


WOAD! Into the Blue

The story of East Anglia's famous blue dye
from prehistory to the present day



A SPECIAL
EXHIBITION
AT THE NORRIS
MUSEUM, ST IVES
August 29th to
September 30th

Monday to Saturday
10.00-5.00

Sunday 2.00-5.00
ADMISSION FREE

01480 497314

www.norrismuseum.org.uk

EXHIBITION BY CAMBS COUNTY
COUNCIL WITH HELP FROM THE
HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
PHOTOGRAPH BY
JOANNA RICHARDS

WOAD! Into the Blue

WOAD has been used in Britain since at least 1000 BC and has been cultivated in East Anglia for hundreds of years.

In the Iron Age (800 BC to AD 43) the Britons used indigo from the woad plant to colour their faces and bodies blue before going into battle. The Fens were an important woad growing area from the 1300s to the 1700s, and the last Cambridgeshire woad mill closed only in 1917.

Today woad is being grown again commercially. This exhibition tells the story of woad from prehistory to the present day.