

# PORTRAIT OF THE WAVENEY VALLEY

Ian Carstairs

Straddling the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk, the Waveney Valley is one of lowland England's treasures. From the source of the River Waveney, near the timeless Redgrave and Lopham Fen, to its confluence with the River Yare below historic Burgh Castle, the river winds its way through an agricultural landscape of great antiquity. Along its meandering course, magnificent churches and timber-framed buildings peep through trees or punctuate a horizon of wide skies, marking settlements and farmsteads and the delightful market towns of Diss, Harleston, Bungay, and Beccles

The Waveney Valley means different things to different people. To some it is the low-lying and gently sloping lands immediately beside the River Waveney. To others it includes parishes and settlements expanding well away from the river's course. For most it is more of a general 'idea', with no particular boundary at all.

In no way does this detract from the charms of this un-crowded slice of England, or from the passions of those who identify with the character and quality of this simply delightful place.

Ian Carstairs' photographic journey along the Norfolk and Suffolk border forms a perfect souvenir for visitors and residents alike who take the time to discover that the best of rural England is alive and well, throughout the Waveney Valley.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ian Carstairs has been widely involved, both voluntarily and professionally, with the natural, built and cultural heritage of town and countryside and has spearheaded many major conservation and community projects and campaigns. Ian has used photography extensively as an essential tool in his work, and is the author of several of Halsgrove's books, notably on the North York Moors, Yorkshire Coast, York, Hull, The River Derwent and Saving Cornfield Flowers. He was made an OBE for services to the heritage and awarded the National Federation of Anglers' Gold Medal and the 'Golden Scale', the mark of the Golden Scale Club for his contribution to the conservation of rivers. Ian lives in Harleston.

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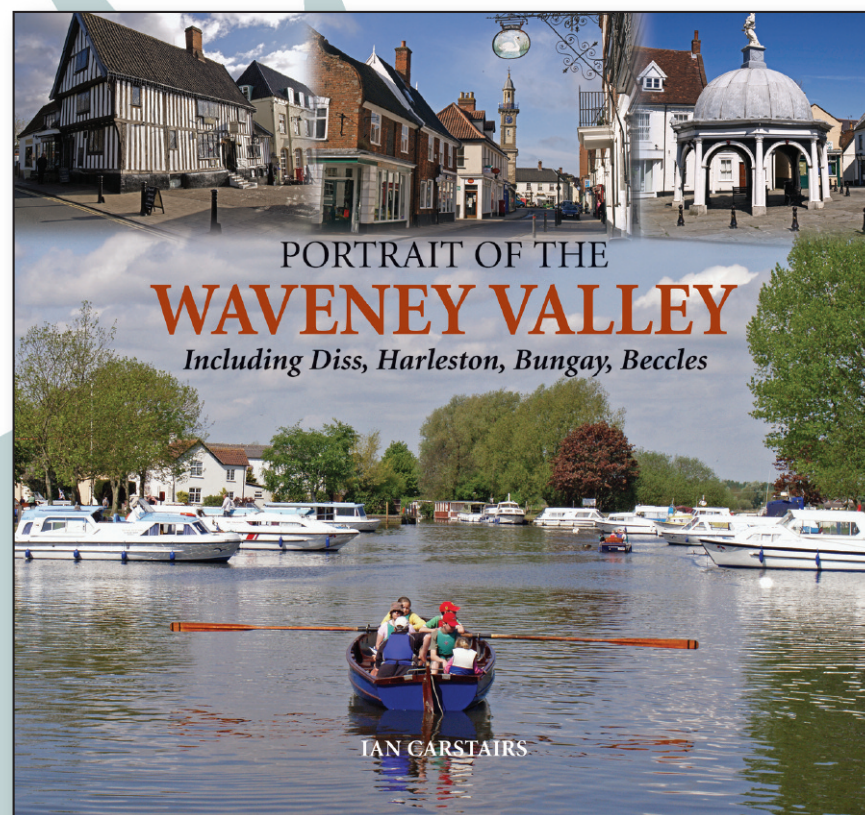
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# PORTRAIT OF THE WAVENEY VALLEY



Redgrave and Lopham Fen, the largest remaining area of river valley fen in England.



Dolphin House, will always have been an important building in Diss' street scene.



Wind power ground the corn, but it also blew down Billingford Mill's predecessor in 1859.



*John*  
Tandy rebuild?  
Many churches, such as St Remigius', Ripston, were rebuilt in the nineteenth century. A Victorian octagonal spire has been added to the Norman tower. What conclusion would it have been in without their work?

*John*  
Shallow valley - wide skies  
Compared with dramatic scenery and valleys of northern England, the Waveney Valley viewed from Ripston, seems flat a light depression in a gently rolling landscape, merged with a wide sky-space.



The swollen River Waveney shrinks back into its banks after a flood has passed.

Example of a double-page spread.