

How to get involved:

Contact the Broads Authority (01603 610734) for details of current Barton Liaison Group members.

Barton Liaison Group comprises representatives from the following organisations and interest groups:

Broads Authority
English Nature
Environment Agency
Broads Angling Strategy Group
Broads Hire Boat Federation
Broads Society
Cox's Boatyard
Gay's Staithe Management Committee
Nancy Oldfield Trust
Norfolk Punt Club
Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Barton Turf Activity Centre

Parish Councils:

- Barton Turf & Irstead
- Catfield
- Neatishead

Local residents:

- Barton Turf & Irstead
- Neatishead

District Council:

- North Norfolk

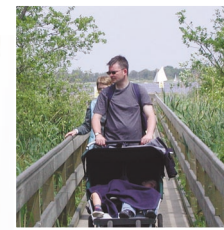
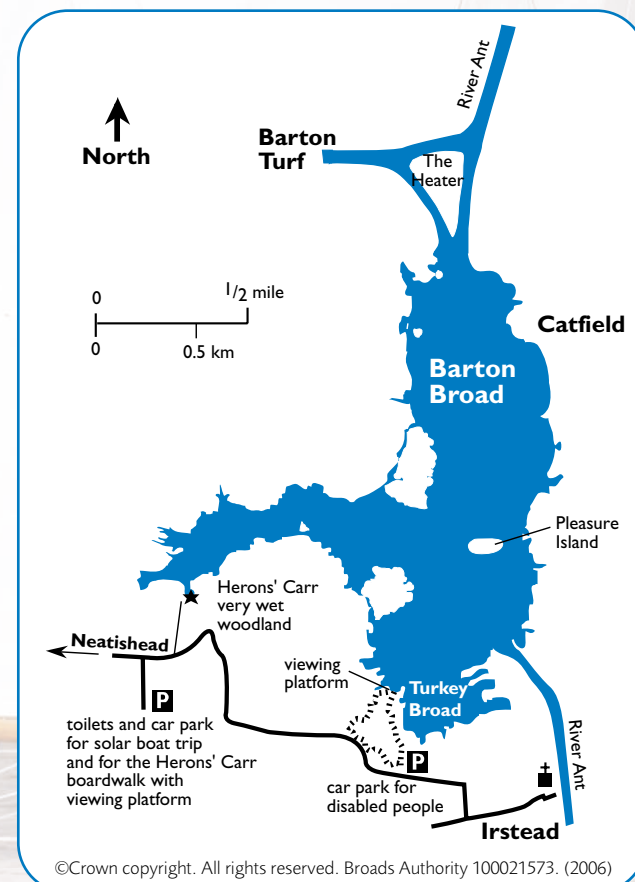
If you wish to volunteer to help with the management of Barton, for example by documenting local history, litter picking or counting wild birds, please contact the Broads Authority.

Contact details:

Broads Authority volunteers
01603 610734

Norfolk Wildlife Trust volunteers
01603 625540

Broads Society volunteers
01692 651321



Water space for all

Barton Broad Water Space Management Plan – Summary Document

The Barton Liaison Group has been working closely together for over 10 years to restore and manage Barton Broad and its swamp margins. Members of the group represent boating, angling, conservation, education and local community interests.

In producing this Water Space Management Plan the group, in recognising the importance of Barton for all users, has identified the management challenges and projects required to safeguard the water space for its wildlife and enjoyment by future generations.

The overall aim of the plan is to provide an integrated and sustainable approach to managing Barton Broad. The plan considers the quality of natural and man-made features of the broad, highlighting opportunities that these provide for recreation and enjoyment, which in turn contribute to the local economy.

The plan also identifies the future challenges and opportunities for managing this special water space, such as climate change and recovery of aquatic plants. Finally, projects are listed where progress will be monitored on an annual basis. The plan, which begins in 2006, will be reviewed every five years.

A few facts and figures

- 74ha, with 10 million litres of water
- Many hundreds of people visit Barton by boat, road and foot every year
- Popular base for sailing, regattas and education
- Owned by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Designated as a National Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.

'Barton is a wonderful resource and working together on this management plan has brought together the needs of nature and people to be addressed in an integrated and sustainable way for the benefit of our future generations.' Louis Baugh (Neatishead Parish Council)

Award Winning Success

In 2006 the Broads Authority 'Clear Water 2000' lake restoration project was awarded winner of the Waterways Renaissance Award for the Natural Environment.

Plan objectives

Natural Environment

To achieve and maintain Favourable Condition¹ for the international, national and locally important features of the open water and margins of Barton Broad.

How we will do it:

- Restore clear water using biomanipulation
- Decrease diffuse pollution
- Provide good habitat for wildfowl
- Monitor the change
- Review the success

Biomanipulation helps the natural recovery processes by switching turbid water to clear water conditions. The technique involves temporary removal of selected fish species, in order to create the right conditions for zooplankton (e.g. Daphnia) to feed on the algae and, thereby clear the water. Biomanipulation is a management tool that often needs repeating. It is not the solution to long-term lake restoration, which relies on lower nutrient levels.

'I've seen a lot of change on Barton Broad, but over the last few years, thanks to the restoration, the wildlife is really coming back.'
George Taylor (Warden for the Norfolk Wildlife Trust)

Recreation

To maintain and enhance existing recreational access throughout Barton Broad as a resource for public enjoyment.

How we will do it:

- Maintain water depth through agreed management of aquatic plants
- Patrol and enforce speed limits to reduce wash and promote eco-friendly boating
- Maintain access for angling
- Look after the boardwalks
- Monitor change using a boat census

'Barton is the best place in the Broads for young people to learn to sail, we must make sure it remains this way for future generations.' Mike Evans (past Chairman RYA)



¹ Favourable Condition is defined as 'good ecological health that can be maintained in the longer term'. The requirements of favourable condition are defined by English Nature.



Working Together

To promote and enhance engagement with interested parties in the management of Barton Broad.

How we will do it:

- Continue to work together in the Barton Liaison Group
- Encourage and facilitate monitoring and research within the local community

Learning Environment

To facilitate research into the restoration and management of aquatic habitats and species, and the use of these resources to benefit people.

How we will do it:

- Support research and review the findings
- Produce publications to share learning

Public Understanding

To promote greater public understanding of the natural, cultural and social heritage values of the system in order to inform and develop appropriate use of the site.

How we will do it:

- Boardwalk interpretation
- Use websites to summarise the management and restoration
- Providing information for schools



Landscape and Heritage

To allow for a changing landscape, whilst protecting physical resources of cultural heritage significance

How we will do it:

- Record and map the historic features
- Ensure that all management of structures is reviewed by the Barton Liaison Group

Local Community

To encourage a viable local community and a thriving local economy.

How we will do it:

- Increasing environmental quality to provide local business opportunities

Photographs: Front top to bottom, Barton Broad boardwalk, reed warbler, Ra solar boat, Access Pack, Perch, Hunsett Mil, yellow flag iris, wherries. Inside left to right, school on boardwalk, racing on Barton Broad, coot and water crowfoot. Back page, sailing Barton Regatta 2006. Photographers: Simon Finlay, Martin Perrow, Karen Sayer, Ruth Murray, Robin Chittenden.