

Strategic Direction: CANAPE Update
Report by CANAPE Project Manager

<p>Summary: The CANAPE project has begun implementation. The first Project Steering Group was held in April 2018, and work with partners on agreeing workplans and shared methodologies is ongoing and will soon be completed. Designs for Hickling Broad have been drawn up, and Authority officers have held a consultation event prior to submission of a planning application.</p> <p>Recommendation: That the report be noted.</p>

1 Background

- 1.1 The CANAPE (Creating A New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems) project was launched in October 2017 with a kick off meeting held in the Broads, with representatives from the partners around Europe.
- 1.2 The project is an international partnership between 14 organisations spread over Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark, with an overall budget of €5,545,105, of which the Broads Authority share is €1,459,016. 50% of the budget is covered by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG North Sea Region programme. The Broads Authority is the Lead Partner, and has responsibility for overall management of the project.
- 1.3 The project is aimed at restoring bogs, fens and peatland lakes, and supporting the development of alternative wetland agriculture known as “paludiculture.” The partnership will be delivering investment in 4 bogs and 3 lakes, and seeking to develop a range of paludiculture products.
- 1.4 In the Broads, the project is supporting the dredging of areas within Hickling Broad and its marked channel to a depth of 1.5m, and using this material to create of a new area of reedswamp on the edge of the Broad in line with the Hickling Vision (see Appendix A for map showing location of work). The Broads Authority will also carry out a pilot to test the manufacture and marketing viability of biomass products from reed arisings. As part of promoting the benefits of healthy peatland, a “citizen science” educational module will also be developed.

2 Progress

- 2.1 A kick off meeting with the project partners was held in Yare House during October 2017 and the CANAPE partners were taken on a tour of several sites

within the Broads Area as part of this meeting. A Project Manager with responsibility for the overall project was recruited and began work in early February 2018.

- 2.2 In its capacity as the Project Lead, the Broads Authority has signed the funding agreement with the North Sea Region Programme Authorities, and is finalising the wording of the partnership contract with the other project partners.
- 2.3 The first Project Steering Group meeting was held in the Netherlands in April 2018 between the representatives of partners of the project. This was hosted by the Waterschap Hunze en Aa's (the Water Board for the Provinces of Groningen and Drenthe).
- 2.4 At the meeting the partnership agreed several of the key project documents, and a timeline to complete the detailed workplan of the project. The partners also agreed on how to establish the common methodology for measuring the results of the project, including methods for establishing the amount of CO₂ equivalent and water stored in the areas restored by the project. This work is necessary to comply with the conditions of the funding.
- 2.5 At this event two Broads Authority officers received some training in a methodology called PCLake which is used by our partners. PCLake is a mathematical model developed to model the factors which cause a shallow lake to switch between a clear and a turbid state. This was identified as an interesting tool to help target interventions to improve water quality in the Broads. Further funding is now being explored outside CANAPE to access further training, and to have a full study carried out on four of the Broads.

2.6 Hickling Broad

- 2.6.1 Fully costed proposals were sought for an engineering company to provide the designs for the reed-swamp area to be created at Hickling Broad. A Dutch design company, NETICS, have been appointed and have designed the scheme, which will be a similar approach to that being used at Hoveton Great Broad. The Construction, Maintenance & Environment team are in the process of seeking planning permission for this project. The project outcomes are to recreate 1.2 hectares of reedswamp; re-use approximately 18,000 m³ of sediment dredged from the marked channel in Hickling Broad; and create a sheltered area of open water to act as a wildlife refuge.
- 2.6.2 A pre-planning consultation event was held at Hickling Barn on the 26 April 2018, and was attended by 21 members of the public, including representatives of the Sailing Club and Windsurfing Club. The feedback given at the event for the proposed work was positive. Norfolk Wildlife Trust as landowner has agreed to the design and location of the work ahead of the planning application submission, which will be submitted in early May 2018.
- 2.6.3 The proposals for Hickling have also received coverage from the Eastern Daily Press, with an article published online and in the print version on 25

April 2018: "Restoration project aims to bring largest broad back to its former glory."

3 Future Actions

- 3.1 Over the next few months the detailed workplan for the overall project will be finalised, and some revisions to the project application form that have been requested by the Programme Authorities will be submitted.
- 3.2 The first report will be written this summer, with the first financial claim submitted in the autumn.
- 3.3 The next partnership meeting is to be held in Germany in October 2018. As well as making decisions related to governance of the project, some workshops will focus on the paludiculture pilots being carried out by the project.
- 3.4 In the Broads, the plan is for the work on Hickling Broad to start this autumn, subject to planning permission being granted. The precise date when work can start would depend on the water temperature, as the current requirement is for work to take place only when water temperature is below 8 degrees to avoid *Prymnesium Parvum* risks. The objective for the first year of work is the construction of the outer perimeter, to be built out of geo-textile tubes filled with dredged sediment. Dredging will then continue over the following two winters, with the new reedswamp area completed by the spring of 2021.
- 3.5 Work on reed biomass and wider engagement on paludiculture in the Broads area will begin in the autumn of 2019. A tender specification is being drafted to produce some market research and provide support for marketing the products.

Background papers:	N/A
Author:	Harry Mach
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Broads Plan Objectives:	(2.1, 2.3, 4.1)
Appendices:	Appendix A – Project Area Location Map

