

St Benet's Abbey Sustainable Access Workshop
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report provides members with details of a workshop which is being held by the Norfolk Archaeological Trust and the Broads Authority to consider how access to St Benet's Abbey can be developed in a sustainable manner.

Recommendation: That members note the contents of the report and consider whether there are any particular routes, facilities or opportunities for partnership working that would benefit access to the Abbey site or improve links in the local access network on land and water.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Norfolk Archaeological Trust's St Benet's Abbey Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has been working to make improvements to the structure of St Benet's Abbey and improve visitor facilities at the site. The Broads Authority has contributed to the match funding element of the project by providing labour for the construction of a new access path footpath and car park at the Abbey Site.
- 1.2 One of the aims of the project is to improve sustainable access to the St Benet's site and the Project is therefore hosting a sustainable access workshop on the 19 of June to consider issues relating to access to the site and whether there are any opportunities to improve access routes and facilities in partnership with local communities and businesses.

2 Objectives of the Workshop

- 2.1 The main aim of the workshop, using St Benet's as a focus, will be to explore how the access network within the Broads can be improved to benefit visitors, local businesses, and residents alike. The workshop will seek to:
- Assess existing provision for access in and around the area by foot, bike, horse and water
 - Identify opportunities for making new connections between these routes, to provide improved visitor opportunities for exploring the area, and new opportunities for businesses;
 - Identify the potential for links and partnership working between businesses and local communities to provide new facilities e.g. cycle hire.
 - Identify how information on access opportunities in the area can be improved and provided in the most appropriate manner.

- 2.2 The structure of the workshop will be practical in nature, with participants from a wide range of interest groups, organisations and businesses in the St Benet's Abbey area working in groups to share knowledge and insight into the current network.
- 2.3 The workshop actively seeks to support the key objectives of the Broads Authority's recently adopted Integrated Access Strategy:
- To improve links between land and water and to the water's edge;
 - To improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points;
 - To encourage sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking, cycling and non-powered boating, and improve links between public transport provision and visitor destination points and access routes;
 - To provide appropriate information and interpretation on access to recreational opportunities.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 The workshop has the potential to identify projects and partnerships that can deliver elements of the Integrated Access Strategy's Action Plan. Members are therefore invited to consider whether there are any schemes or proposals that should be highlighted during the discussions at the event.

Background papers:	Nil
Author:	Adrian Clarke
Date of report:	27 May 2013
Broads Plan Objectives:	TR1, TR2, TR3
Appendices:	Nil