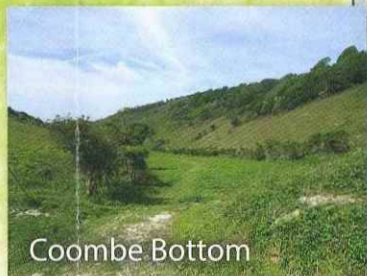
Donkey Sanctuary



Railway Tunnel Shaft



Radar Station



Coombe Bottom

