

## **Broads Forum**

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2006

### **Present**

Mr Tony Stapleton (in the Chair)

Dr Keith Bacon	Mr Nicholas Deane	Mr Peter Howe
Mr David Batten	Mr Mike Evans	Rev Neville Khambatta
Mr Standley Bushell	Mr Barry Green	Mr John Sharpe
Mr Henry Cator	Mr John Hiskett	Mr Anthony Wright
Mr Keith Clarke		

### **In Attendance**

Mr R G Holman – Director of Corporate Services  
Ms A Kelly – Conservation Officer (Waterways Strategy)  
Ms J Masson – Conservation Manager  
Dr J Packman – Chief Executive  
Mr R Savage – Rivers Engineer  
Mrs L Shute – Administrative Officer  
Mrs T Wakelin – Director of Waterways

### **Also Present**

Ms S Brown – Strategic and Development Planning Manager,  
Environment Agency  
Mr R Lobley – Project Executive, Environment Agency.

### **38 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Julian Barnwell, Ursula Brewer, Martin George, Val Khambatta, Mike O'Brien, Philip Raiswell, Matthew Thwaites, Hugh Tusting, Roy Warren and Tess Wright.

### **39 Chairman's Update**

The Chairman announced that the Director of Research and Strategy had left the Authority for a new post. The Broads Forum had benefited from his considerable knowledge and it was agreed that the Chairman should send a letter on the Forum's behalf letter thanking him for his support.

### **40 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **41 Summary of Progress/Actions/Response Taken following Discussions at Previous Meetings**

Members made the following comments:

- (1) With reference to minute 29 (1), regarding anti fouling biocide contamination, members noted that leaflets promoting best practice were in the process of being circulated and to whom they were being sent.
- (2) With reference to minute 29 (4), regarding the position taken by the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA) regarding water skiing, it was noted that the NSBA 'believes that the ideal arrangement would be to provide a dedicated closed broad for the pursuit of such sports. Failing that, it will not oppose waterskiing on the Broads under suitable management arrangements. However, for reasons of wash and the safety and enjoyment of other river users, wakeboarding is not in its view a suitable activity on the Broads'.
- (3) With reference to minute 29 (3), members noted why it had not been possible to bring a report to this meeting. However the Conservation Manager gave members a brief summary of the results of the trial angling and monitoring programme, which had been carried out to limit wintering bird disturbance at Horsey Mere and which had been largely successful. The trial management programme had provided a basis, which would be modified for next winter.

## **42 Chief Executive's Report**

The Chief Executive presented his report, which summarised the issues considered by the Broads Authority and the decisions taken during the most recent cycle of meetings.

### **(1) Establishment of the New Waterways Directorate**

In reply to a member's question, it was agreed that a current staff organisational chart would be attached to the minutes.

### **(2) Managing the River Valleys and the Wider Catchment**

In reply to a member's question as to how the local communities and stakeholders would be involved in the valley approach to managing the river valleys, it was noted that details had yet to be arranged.

### **(3) Norwich Yacht Station**

A member welcomed the improvements which had been carried out at the yacht station but confirmed that security was still an issue quoting details of an incident which had occurred recently. Members noted that

the incident including the CCTV footage was being reviewed to assess whether any action could be taken. Officers shared members' concern at the rate at which the improvements and security measures were being installed.

## **43 Private Bill**

Members received a report, which gave details of the progress made in developing a Private Bill for deposit in Parliament in November 2006. Members noted the issues raised in response to the first draft of the Bill together with the contents of the second draft and made comments on a number of key issues.

### **(1) Name of the Area and Authority**

The Chief Executive explained the purposes of national park authorities as defined in statute and the differences between the Authority and other national parks including the use of the Sandford Principle. Members noted that the Bill did not propose to adopt the Sandford Principle. However, the Authority was consulting on an option that proposed to amend the purposes in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and to widen the third purpose relating to navigation by the addition of wording to include conservation and development of the navigation.

Members made the following comments:

- The wording of the third purpose relating to the navigation should be more positive and promoting the navigation.
- The name is a red herring and the real issue is the national park principles. There are strong feelings about this issue and a serious suspicion that the culture will change as demonstrated in the 400 replies received by the NSBA in reply to their survey on the issues.
- The proposed change to the name confuses the debate. Norfolk and Suffolk is too unwieldy. The Authority look forward to developing attitudes and not back to the 1988 Act. There should be an interpretation of the term 'development'. There is a lack of knowledge and information relating to the purposes and the Sandford Principle and most people do not fully understand this. The more information provided, especially for those outside the area, the better. The Authority should not ignore the impact on people outside the area.
- The addition of cultural heritage in the first purpose was welcomed and it was felt that this addition could be applied to sailing craft.
- The move to use the sustainable development principles was felt to be a positive thing.

(2) **Contiguous Waters**

The Chief Executive commented that there had been support for this addition.

Members made the following comments:

- The term contiguous needs to be clearly defined.
- Comments from the Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters Association have been forwarded relating to the possible impact on vessels transporting fen products.

The Waterways Manager confirmed that those vessels in dykes and water courses, without a connection to the navigation, would not be affected.

(3) **Water Skiing**

It was noted that further work was needed to develop the definition of the activity. This section would give the Authority the powers to deal with the management of the activity.

A member commented that there was a clear distinction between the activity of water skiing and wakeboarding.

(4) **Compulsory Third Party Insurance for Boats**

It was noted that there had been considerable discussion on this matter in relation to a similar provision for waters administered by the Environment Agency. The NSBA and Royal Yachting Association (RYA) had a difference of opinion about whether it should apply to all craft but in general there had been strong support from most bodies for this addition. The Authority would retain the power to make exemptions.

(5) **Removal of Vegetation**

It was noted that the intention was to have a code of practice in place to reassure landowners as to the use of this provision.

Members made the following comments:

- Support, providing the Authority acts in a professional and sensible way in the execution of the powers.

(6) **Extension of the Navigation Area**

A key point was that provision of an appointed day took account of the transfer of Breydon and the Lower Bure from the Port Authority and

would ensure that time was allowed to make the necessary agreements.

**(7) Variation of the Membership of the Authority**

Members made the following comments:

- This was to be welcomed.
- There is an imbalance with the two members from Navigation Committee on the Authority.

The Chief Executive explained that it was also important to balance national and local membership. It was important to have the right quality of member with the skills required and not members who would promote their particular interest. It was agreed that members should represent the wider interest of the Broads.

**(8) Navigation Account**

Members noted that a productive meeting had taken place with the RYA, British Marine Federation (BMF) and Inland Waterways Association, and the Authority was drafting a report to show that the finances could be managed without a navigation account. Members noted that the introduction of a single account could lead to a considerable saving in staff time. It was important to ensure that any new arrangements would show full details of navigation income and how it was spent.

In reply to a member's question as to what was being repealed under Schedule 7 the Chief Executive read out Section 9(8) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act. He explained that the purpose was to allow the Authority to directly delegate its navigation responsibility to officers rather than through the Navigation Committee. He further explained that a note was being compiled in which the role of the Navigation Committee would be clarified. For the purpose of clarity, the wording of the sections to be repealed would be included in the relevant section of the Bill.

In reply to a member's question, it was noted that North Norfolk District Council was continuing with its proposals for the licensing of hire boats and had contacted Broadland District Council with a view to extending its scheme. Members noted that although the district councils would be administering transitional licensing arrangements, under the Bill, eventually the district councils' powers would be repealed and the Authority would have the powers to administer the scheme.

Members were reminded that the period for the formal consultation for the draft Bill ran until Friday 14 July 2006. Comments received would be considered in conjunction with the second draft of the Bill at the Authority meeting on 28 July 2006, before the Bill was finalised at the Authority meeting on 29 September 2006.

#### **44 Barton Broad Water Space Management Plan (2006)**

The Conservation Officer (Waterways Strategy) introduced a report outlining the process and purpose of the Barton Water Space Management Plan. The Plan included information and actions for addressing issues relating to recreational use and the nature conservation interest of Barton Broad. The proposals included a list of projects relating to wider interests in Barton water space including land based recreation, improving understanding and communication and further research and monitoring and was the result of a consensus-building approach based on the integrated use of the water space.

Members of the Broads Forum who had sat on the Barton Liaison Group confirmed that the management process the group had been through had been necessary to build an understanding of the issues and trust amongst the stake holders and to arrive at a consensus.

The Management Plan contained an action plan which would be used to take forward projects specific to Barton Broad water space. Members noted that the draft Barton Broad Water Space Management Plan would be considered by the Navigation Committee and Broads Authority at their meetings on 22 June 2006 and 28 July 2006. It was proposed to link this initiative to the proposed valley approach being developed by the Authority in the Ant Valley.

#### **45 Upper Thurne Water Space: Interim Management Plan (May 2006)**

The Conservation Manager introduced the Upper Thurne Water Space Interim Management Plan, the purpose of which was to provide an integrated and sustainable approach to managing the Upper Thurne waterways. The consensus-based approach used in the process had resulted in a three year management plan which would be reviewed to integrate the findings of the three-year Upper Thurne research programme. The Plan includes an action plan relating to the wider interests of the Upper Thurne water space, including land-based recreation, improving understanding and communication as well as further research and monitoring.

Forum members involved with the Upper Thurne Working Group confirmed the importance of involving all interested parties, especially local communities, in the process and the important contribution made by all the members of the working group in producing the management plan and three year action plan.

Members comments included:

- that a section on the use of zoning as a tool for managing the use of the water space similar to that in the Barton Broad Water Space Management Plan should be included.
- That an overall aim for the Management Plan as contained in the Barton Broad Water Space Management Plan was missing from the introduction to the overall Management Objectives.

- A member commented that the Hickling Broad Sailing Club was not as enthusiastic as some.

Members noted that the Management Plan would be launched, along with the Barton Broad Water Space Management Plan, at the Authority's Public Meeting in October 2006.

## **46 Dredging**

### **(1) Sediment Management Strategy: Consultation Draft**

A report setting out progress in the development of the draft Sediment Management Strategy was received. Members noted details of further work to be carried out for the development of a long term Action Plan to inform future annual programmes of dredging projects.

Further details would be reported to the next meeting.

### **(2) Dredging Programme 2006/07: Update**

Members received a report recording the progress of the programme of dredging works completed during 2005/06.

In reply to a member's question as to when work would commence at St Benets Abbey, it was noted that this would be subject to water vole surveys and their relocation.

In reply to a members question regarding shallow areas in the Upper Thurne, it was noted that there were no disposal opportunities in the area and because of this, dredging work would not be carried out in the foreseeable future.

## **47 Current Issues**

### **(1) Granary Staithe, Hoveton**

A member requested information as to whether the Authority had been involved in any discussions for disposal of the open space in the location by the County Council, for commercial development or for a community building on the site. It was noted that the Authority had held discussions with Norfolk County Council and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) since, in its role of Planning Authority, the Authority would be involved in proposals for the site. Further details would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.

(2) **Cycling at Ludham and Hoveton**

A member commented that he was keen to promote ways of increasing leisure cycling and would be happy to give a presentation on the subject. In reply, the Chairman agreed that such a presentation would be welcomed.

**48 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at the Sportspark, Earlham Road, Norwich at 2.00pm on 21 September 2006 (after the site visit at Whitlingham Country Park).

**Part B: Presentation**

**49 Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan**

Mr Rob Lobley, Project Executive, Environment Agency, introduced this item and introduced Ms Sue Brown who was the Strategic and Development Planning Manager for the Environment Agency. The Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan was now available and was subject to a consultation exercise and comments were welcomed.

Ms Brown gave a presentation on the Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) describing the areas covered, the development policy, the six national policies, catchment objectives, policy option and the policy units in the Broadland area. Details of the policy allocated for each of the policy units were described.

Members noted that a presentation on the CFMP would be made to the Authority meeting on 30 June 2006 and a workshop carried out on 6 July 2006 at which Forum members were welcome to participate.

Members were invited to ask questions (members comments/question are shown below as bullet points) and made the following comments:

- Some of the policy units were large areas with different issues, would there be scope for different policy options within subsections rather than having one option for the whole unit?

This will be taken into account at the implementation stage.

- Given the tidal nature of the Broads and the flooding potential will the different flood schemes work together?

The CFMP approaches flooding from the other direction by taking into account the fluvial flows and ways of 'catching' them.

- There needs to be 'joined up thinking' with similar work, such as is being carried out by BESL. This should be linked in with similar schemes to provide a better understanding of what is happening.

Members noted that the Plan included an addition of 20% to take account of climate change.

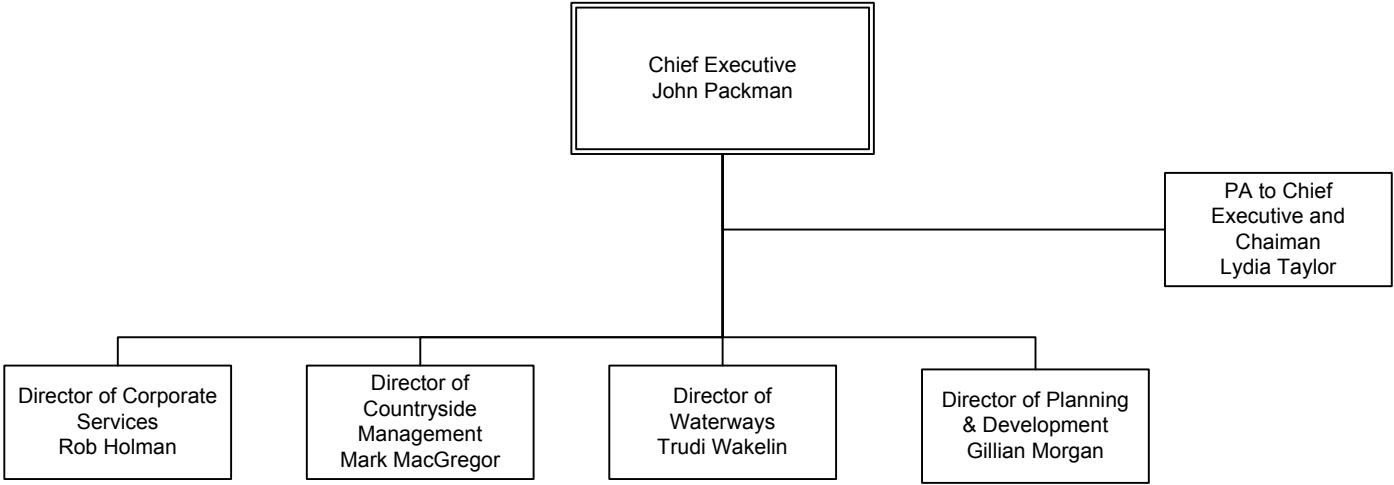
- The plan was to be welcomed but how would it be paid for?

This strategy would be part of an overall strategy as a guide for the whole of the UK.

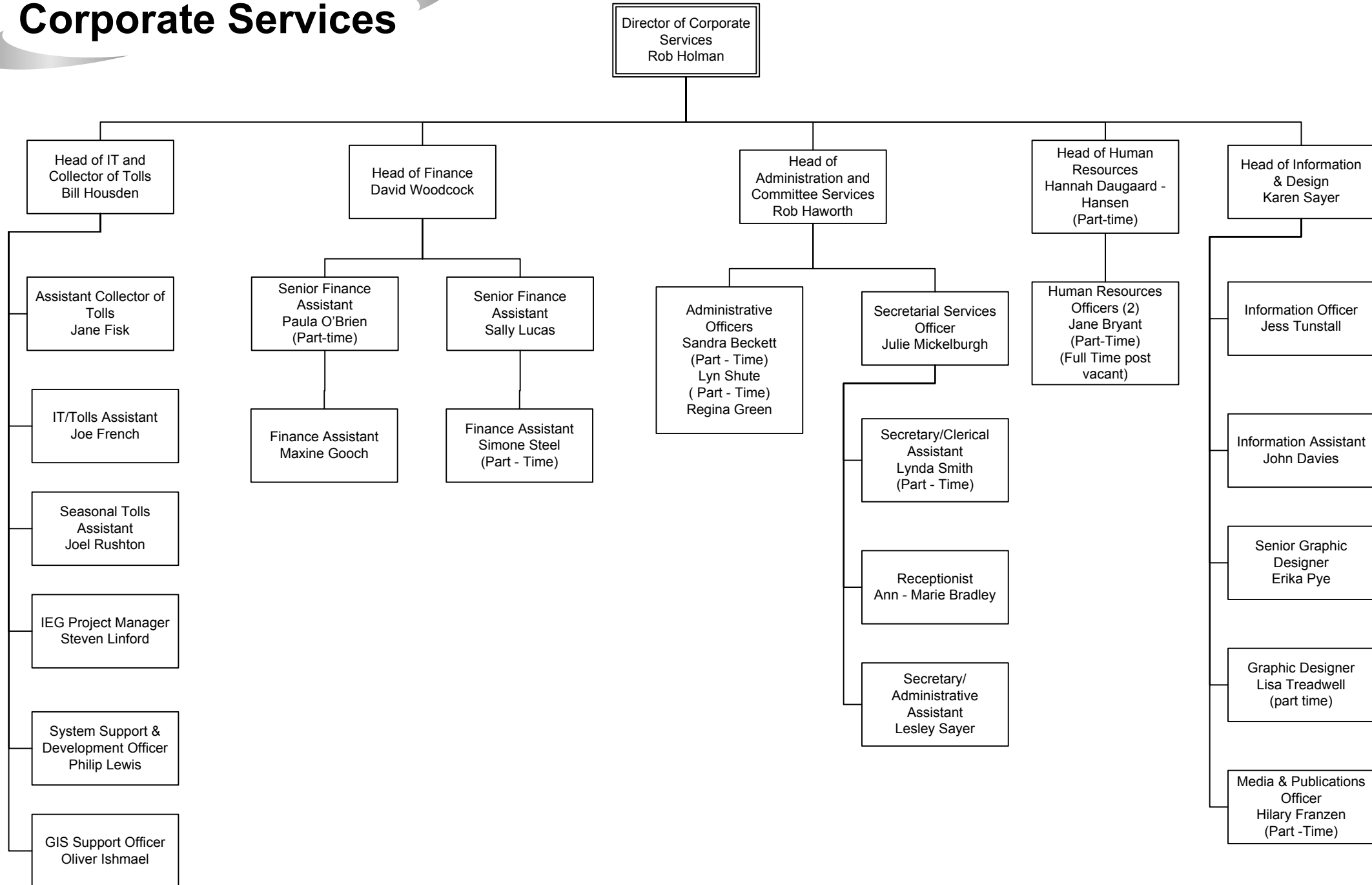
The meeting concluded at 5.02 pm.

CHAIRMAN

# Management Team



# Corporate Services



# Countryside Management

Director of Countryside Management  
Mark MacGregor

Secretary/  
Administrative  
Assistant  
Jo Eames

Landscape Architect  
Lesley Harrison

Manager -  
Whitlingham Broads  
Russell Wilson

Head Ranger  
(Countryside)  
Nick Sanderson

Head of Recreation  
and Tourism  
Development  
Bruce Hanson

Heritage Lottery  
Bursary Project  
Manager  
(Vacant)

Heritage Lottery  
Bursary  
Training Officer  
(Vacant)

Conservation  
Manager  
Julia Masson

Projects Team  
Supervisor  
Ian Walker

Whitlingham  
Countryside Ranger  
Paul Botton

Volunteer  
Coordinator  
Maggie Engledow

Visitor Services  
Manager  
Sam Bates

Conservation Officer  
(Fens and Grazing  
Marshes)  
Sandie Tolhurst  
(Part-time)

Head of Field  
Conservation  
Rob Andrews

Trinity Broads  
Catchment Officer  
Hannah Gray

Technical Skills  
Training Officer  
Simon Bunting

Whitlingham  
Seasonal  
Countryside Ranger  
Lucy Sandiford

Countryside Rangers  
(Yare)  
Edgar Hoddy  
(Waveney)  
Colin Hart  
(Ant/Thurne)  
Eilish Rothney  
(Bure)  
Elaina Slark

Seasonal Information  
Assistants  
(Beccles)  
Beryl Bayford  
Claire Ross  
(Hoveton)  
Dawn Coleman  
Marilyn Nisbet  
Lydia Tubby  
(Potter Heigham)  
David Anderson  
Stephanie Anderson  
Rita Benson  
(Ranworth)  
Sue Allerton  
Maureen Brown  
(Whitlingham)  
Mia Derhe  
Albert Ward

Conservation Officer  
(Fens)  
Sue Stephenson

Field Officers  
(Volunteers)  
Allen Field  
Phil Heath

Filby Warden  
Lesley Johnson

Senior Projects  
Technicians  
Jason Kerr  
Mark Rudrum

Bure Valley Seasonal  
Ranger  
Matt Larkman

Seasonal Information  
Assistants/Wardens  
(Toad Hole Cottage)  
Paul Gowman  
Emma Harris  
Robin Jeffries  
Brendan Russell-  
Wells  
Irene Woodward

Lound Catchment  
Officer  
(Vacant)

Field Officer  
(Marshman)  
Eric Edwards

Trinity Broads  
Hydrological  
Research Assistant  
(Vacant)

Projects Technicians  
Glen Owen  
Shaun Taylor

Events Officer  
Lottie Carlton  
(Part-time  
secondment)

Seasonal Assistant  
Navigation Rangers  
(Helen)  
Stuart Levermore  
(Liana)  
Tony Mickleburgh  
Bruce Moore  
(Ra)  
Gary Greenwood  
Mike Spire

Field Officer  
(Machinery Operator  
and Maintenance)  
David Marsham

Field Officer  
(Operations  
Coordinator)  
Trevor Thorley

Projects Technician  
(Volunteers)  
James Watts

Countryside Estate  
Ranger (Volunteers)  
Malcolm Farrow

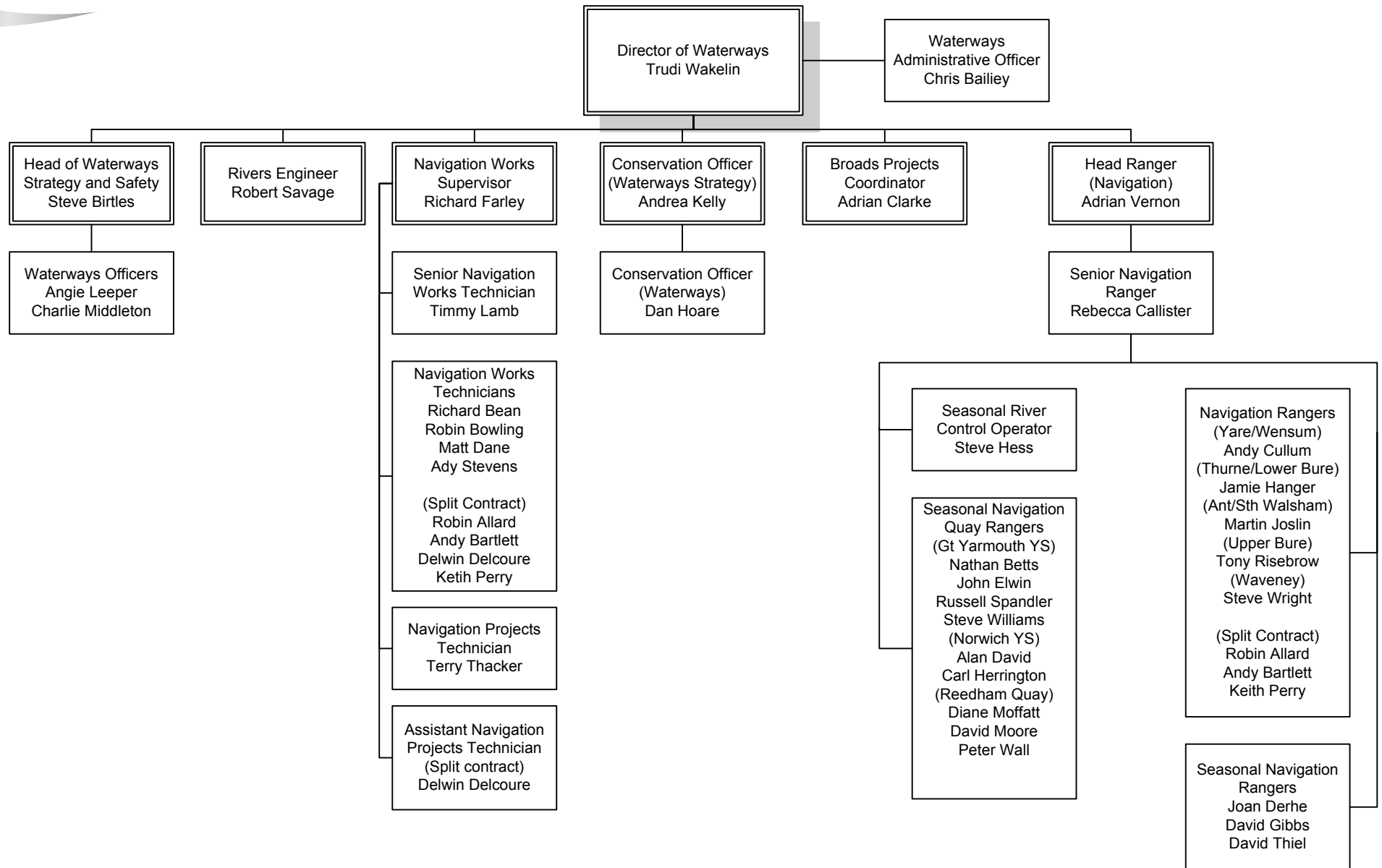
Seasonal  
Countryside  
Assistants  
Michael Brown  
Mark Gollins  
Keith Heazle

Field Officer  
(Harvester Operator)  
(Vacant)

Field Officer  
(Operations  
Coordinator)  
Trevor Thorley

Field Officer  
(Harvester Operator)  
(Vacant)

# Waterways



# Planning & Strategy

