

Water, Mills and Marshes: the Broads Landscape partnership bid
Report by Project Manager and Landscape Officer

Summary: The Broads Authority and their partners are currently preparing an application to the Heritage Lottery for funding for a series of projects relating to the cultural landscape of Halvergate and its surrounding area. Key aspirations, in addition to undertaking conservation work to mills and biodiversity enhancements for the area, will be to reconnect communities with their local landscape, skills training, and to improve and make available more information about the history of the area for use in educational projects and interpretation.

1 Background to Landscape Partnership Programme

- 1.1 Administered by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Landscape Partnerships programme is for schemes led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests which aim to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character throughout the UK.
- 1.2 Projects delivered through the partnership, which is formed for the delivery of a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) need to contribute towards all of the nine outcomes listed below:

Outcomes for heritage

With HLF investment, heritage will be:

- better managed
- in better condition
- identified/recorded

Outcomes for people

With HLF investment, people will have:

- developed skills
- learnt about heritage
- volunteered time

Outcomes for communities

With HLF investment:

- environmental impacts will be reduced
- more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage
- your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit

1.3 The LPS is divided into three phases; application, development, delivery. The application deadline the Authority is working towards is 31 May 2015. If the application is successful, the development phase would begin October 2015 and can take up to 25 months before submitting a second round application. After a successful second round application and once permission to start has been granted by the HLF, the delivery phase of the project can last up to 5 years (2017/18 -2022/23).

2 The Proposed Scheme Landscape Partnership

2.1 Key to the delivery of a successful LPS is reaching early agreement with partners and stakeholders about the overarching aims and objectives of the scheme and building a strong project board to oversee the application process.

2.2 The Authority is currently at the stage where it is working with partners, stakeholders and interested parties to develop and agree robust aims and objectives. The Authority is also currently scoping out the individual projects that could be delivered by the scheme through the partnership. Shortly we will be inviting a number of organisations to join the scheme project board. This board will be responsible for reviewing and signing off the application.

2.3 In addition to meeting individually with some of the key scheme partners, a stakeholder event was held on the 1 October 2014. The event was very well attended with a wide range of interest groups and organisations being represented. Discussions at the event were focused around a draft matrix document which set out some initial ideas about the location of the scheme location, the overarching concepts and the draft aims, objectives and outputs.

2.4 The feedback received from this event has been analysed and has proved to be very helpful in ensuring that the relevant focus on and balance between project types is achieved for the scheme area. A revised document has been produced which incorporates the points raised. (See appendix 1)

2.5 Regular updates to partners, stakeholders and interested parties will be provided throughout the development of the application. Key dates for presentations and deadlines are listed below.

Timescales

		Date	Activity
2014	Application Phase	1 October	Stakeholder and potential partner meeting. Acle Recreation Centre
		17 October	HLF Visit and field trip to Halvergate
		6 November	Broads Forum: Presentation
		7 November	Heritage Asset Review Group: Presentation
		21 November	Broads Authority: Presentation and update on progress
		December	Progress report to Management Team
		3 December	Local Access Forum: Presentation
2015	Application Phase	23 January	Draft LPS application for comment and approval for Management Team to sign off second draft Progress report to Broads Authority members
		February	Progress report to Management Team
		20 March	Broads Authority: Update on progress
		April	LPS Penultimate Draft to Partners for consultation and comment and approval return by mid-April Application hard copy preparation
		1 May	LPS Application Final Draft to Project Board and Management Team
		31 May	HLF LPS Application Deadline
		Application Assessment	June
	July		
	August		
			September
		October	HLF Decision

Author: Will Burchnall/ Lesley Marsden

Date of report: 16 October 2014

Broads Plan Objectives: CC4, LC1, LC2, BD1, BD2, BD5, AL2, AL4, PE1, PE2, PE3, TR1, TR3

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Water, Mills and Marshes – The Broads Landscape Partnership

Water, Mills and Marshes: the Broads landscape partnership



a unique sense of place...

above the ground

on the ground

below the ground

The Marsh Landscape (key facts)	Within the Broads National Park, Halvergate has one of the greatest concentrations of drainage mills in Europe . Halvergate is unique in that it demonstrates the evolution of drainage machinery . Management and maintenance of water levels in the ancient dyke networks provides a habitat for nationally rare flora . It is one of the top ten most important areas for lowland breeding and overwintering birds in the UK . The wetland environment offers ideal conditions for the preservation of archaeology , much of which lies undiscovered .
Importance to people	Its highly engineered flood banks, dyke networks, mill and pump structures are an unsung testament to the centuries of human efforts to tame the Great Estuary landscape for industry and commerce; The once important river trade routes have become a nationally important recreational resource for boating visitors; This expansive, remote, wild and dramatic landscape is a magnet to artists, photographers and wildlife enthusiasts; It is a landscape which offers people the opportunity to learn from the past to demonstrate how they can adapt to the future.
The risk	Within the Broads, Halvergate is the least understood, least visited by land, least valued and yet of equal or potentially greater significance to other areas in the Broads ; the increasing lack of physical and emotional connection local communities have with their landscape ; lack of recognition, investment and care of heritage assets; changing economic and social drivers for land use and land and water management regimes ; lack of skills and knowledge to maintain landscape features ; and not preparing to adapt to the potential effects of climate change .
The impacts	The deterioration and loss of landscape features, integral to the character of this unique wetland landscape. A loss of a national cultural resource based on the, stories, skills, crafts and trades. Limiting opportunities for enjoyment. Perpetuating the continuing physical and emotional disconnection people have with the Halvergate marsh landscape.
Aims of the project	To reconnect communities with their local landscape and encourage them to “invest in” and develop a pride in their cultural connections with this unique landscape. Train people in the necessary skills to manage and maintain this landscape for future generations. Introduce more diverse audiences to this landscape. Develop and make accessible more information and interpretation which celebrates the significance of the area. Conserve, restore and enhance the important landscape features. Develop and encourage partnerships and methods by which this landscape can be sustainably managed beyond the life of the scheme.
How will this be achieved	Projects with communities - to support, involve, inspire, cherish their local landscape Projects with people - to train in skills to manage and maintain the landscape features of the landscape; to encourage access to and actively enjoy the landscape Projects with heritage – explore, repair, conserve, enhance document, and make more accessible physically and virtually.