

# Broads Authority

02 December 2022

Agenda item number 21

## Member report on outside bodies- How Hill Trust

Report by Tim Jickells, Trustee

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### Purpose

Members appointed by the Authority to outside bodies are required to submit a written report on the organisation's work and activities.

### Recommended decision

To note the report.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The How Hill Trust is an environmental educational charity, established in 1984 based in How Hill House near Ludham. The Trust runs outdoor focussed educational activities mostly for pre-teen children. The Broads Authority appoints one member of the How Hill board of Trustees. Further information is available at [How Hill Trust - The Environmental Study Centre for the Norfolk Broads](#)

## 2. Report on How Hill

- 2.1. The How Hill centre was completely closed through the first phase of Covid with most staff on furlough and some additional support via Covid support grants from Government and North Norfolk Council. The gardens remained open and the tea shop was open through the summer of 2021, but no school visits.
- 2.2. Through the period autumn 2021 to spring 2022, there was a major programme of renovations to How Hill. These followed approval of planning permission and listed building consents from the Broads Authority in spring 2021. The renovations converted the old dormitory style accommodation to rooms with en-suite facilities, which modernised provision for the visiting students and aimed to make the rooms more appealing to visiting adult groups during the times when schools are on holidays and do not visit. The renovations reduced the bed capacity slightly (48 to 39), but given most school parties are 30 or less, makes little material difference. The renovations also modernised much of the upstairs infrastructure of the house, and in particular upgraded a very old electrical system.
- 2.3. Following the renovations How Hill reopened to school visits in March 2022. It is very good to be able to report that schools have returned enthusiastically after the Covid

hiatus, with the centre more or less fully occupied by residential school groups, and with additional regular schools' day visits. There has also been an increase in adult weekend groups. Both the adult parties and school teachers have been very positive about the new facilities, and it is hoped that this leads to increased occupancy by adult groups during the school holiday periods and weekends. The centre also operates a tea room through the summer which complements the BA activity Toad Hole Cottage, all adjacent to the popular How Hill mooring.

- 2.4. How Hill and the BA have worked quite closely and effectively on issues around How Hill over the last few years. How Hill are very grateful for help from BA staff and for advice from the Historic Environment Manager for the Broads Authority on aspects of the fabric of the House.

Author: Tim Jickells, Trustee appointed by the Broads Authority

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