

Cockshoot Boardwalk update
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report provides members with an update on the situation regarding the replacement of Cockshoot Boardwalk.

Recommendation: That members note the contents of the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Broads Authority identified the replacement of the boardwalk linking the Authority's 24-hour mooring at Woodbastwick to the 24-hour mooring at Cockshoot Dyke as a priority in the Integrated Access Strategy for this financial year.
- 1.2 Since then the Authority obtained planning permission for the required works and developed a partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Natural England to share the costs of the project. Negotiations have also been taking place with the landowner regarding a long term lease or access agreement for the site. Due to the high cost of the works long term site tenure was required to enable the Authority to fund the project and draw down the funding contributions from the project partners.

2 Update

- 2.1 Unfortunately it has not been possible to reach an agreement on the terms of a new long term lease or access agreement with the landowner. The Authority has therefore served notice on the landowner to end its current agreement and this came into effect in July.
- 2.2 Prior to the agreement ending the Authority carried out repairs to the existing structure between the two moorings and, under a separate agreement with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, improvement works will also be carried out to the continuation of the boardwalk leading to Cockshoot Broad.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Without a long term lease in place neither the Authority nor its partners are able to invest the considerable amount of money required to replace the Boardwalk. The project cannot therefore proceed under these circumstances. While it is regrettable that the Authority will not be able to manage access to the site the works that have been carried out to the structure have brought it into a safe condition for public use in the immediate future unless the landowner decides to close it.

Background papers: Nil

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Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: Nil