

Broads Local Access Forum

Agenda 10 March 2021

2.00pm

This is a remote meeting held under the Broads Authority's [Standing Orders on Procedure Rules for Remote Meetings](#).

Participants: You will be sent a link to join the meeting. The room will open at 1.30pm and we request that you **log in by 1.45pm** to allow us to check connections and other technical details.

Members of the public: We will publish a live stream link two days before the meeting at [Broads Local Access Forum 10 March 2021](#). The live stream will be suspended for any exempt items on the agenda. Please email BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk with any queries about this meeting.

Introduction

1. Apologies for absence and welcome
2. Declarations of interest
3. **To receive and confirm the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 2 December 2020** (Pages 5 -14)
4. Matters arising from the minutes

Items for discussion

5. **Broadland Futures Initiative**
Presentation from Environment Agency
6. **Integrated Access Strategy: Update** (Pages 15-18)
Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
7. **Opening access to EA owned banks: Update**
Presentation from Norwich and District Anglers Association

Other matters

8. To note the date of the next meeting – **Wednesday 9 June 2021** at 2.00pm

Broads Local Access Forum membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Kelvin Allen	9 Landseer Drive Downham Market PE38 9NG	01366 384458	kelvinallen@btinternet.com	Broads Authority
Linda Aspland	Quercus 229 Norwich Road Wroxham NR12 8SL	01603 951814	linda.aspland@icloud.com	Waterborne recreational users / Paddle sports
Richard Atkins	Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF	01508 538083	richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com	Paddle sports/ Walking
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	keithbacon@keme.co.uk keithbacon@broadland.net	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Louis Baugh	Neatishead Hall Neatishead NR12 8XX	07785 224589	lbaugh@netcom.co.uk	Landowners and managers
Katie Baxter	18 Keys Drive Wroxham Norwich NR12 8SS	07917 785282	info@gopaddle.co.uk	Paddle Sports/ Tourism and local business
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk	Local Authority (District Council) / Tourism and local business
Liz Brooks	Heronway Norwich Road Ludham NR29 5QD	01692 678674	ejb553@gmail.com	Equestrian riding and driving
Robin Buxton	Speedwell House South Burlingham Road Lingwood NR13 4ET	01493 750102	robin.buxton@buxtonpropertymanagement.co.uk	Landowners and managers/ Tourism and local businesses

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Christine Cane	The Roundhouse 160 Tuttlles Lane West Wymondham NR18 0JJ	01953 606019	bhs.southnorfolk@gmail.com	Equestrian riding and driving
Peter Dixon	The Smea Hickling NR12 0YL	078509 30486	Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com	Waterborne recreational users
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com	Angling
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	tim@catfieldhall.com	Nature conservation / Archaeology and landscape heritage
Dawn Hatton	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 433174	stock.dawn@gmail.com	Walking/People with disabilities/Access for all
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	peter.mason51@sky.com	Walking/Tourism and local business
John Murray	33 Prospect Road Lowestoft NR32 3PT	07855 385041	john.campbell.murray@btinternet.com	Walking / People with disabilities / Access for all
Steve Read	The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft NR32 3PL	07720 808715	stevereadcon@btinternet.com	Walking/water borne recreational users
Martin Rendle	62 South Hill Road Norwich NR7 0NG	01603 339133	adventure@norfolkoutdoor.co.uk	Paddle sports/Tourism and local business
Paul Saunders	8 Heathside Road Norwich NR1 1TH	07557 018954	paulandrewsaunders@outlook.com	Open Water Swimming

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Richard Webb	9 Bek Close Norwich NR4 7NT	01603 505362	dickwebb@talktalk.net	Walking/sailing
Christopher Yardley	Thorpe Cloud Creak Road Burnham Thorpe PE31 8HW	01328 738705	Ci.yardley@tiscali.co.uk	Waterborne recreational users/ nature conservation

Kylie Moos – Broads Local Access Forum Secretary

Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

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Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 02 December 2020

Contents

1.	Apologies for absence and welcome	3
2.	Declarations of interest	3
3.	Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 2 September 2020	3
4.	Matters arising from the minutes	3
	Wherryman's Way access	3
	Integrated Access Strategy projects framework	3
	River Wensum Strategy	3
	Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve	3
	Wayford Bridge	4
5.	Integrated Access Strategy: Update	4
	Reedham Permissive Path	4
	Broads mills trails	4
	Bure Valley Path	4
	Wherryman's Way	4
	Hoveton Riverside Park	4
	GIS Recreation maps	5
	Discovery Hubs	5
	River Wensum missing link	5
6.	Opening access to EA owned banks	5
	Stretch one - River Thurne from Coldharbour Farm to Womack Dyke	5
	Stretch two- River Thurne upstream of Potter Heigham road bridge	5
	Stretch three - River Ant from Ludham Bridge to Johnson Street	5
7.	EXPERIENCE Cycle Hubs project	6

Cycle Hubs	6
Hoveton and Wroxham	7
Cycle Friendly tourism	7
8. Updates from interest group representatives	7
9. Any other business	8
10. Date of next meeting	8
Appendix 1 – Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 02 December 2020	10

Present

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Kelvin Allen, Linda Aspland, Harry Blathwayt, Louis Baugh, Robin Buxton, Mike Flett, Tony Gibbons, Dawn Hatton, Tim Harris, John Murray, Stephen Read, Christopher Yardley.

In attendance

Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Environment, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Lewis Treloar – Waterways and Recreation Officer, Andrea Auburn – Cycling UK, Ken Hawkins – Norfolk Local Access Forum, Martin Sullivan – Norfolk Local Access Forum.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Peter Mason

2. Declarations of interest

Members indicated they had no further declarations of interest other than those already registered and set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

3. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 2 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Wherryman's Way access

Norfolk Trails confirmed that access to the Wherryman's Way near the Beauchamp Arms is now open.

Integrated Access Strategy projects framework

Lewis Treloar had arranged for an additional meeting to be held with Broads Local Access Forum members on 30 November 2020 to discuss the IAS prioritisation scoring matrix.

River Wensum Strategy

An invite will be sent to the Forum for a representative once the River Wensum Strategy delivery group recommences. Meetings are not being held as frequently due to Covid-19.

Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve

Steve Read noted that the following text from minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 2 September 2020 for item 4; Carlton Marshes Cycle Route "However, the landowner at Carlton Marshes has not agreed to any changes in the path, so meeting this current ambition is doubtful" gives the impression that the Broads Authority is giving up on trying to achieve a cycle route across Carlton Marshes. The minutes should state that the

Broads Authority will actively continue to try to find a solution. Lewis Treloar confirmed that this is an accurate account of the minutes and the Broads Authority will continue to look for a solution, however there has been no response from the landowner to the letters and emails sent.

East Suffolk District Council have asked for recommendations on cycling and walking routes within the area as part of the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy. The consultation will close on 7 December 2020.

Wayford Bridge

Norfolk Highways have agreed that there will be no road or navigation closures when the bridge deck is re-waterproofed. A two-way traffic light system will operate on the road once work commences.

5. Integrated Access Strategy: Update

Lewis Treloar provided an update on the highest strategic priority projects identified for delivery by a range of partners as part of the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS).

Reedham Permissive Path

The path is now complete and open. Reedham Parish Council organised a local press release for the opening 3 weeks ago. Reedham footpath one has also reopened.

Broads mills trails

Water Mills and Marshes (WMM) are proceeding with the projects and looking to open up new routes in Halvergate Marshes.

Bure Valley Path

Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council have signed a partnership agreement to collaborate on green infrastructure projects. The Bure Valley Path has been identified as a key strategic route and improvements including the crossing the road at Aylsham are being included in the feasibility study. This has been partially funded as part of the EXPERIENCE project and will be completed by 2023.

Wherryman's Way

A funding application was submitted for a CIL bid to pay for works within the project. The application was declined and Lewis Treloar is awaiting feedback on the decision. The dredge programme and restoring the footpath at Hardley flood is being reviewed as to if this can still go ahead to the same specification. The delay will affect the proposed bank stabilisation project at Surlingham and Bramerton.

Hoveton Riverside Park

Delayed due to funding application being declined. Work is still progressing with the topographic survey and designs for the playpark and other elements are being drawn up. Drawings are likely to be in place early 2021.

GIS Recreation maps

Slipways and launching points online map are nearing completion subject to the last few data agreements.

Discovery Hubs

The Broads Authority have submitted an initial application on behalf of the Broads Charitable Trust for one of their Discovery Hubs.

River Wensum missing link

Norfolk County Council are procuring feasibility and design work on a new structure on the southern side of the Wensum, between St George Street and Duke Street, to complete the River Wensum riverside walk between Norwich train station and Hellesdon. The project has been presented to the Broads Navigation Committee and River Wensum Strategy group for feedback on the initial design.

6. Opening access to EA owned banks

Tony Gibbons presented to the Forum three projects to improve access to a number of river banks under Environment Agency (EA) control to make them more presentable and an asset to the Broads. Additionally, the project proposals also fall under the Broads Angling Services Group (BASG) objectives.

Over the last few years there has been a downturn in availability of river banks that offer access for fishing, in most cases this is down to a lack of maintenance. All three areas selected have parking and an access point to walk through. The maintenance work involved could be completed ahead of the next fishing season and will require the least amount of work to bring back to full usage.

Stretch one - River Thurne from Coldharbour Farm to Womack Dyke

This stretch was previously well used by anglers, with parking and a pathway on the flood bank when it has been cleared of vegetation. The current state of the river bank is overgrown, and not maintained, restricting access to anglers. The only area that was cleared by Norwich and District Anglers Association (NDAA) at the quay heading is now regularly full with moored boats.

Stretch two- River Thurne upstream of Potter Heigham road bridge

This stretch already has 10 established angling platforms which are well used. Banks between the Riverside Bungalows have become overgrown and have been used for dumping rubbish. The gaps could accommodate a further 12 angling stations, once the banks have been cleared, and will allow walkers views of the river. With minimum effort, this stretch could be brought back for full usage by June 16th 2021.

Stretch three - River Ant from Ludham Bridge to Johnson Street

In the past this stretch has been used for match fishing with a maintained pathway along the whole stretch. The bank has had little use over the past few years due to it being inaccessible.

This stretch would take more work than the previous two projects lengths but with its history, it would soon attract anglers back to the area.

Comments and answers to questions

- The public footpath that runs on top of the flood wall in stretch three is a public right of way. Norfolk County Council have an obligation to maintain this. Access to the river (Ant) from the flood bank path is currently very soft mud which could be hazardous at times.
- The Broads Authority does cut the section between Ludham Bridge and How Hill. The flood bank with the public right of way on it isn't immediately adjacent to the river, since the BESL works and the double soak dyke were completed.
- There has been no sign of a path to walk beyond Womack Dyke.
- The BESL contract has been extended for another two years, however there is uncertainty if this includes annual cutting of floodbanks which previously took place.
- NLAF offered to support approaching landowners to discuss permissive paths for the Coldharbour Farm to Womack Dyke stretch if required.
- Post BESL works there is concern of the safety of pedestrian access from the top of the floodbanks to the water edge of the rivers. Depending on the location, river banks may have been strengthened or rolled back with a reeded run formed as a soft defence which will be wet and vegetated, unsuitable for access.
- The next steps would involve site visits by the proposer to the riverbanks to complete a feasibility study of the projects and time scale in which they could be delivered and by whom. The update would be provided at a future meeting.

The Forum agreed to support the feasibility and receive an update at the next meeting.

7. EXPERIENCE Cycle Hubs project

Andrea Auburn, Project Manager for Cycling UK presented to the Forum the EXPERIENCE Cycle Hubs project. EXPERIENCE is a sustainable tourism project aimed at increasing the number of visitors or tourists between October and March, boosting local economies and year round jobs. Norfolk County Council (NCC) is the lead partner, working with 13 other organisations across 6 pilot regions in France and England.

Cycle Hubs

Cycling UK and NCC are collaborating with local delivery partners to develop five new Cycle Hubs. The new Cycle Hubs will combine varied cycle routes with Cycle Friendly places to sleep, eat and relax. The destinations will boost visitor numbers, increase length of stay, and increase spend in local businesses.

The Cycle Hub also aligns to NCC strategic priorities of increasing active travel and improving the Green Infrastructure Network across Norfolk.

Hoveton and Wroxham

Hoveton and Wroxham has been selected as a pilot Cycle Hub, due to it being seen as the capital of the Broads and a honeypot site when it comes to attracting visitors. Businesses in the area have wanted to operate all year round but have not yet harnessed the year round offer of experiential tourism.

The Cycle Hub would complement plans to update the Bure Valley Path and is well situated for arrival by bike and/or train, which promotes a sustainable travel option.

Cycle Friendly tourism

New 2 year accreditation programme 'Cycle Friendly Places' will train and support hospitality and accommodation businesses to offer an excellent customer experience, to attract and accommodate cyclists.

Launching early next year businesses can complete the online self-assessment for free. Assessments will be based on the quality facilities (such as bike racks, lockers and access to tools), welcome, and information for cycling customers (such as knowledge of local routes and bike hire).

Comments and answers to questions

- 3 pilot areas in the UK include Norfolk, Kent and Cornwall which typically only attract tourists in the summer. Introducing experiential tourism may combat this and increase tourism in the shoulder season from October to March.
- Ken Hawkins agreed to take the project to a future Norfolk Local Access Forum meeting.
- Harry Blathwayt agreed to update North Norfolk District Council on the Cycle Hub project.
- Installing a Cycle Hub in Hoveton and Wroxham would also generate some interest in the Three Rivers Way.
- The Forum has previously discussed a cycle route between Oulton Broad and Norwich using two ferry crossings at Reedham and the Waveney River Centre. This would be a good example of multi-modal transport within the Broads.

8. Updates from interest group representatives

There are a number of boats moored at the south end of Oulton Broad near Nicholas Everitt park which are in a dilapidated state with domestic possessions left on the footpath creating an intimidating environment for visitors.

Lewis Treloar agreed to contact the local ranger to investigate further and speak to Oulton Parish Council regarding the moorings.

At the last Broads Authority meeting it was agreed an additional 4 rangers would be employed for the summer months to alleviate some of the pressures both on and off the water.

Martin Sullivan reminded the Forum that Pathmakers are still looking for a member of the Broads Local Access Forum to join as a trustee. The Burgh Castle path and boardwalk is an example of some of the work carried out by Pathmakers.

Access to the water by the two Rights of Way that converge at Smallburgh and go down to Moy's Mill have been closed off.

Lewis Treloar agreed to investigate the footpaths and access.

9. Any other business

Ellie Hackwoods report; Widening the reach of the Norfolk Local Access Forum noted that the Countryside Stewardship expires in 2020 leading to reductions in public access. At a previous Forum meeting Norfolk FWAG presented the potential permissive paths that may be lost in the Broads when the Countryside Stewardship expires.

Lewis Treloar agreed to investigate which permissive paths may be lost in the Broads.

The recent announcement of the Agricultural Transition Plan was announced this week; however, the full details on access have not yet been provided. The Forum will receive updates at a future meeting.

Following on from the additional meeting for IAS prioritisation scoring matrix this week a further sub group meeting would be required to discuss the current list of projects in detail. An agenda item on the wording for the seven strategic priorities would be presented at the next Broads Local Access Forum meeting.

The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the next Forum meeting. Advertising for additional members to join the Broads Local Access Forum will begin next year.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 10 March at 2.00pm.

The meeting ended at 15.45.

Signed by

Chairman

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Contact the local rangers and Oulton Parish Council regarding the moorings.	04/12/2020	Lewis Treloar
Investigate the footpaths and access towards Moy's Mill.	04/12/2020	Lewis Treloar
Investigate which permissive paths may be lost in the Broads when the Countryside Stewardship expires.	04/12/2020	Lewis Treloar
Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithe report.	04/12/2019	BLAF Chair

Completed actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Contact Norfolk Trails to discuss access of the Wherryman's Way near The Beauchamp Arms.	02/09/2020	Lewis Treloar
Circulate the IAS projects table for Forum members to review and feedback.	02/09/2020	Lewis Treloar
Circulate NLA survey report.	02/09/2020	Lewis Treloar

Broads Local Access Forum

10 March 2021

Agenda item number 6

Integrated Access Strategy: Update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

This report gives an update on some of the strategic priorities identified in the Integrated Access Strategy.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Every year, as part of the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS), we identify a number of strategic priority projects to be delivered by the Broads Authority and its partners.
- 1.2. Setting these priorities helps us target resources and external funding sources. Many of these projects cannot be delivered without working with external partners and therefore, where partnerships are already identified, the project will be scored higher in the priority scoring matrix.
- 1.3. A progress update on the highest priority projects is noted in Table 1

Table 1 Integrated Access Strategy priorities 2020/2021 – progress update Mar 2021

Project	Progress	Partners
Broads Mills Trail	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>WMM staff are continuing work on the mills trails and aiming to open new routes through Halvergate marshes.</p>	Broads Authority
Bure Valley Path	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Funding has been secured and designs agreed. Work should begin in 2021. Although only the initial part of this route lies within the Broads executive area, this project is seen as a key tourist route into the Broads. The BA involvement is advisory only but ties in with other projects taking place in Hoveton.</p>	Norfolk County Council Broadland District Council Broads Authority
Wherryman’s Way Hardley Flood	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Dredging will commence on the River Chet in Autumn 2021 with sediment being deposited onto the banks along the stretch between Chedgrave and Hardley flood. NCC bridge team have already replaced two of the bridges.</p>	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council Wherryman’s Way working group
Wherryman’s Way Sculptures and Signage	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Funding application submitted to the EXPERIENCE fund to upgrade some of the infrastructure along the route, with the</p>	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council Wherryman’s Way working group

Project	Progress	Partners
	aim of creating three easy access routes.	
Wherryman's Way – Bramerton to Surlingham	<p>Status: Delayed</p> <p>Unfortunately, no funding source has been identified to carry out the bank stabilisation needed to restore this section of the route at this stage. The aim is to re-apply for CIL funding in May 2021 and prioritise this project in the new GI strategy.</p>	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
Hoveton Riverside Park	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Topographical survey completed and concept designs created. Officers from NCC have also joined the project team and funding sources are beginning to be identified. Land raising will take place in Winter 2021.</p>	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
GIS Recreation Maps	<p>Status: Delayed</p> <p>No further progress has been made on the maps. The slipways are recorded but the interactive map has not yet been created.</p>	Broads Authority
EXPERIENCE Project (link) - Cycle Hubs	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Hoveton/Wroxham identified as the pilot region for the project. Currently working on day routes around the area and the business accreditation</p>	Norfolk County Council Cycling UK Broads Authority

Project	Progress	Partners
	scheme will begin to be rolled out at the end of March.	
Discovery Hubs	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>The idea of the hubs is to create current and accessible information points that are available all year round. Funding applications have been submitted which would fund the first three larger hubs this year.</p>	<p>Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust Norfolk County Council</p>
River Wensum Strategy – Canoe pontoon	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>A funding application has been submitted to the Canoe Foundation which would provide the resources for another canoe access point along the river Wensum, following the success of the New Mills installation.</p>	<p>Broads Authority Norwich City Council</p>

Author: Lewis Treloar

Date of report: 23 February 2021

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 6.1,6.2,6.3,6.4