

# Burnham Norton Friary Closes as Charity Launches Campaign to Protect Heritage at Risk

Tuesday 28 April, 2026

Burnham Norton Friary, one of Norfolk's most treasured medieval sites, has been temporarily closed to the public to allow essential conservation planning to take place.

The Friary is a Scheduled Monument and is included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. The temporary closure represents a positive and proactive step, allowing conservation specialists the time and access needed to better understand the site's condition and to plan sensitive, appropriate future work. Managing historic ruins presents numerous challenges, including balancing conservation efforts with public access and combating the effects of weathering and vandalism.

As a Scheduled Monument, any conservation activity must be carefully considered. This period of investigation and planning will ensure that future work respects the Friary's historic significance while addressing the challenges it faces.

In response, the Norfolk Archaeological Trust (NAT) has launched a Support Your Site scheme specifically for Burnham Norton Friary. The scheme provides a direct way for the public to support the care of this important site, with all funds raised staying with the Friary to support conservation planning and future works.

Alongside this, the Trust is inviting local people to get involved through a new Community Engagement Volunteer role. The role focuses on helping to raise awareness of the conservation project and strengthening connections between the Friary and the local community. No specialist knowledge is required, and volunteers will receive full guidance and support.

Natalie Butler, Director of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, said:

"As a Scheduled Monument, Burnham Norton Friary deserves thoughtful, informed care. This phase of conservation planning is about listening to the site, understanding what it needs, and making sure any future work is done with respect for its history and significance."

Further updates will be shared as conservation planning progresses.

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### The Norfolk Archaeological Trust

E. [nataliebutler@norfarchtrust.org.uk](mailto:nataliebutler@norfarchtrust.org.uk)

W. <https://www.norfarchtrust.org.uk/>

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