

Draft Integrated Access Strategy Action Plan
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report provides members with an update on progress with the new Integrated Access Strategy Action Plan which will cover the period 2016-2019. A draft action plan, which takes account of members' comments and suggestions made at the December meeting of the Forum regarding the themes that the action plan should focus on, is appended to the report and members' comments on the draft plan are welcomed.

Recommendation: That members adopt the draft IAS Action Plan for the period 2016 -2019.

1 Background

1.1 The Broads Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) was adopted by the Broads Authority in 2013 with an action plan that covered the period 2013 to 2016. The key purpose of the IAS was to aid in the delivery of the long-term aim for tourism, recreation and access set out in the Broads Plan 2011 which stated that:

“Access on land and between land and water is sensitively managed to maximise the social, educational and health benefits of open space to all, while ensuring the resource itself is not degraded. Where possible, improvements are made to the connectivity and use of access routes, linked to visitor destination points and sustainable transport.”

1.2 The IAS action plan sought to deliver this long-term aim by delivering and facilitating access projects throughout the Broads which met a number of defined aims and objectives:

- 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

1.3 Since the IAS was adopted significant progress has been made on the delivery of the projects set out in the action plan. Projects successfully

delivered include the publication of the Broads canoe trails and provision of canoe launch points, new visitor moorings and safety moorings, new angling platforms and the successful funding and construction of the first stage of the 3 Rivers Way strategic cycle route.

- 1.4 However, a number of projects have not proceeded due to a range of factors and as the period covered by the original plan has ended there is now a need to review and refresh the plan to cover the period 2016 to 2019.

2 Outcomes of IAS Action Plan Workshop.

- 2.1 In view of the fact that a new Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) membership was appointed in December 2015 work on the new action plan was delayed to allow the involvement of the new members. A workshop on the action plan was therefore held at the March meeting of the BLAF which identified a number of key themes for the new action plan to focus on. Table 1 sets out the themes that were identified at the workshop.

Table 1

<p style="text-align: center;">Canoe Access</p>	<p>Provision of new canoe access points to improve access to BA's published canoe trails. Potential to use Parish Staithes for canoe launches/ slipways. Improving existing published launch facilities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Land Access</p>	<p>New access to deliver views of Broads, across water and walks alongside water. Need for audit of existing opportunities and identification of gaps and potential locations for new routes. Identify where paths would provide access from moorings to facilities, improve links to public transport network.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Extension of Water space</p>	<p>Review/audit of water space access including Broads. Identify gaps and possibilities for extending access for various types of craft i.e.: motorised, electric, non-powered.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Access for all</p>	<p>Audit of disabled access. Identify potential "upgrades" of exiting access routes, moorings and access to water. Emphasis on both land and water access.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Local Access Hubs</p>	<p>Development of local access hubs delivering a range of access facilities at strategic locations. Enhancing existing locations. Facilities need to include car parking, interpretation etc.</p>

Moorings/Slipways	Provision of a range of new moorings (including wild/quiet moorings) in priority/strategic locations giving access to visitor destination points and linking to rights of way. Consideration of what type of mooring is appropriate to location and climate change adaptation.
River Wensum Strategy	Prioritising RWS Action Plan Projects to improve access and facilities along the River Wensum Linking Norfolk Trails through Norwich to the Broads.
Extension of Broads Cycling Offer	Emphasis on partnership working on NCC/SCC Cycling and Walking Action Plans to maximise funding opportunities. Identify potential new cycle routes. Seek to upgrade priority routes to cycle path standard.
Angling	Promotion of angling by partnership working with the BASG and Environment Agency.
Sustainable Transport	Focus on linking facilities to railway stations. Potential for provision of cycle hire/promoted cycle and walking routes from stations or bus routes using path network.
Information	Enhance quality of information, Signage, mobile apps. More emphasis on local information at moorings and slipways to enable visitors to have a complete Broads experience.

3 Draft Action Plan

- 3.1 Having taken account of members' comments and suggestions made at the workshop officers have prepared a draft action plan (see Appendix 1) which includes a range of projects under the themes that were identified as priority areas for work.
- 3.2 Aside from new project ideas that were raised at the workshop several projects have been included in the draft action plan which featured in the previous plan as they are still considered to be important but there was no opportunity to pursue them during the period of the last plan.
- 3.3 Additionally priority visitor mooring and demasting mooring projects, which have been agreed by the Broads Authority's Navigation Committee, have been included in the draft action plan.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The draft action plan contains an ambitious list of projects which meet the aims and objectives set out in the IAS. Aside from site specific projects the draft action plan also includes a number of strategic projects that consider access across the whole Broads area. For example the proposed audit and review of easy access throughout the Broads and the review of water space. The intention is that these strategic projects will inform future project identification and prioritisation.
- 4.2 Members' comments on the draft action plan are welcomed.

Background papers: Nil

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Date of Report: 11 May 2016

Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: Appendix 1: Draft IAS Action Plan 2016-2017

Appendix 1: Broads Authority Draft Integrated Access Strategy Action Plan 2016-2019

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Organisations	Target Timescale	Progress
General					
G1	Broads	Carry out easy access audit throughout Broads to identify opportunities for providing improved access for all to land and water.	BA/Active Trails	2018	
G2	Broads	Carry out audit of land registered as open access land under CROW 2000 to assess whether access improvements are desirable	BA	2017	
G3	Broads	Extension of water space. Review and audit water space access including all broads identify gaps and where access could be extended for various types of craft.	BA	2019	
G4	Broads	Local access Hubs. Identify, develop and promote local hubs delivering a range of access facilities at strategic locations	BA, other local authorities	2019	
G5	Broads	Work with County councils on Cycling and Walking Action Plans. Identify potential new multi-use routes, seek to upgrade priority routes to cycle path standard. Focus on linking routes to public transport	BA/NCC/SCC	Ongoing throughout action plan period	
G6	Broads	Identify priority sites/moorings for improving signage	BA	2017	

G7	Broads	Moorings/Slipways review BA Mooring Strategy and Slipway Strategy to identify priority/strategic locations and what type of mooring is appropriate to the location.	BA	2018		
Waveney						
W1	River Waveney Worlingham to Burgh St Peter	Investigate feasibility of new 24-hour moorings to fill gap identified in Mooring Strategy	BA/Landowners	2016		
W2	Herringfleet TM 4698 - 4697	Negotiate permissive path to link Herringfleet 24hr moorings to Herringfleet Smock Mill	BA /Landowner	2017		
W3	Bungay	Identify location for and provide new canoe access point at Bungay Loop	BA/ BTC/Landowners	2017		
W4	Geldeston	Provide improved canoe access at Geldeston Locks	BA/RWT/Landowners	2017		
W5	Belton TG 4601 - TG 4702	Work with partners to develop the use of the disused rail line to create a circular route/cycle access across Belton Marshes	BA / NCC/Landowners	2019		
W6	Yarmouth Railway Station to Burgh Castle	Realign route of Angles way and improve waymarking to increase access for all opportunities. Signage and furniture	BA/NCC	2016		
W7	Oulton Broad/Burgh St Peter	Investigate feasibility of providing cycle access/access for all on Carleton Marshes linking Burgh St Peter Ferry to Oulton Broad – upgrading routes and signage	BA/SWT/SCC/Landowners	2019		
W8	St Olave's	Investigate feasibility of providing demasting moorings	BA	2017		

		at St Olave's old bridge				
Yare, Wensum and Chet						
Y1	River Yare Whitlingham to Rockland	Investigate feasibility of new slipway/canoe launching facilities	BA/Landowners	2016		
Y2	River Wensum	Work in partnership with River Wensum Strategy Group to deliver improved land access and access to river in Norwich through Strategy Action Plan	BA/River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Ongoing throughout action plan period		
Y3	Postwick TG 2906 - 3007	Seek to establish permissive link across Postwick marshes from end of existing footpath opposite woods end to footpath opposite Surlingham Ferry.	BA/EA/Landowners	2017		
Y4	Berney Marshes Great Yarmouth	Upgrade signage and furniture to establish good quality bridleway, cycling circuit and Develop Mills Trail through LPS.	BA/NCC/Landowners	Through HLF Scheme		
Y5	River Yare between Brundall and Langley	Investigate feasibility of new 24hour mooring to fill gap identified in mooring strategy	BA/Landowners	2016		
Y6	River Yare/Breydon Water	Increase mooring availability near Breydon	BA/Landowners	2016		
Bure						
B1	Horstead	Improve slipway/ canoe access and improve access generally at Horstead Mill	BA	2017		
B2	Wroxham	Improve existing slipway at Wroxham Broad including angling access enhancements	BA/EA/Landowners	2017		
B3	Horning to Potter Heigham	Investigate feasibility of elements of 3 Rivers Way scheme that link Horning to	BA/NCC/3RW/Landowners	Ongoing as funding is identified.		

		Potter Heigham			
B4	Acle	Investigate feasibility of improving cycle access from Damgate to Tunstall to avoid dangerous road	BA/NCC	2016	
B5	Caen Meadow	Investigate feasibility of providing safe canoe launching facilities	BA/Parish	2016	
B6	Acle	Investigate feasibility of providing demasting moorings at Acle Bridge	BA/landowners	2017	
Ant and Thurne					
AT1	Barton Broad	Provide improved canoe access at Neatishead/Gaye's Staithe	BA/ Parish Councils/ Landowners	2017	
AT2	Coldharbour to St Benet's	Investigate feasibility of reinstating permissive path access from Coldharbour Farm to St Benet's Abbey	BA/Landowner	2016	
AT3	How Hill	Investigate feasibility of establishing route linking Crowe's Staithe to Irstead Holmes:	BA/Landowners/ Catfield PC	2019	
AT4	Horsey TG 4521-4522	Establish permissive off road path to allow for safe circuit around horsey. Will create 2 circular walks	BA/Landowners	2018	
AT5	Catfield - Potter Heigham TG 413208 - 412213	Seek to establish permissive path from Decoy Road to Swim Coots drainage mill along flood bank to view point	BA/NWT/Landowners	2018	
AT6	Potter Heigham TG 426193 - 430190	Seek to link Highs Mill to Middle Wall (Potter Heigham)	BA/EA/Landowners	2017	
AT7	Barton TG 3523	Seek access opportunities to link Barton Turf 24hr moorings	BA / NCC/Landowners	2018	

		with Barton Fen and Moy's Mill	/Barton PC		
AT8	Ludham Horse Fen	Create PROW to link existing PROWs on Horsefen Bank	BA/NCC	2017	
AT9	Hickling Broad	Investigate feasibility of improving mooring provision on SW side of Broad near Catfield Dyke	BA/Landowners	2018	