

Canoe Trails Report
Report by Waterways Recreation Officer

Summary: This report sets out the progress made on canoe trails to date and builds on the previous report presented at the March Local Access Forum.

Recommendation: Members of the Local Access Forum note the report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the March Local Access Forum Officers presented a report on the development of canoe trails in partnership with the canoe hire network. This report seeks to set out and present the work carried out since the last meeting.
- 1.2 Members will note that the finalised Integrated Access Strategy was presented at the last Local Access Forum and the Strategy and its action plan were adopted at the meeting. The development and production of canoe trails forms part of the adopted outputs for 2013/14

2 Progress to Date

- 2.1 Following the March Local Access Forum Officers were successful in obtaining external funding via the Sustainable Tourism in Estuarine Parks (STEP) project to fund the work. A local graphic designer was appointed following a tender process and the work was procured externally.
- 2.2 Officers have been collating information from the canoe hire network and working with the Broads Authority graphic department to produce a range of cultural, historical and environmental information which was forwarded to the graphic designer, who, in turn has used this information to create the canoe trails.
- 2.3 The trails project has created four canoe trails. These cover the Barton Broad area, the Salhouse area, the Geldeston to Beccles river reach and the Bungay loop. Members will remember that the trails were based from canoe hire centres and there has been an extensive consultation process with these centres who have had an input into the canoe trail development.
- 2.4 The canoe trails offer a variety of trips through a range of waterscapes. They are both geographically spread throughout the broads and offer the opportunity to see different aspects of the Broads environment.

- 2.4 The canoe trails project was delivered prior to the closing date of the 1 June. An agreed four canoe trails were created and delivered to specification, to budget and more importantly within the tight timescale.
- 2.5 The canoe trails have also been shared with Canoe England and the development of these canoe trails has allowed an improved dialogue and information sharing exercise between the Broads Authority and Canoe England. Building on both this relationship and the canoe trails project Officers have requested that there is a significant canoe element in next year's outdoor festival. This will highlight the Broads as a canoe destination but will also encourage the opportunity to access the broads in a sustainable manner.

Background papers:	Nil
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Broads Plan Objectives:	TR1, TR2, TR3
Appendices:	Nil