

# Broads Local Access Forum

19 November 2025

Agenda item number 7

## Active Travel England Update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

This report acts as a recap on the scope of the work of Active Travel England (ATE), to provide a progress update on the Broads Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and plans for delivery of Phase Two of the ATE funding to the Broads Authority in 2026/27.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. In November 2023, Active Travel England met the UK National Parks to explore the potential to develop active travel in National Parks. In April 2024, all 10 English National Park Authorities each received £100,000 from ATE to 'enable National Parks and their co-located authorities to develop inclusive active travel programmes'. The funding was for the development of a National Park equivalent of a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and other capability building activities over a 12-month period.
- 1.2. Active Travel England aims to improve health and wellbeing, tackle climate change and restore nature through increased active travel replacing shorter journeys and commutes, achieved by improving connectivity. In addition to this, more extensive leisure routes would link settlements, attractions and public transport.

- 1.3. The funding will allow authorities to develop a pipeline of projects for future investments, with a focus on inclusive routes that connect schools, employment and leisure sites with local communities.

## 2. Phase One progress update

- 2.1. In May 2025 ATE consulted on a draft Rural Design Guidance which the Broads Authority provided detailed feedback on.
- 2.2. Phase One completed in June 2025 with the production of the Broads LCWIP, titled 'Broads Cycling, Wheeling and Walking Plan'. See Appendix 1. Proposed infrastructure and travel route improvements have been identified within the Broads LCWIP Annex Table (see Appendix 2) with associated timescales and priorities.
- 2.3. The ATE Capability Fund also enabled the commission of the report by Pathmakers "Gateways to the Broads National Park: A Vision for the Future." See Appendix 3

## 3. Phase Two Project Objectives

- 3.1. Phase Two activities in 2026/27 will work towards bringing projects to a point where they are ready for practical delivery The Phase Two funding requires that the early feasibility stage for projects is developed to the point where they are sufficient for subsequent funding bid stages. Feasible projects need to comply with the ATE design tools and at least one scheme is to be developed to the delivery ready stage by the end of March 2027.
- 3.2. There are supporting activities for which funding applies, including:
  - Development of the LCWIP
  - Public engagement and consultation
  - Data and evidence collection
  - Bespoke training for NPA officers and board members for upskilling regarding latest access travel standards
  - Legal work including planning and negotiations
  - Dedicated project resources (additional staff, feasibility studies for future projects).

## 4. Financial implications

- 4.1 Phase Two will be funded by ATE with £100,000 revenue budget already confirmed to the Broads Authority for expenditure in 2026/27.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1. With the 2026/27 funding, the Broads Authority will look to add capacity to focus on ATE projects, either through partnership working, engaging with consultants or temporary staff contracts. The aim will be to bring at least one project as proposed in the Broads LCWIP to the feasibility stage ahead of the next round of funding.

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[Broads Plan](#) objectives: E1 – Improve the integrated network of access routes and points (with easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs), linked to visitor facilities

Appendix 1 – [Broads LCWIP 2025](#)

Appendix 2 - [Broads LCWIP Annex Table 2025](#)

Appendix 3 - [Pathmakers: Gateways to the Broads National Park: A Vision for the Future, June 2025](#)