

Broads Authority

27 February 2026

Agenda item number 8

Summary of actions and outstanding issues following discussions at previous meetings

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
Responding to Climate Change Emergency	27/09/2019	John Packman	<p>To adopt Climate Change Emergency Statement for the Broads (first report Appendix 1) and principles outlined for BA to:</p> <p>Recognise climate emergency</p> <p>Work toward making the Broads Authority 'carbon neutral' by 2030, with further objective of reducing all carbon emissions to zero by 2040.</p> <p>Establish base line for CO2 emissions using a common methodology with NPAs and develop an Action Plan and Monitoring system.</p> <p>Work with constituent local authorities to reduce emissions from domestic, travel and other sources in the Broads across the two counties.</p> <p>Work with farmers, land managers, NFU and Defra to influence land management practices, to maintain and build organic matter and carbon in soil, improve biodiversity and store water to protect against flooding and drought.</p> <p>Work with boating and tourism organisations to continue promoting and developing environmentally friendly boating and sustainable tourism; and</p> <p>Aspire to offsetting carbon emissions locally within the Broads by a Broads offsetting scheme.</p>	<p>September 2022: A member workshop was held on 25 July 2022, and the full report circulated to members. Work is ongoing on the next steps, with a report anticipated for the November Authority meeting.</p> <p>The next phase of Clean Maritime funding, which may allow us to build on the Electrifying the Broads feasibility study, is expected to be announced on 22 September 2022.</p> <p>November 2022: We are working on various possible bids for external funding to support our climate change work, including the Norfolk Investment Framework. Unfortunately the Clean Maritime Competition Phase III was not suitable for the Electrifying the Broads project, so we are exploring other avenues.</p> <p>December 2022: An update report setting out next steps was presented to the Authority Meeting in December. We will hear in early January the outcome of the bids to the Pioneer Places fund and the Norfolk Investment Framework.</p> <p>February 2023: Pioneer Places bid was not awarded. We have a new possibility of funding through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund award, in partnership with Norfolk County Council, that includes funding for electric pillars in the Broads.</p> <p>June 2023: We have had discussions with the Canal & Rivers Trust and Environment Agency to see what joint work can be done on boating electrification. Round 4 of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition is expected to open in July 2023, we will reach out to partners to determine if we can submit a bid. We are drafting a tender for the installation of solar panels at the Dockyard. We have</p>	

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				<p>launched a consultation with Visit The Broads members to identify opportunities to use funding from the Norfolk investment Framework to support sustainable tourism.</p> <p>September 2023: We are continuing to work with Norfolk County Council on developing a bid under the Norfolk Investment Framework for Sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competiton Round 4 has not proved suitable for the Electrifying the Broads project as it does not allow for capital expenditure. The Dockyard solar tender is currently open and will close on 15 September.</p> <p>July 2024: Press release on the National Parks' Race to Zero campaign will be going out this month. Broads Authority has received funding for 3 installations of solar powered cycle pods.</p> <p>November 2024: Planning application for CyclePods at Carlton Marshes Visitor Centre, Salhouse Broad and Reedham Ferry to be considered by the Planning Committee in December.</p> <p>January 2025: Planning application for the CyclePods approved. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting - 6 December 2024</p> <p>March 2025: First of the Cycle Pods to be installed at Carleton Marshes on 11 April.</p> <p>September 2025: Three Cycle Pods installed at Carleton Marshes, Reedham Ferry and Salhouse Broad. An additional Pod planned for Beccles Quay.</p> <p>February 2026: A report on the Climate Action Plan will be presented at the Broads Authority meeting on 27 February 2026.</p>	
'Broads Peat' - A Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme project	23/07/2021	Andrea Kelly	The Broads Peat Project was awarded £785,668 in December 2021 from Defra, as part of the Nature for Climate Peatland Grants Scheme – Discovery Grant which is administered by Natural England. The project budget was revised to £855,831 in December 2022 (the formal Change Control Notice was received from Natural England on 3 January). The project budget was revised to £1,125,831 in April 2023 (the formal Change Control Notice was received from Natural England on 20 April 2023).	<p>Updates up to and including, January 2025 have been archived and are available to read on Summary of Action reports from previous committee meetings.</p> <p>March 2025: Submitted a costed proposal for a 12-month extension of the Lowland Agricultural Peat Water Discovery Pilot project.</p> <p>Finalist in Game Changer category of EDP Clean Green Awards.</p>	31/03/2023

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			<p>Broads Peat was initially expected to close in March 2023 - an extension until 31 August 2023 has been granted. Following the Discovery phase, a restoration grant was awarded for Buttle Marsh on 26 August 2023.</p>	<p>Water Permissions Guide published Design Guide to Support Water Table and Water Resource Management in the Broads National Park.</p> <p>Short film about Restoring Grazing Marshes at Chestnut Farm Protecting Peatlands in the Broads National Park</p> <p>Short film about Wetland Farming at the Horsey Estate Paludiculture in the Broads National Park</p> <p>March 2025: The Authority had been successful in one of the bids for a Water Restoration Fund grant in the amount of ~£200,000.</p> <p>April 2025: The 12-month extension of FibreBroads has been granted (£175,000). Awaiting approval of the 12-month extension of LAPWDP (£78,500). Buttle Marsh amended Restoration Plan, with reservoir removed, submitted to NE for approval.</p> <p>First fibre harvest at Horsey complete and material being sent to UEL and Natural Building Systems for testing. Norfolk and Suffolk Farm Cluster leads visited Horsey. Visited Somerset to discuss and present on peat restoration. Designing peatland fen restoration scheme at Beccles Marsh with Norfolk FWAG and farmers.</p> <p>June 2025: 12-month extension of LAPWDP (£78,500) awarded and work on Beccles Marsh feasibility and engagement underway with owner, farming tenets, Anglian Water, Suffolk County Council, Internal Drainage Board and other stakeholders. Also working on feasibility of water management around Langley Abbey.</p> <p>Reed cleanings from thatching baled and sent to partners (ESG Natural Capital and Woolly Shepherd) to create acoustic panels for use in a suitable location in the Broads. Working with Reed Cutters to assess the extension of reedbed cutting for thatching.</p> <p>August 2025: Preparing for the Broads Floodplain Water Conference in January 2026, alongside a podcast series. At Buttle Marsh, the sluice will be installed by early October, with the windpump due March 2026.</p> <p>An Early Market Engagement response to Defra on future peat restoration has been submitted. The Broads Peat Partnership is being formalised, including work with Beccles Town Council on a new restoration scheme.</p>	

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				<p>Highlights include a bittern at the Horsey paludiculture site, a strong year for wasp spiders, and a new UK record: <i>Stigmatomyces manicatae</i> fungus on the rare fly <i>Ochthera manicata</i>, found during a Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society visit.</p> <p>November 2025: Eight podcast interviews have been completed, and a new peat webpage is currently in development. <i>Funding: Defra – Lowland Agricultural Peat Water Discovery Project (LAPWDP).</i></p> <p>Buttle Marsh Works: The sluice installation has been completed, and the tender for the remaining water management works has been issued. <i>Funding: Defra – Peat Restoration Grant</i></p> <p>Reedbed Expansion: Assessments of potential reedbed expansion sites in Norfolk and Suffolk are ongoing. A liaison visit to the Netherlands with Broads partners is planned for December, and work continues to further develop the BA/ADAS REEDS economic model. <i>Funding: Defra – Paludiculture Exploration Fund (PEF)</i></p> <p>Broads Peat Partnership: The Broads Peat Partnership has now been established. The Partnership's work was presented at the Norfolk Landscapes Conference on 29 October 2025.</p> <p>February 2026: Managing Carbon and Water in Lowland Landscapes Conference received excellent feedback with 140 delegates attending.</p> <p>The Authority unveiled Broadly Speaking, a new podcast series created through a Defra-funded project aimed at building a peatland community and tackling one of the region's most pressing environmental challenges: cutting greenhouse gas emissions from 2,000 hectares of drained peat soils. The podcasts are available on: Spotify; Soundcloud; and Apple podcasts</p> <p>Applying for funding to install novel low-cost monitoring on Buttle Marsh using a LoRaWAN gateway. Workshop held with Broads IDB about peat and water management. Costing peat restoration projects for future potential bid for Defra funding.</p>	

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Funding the waterways of the Broads National Park	26/01/2024	John Packman	To track the progress on making the case for central Government funding to support the maintenance of the Broads waterways.	<p>January 2024: The Board unanimously endorsed the paper and supported the Chairman in writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment.</p> <p>February 2024: Chairman has written to the Minister and local MPs.</p> <p>April 2024: Response received from Defra Minister 18 March 2024. See Appendix to report on National Park Grant.</p> <p>July 2024: Action - New Chair to write to new Minister when appointed on this issue and the costs of external audit.</p> <p>August 2024: Broads Authority Chair has written to the new Minister.</p> <p>March 2025: No response to date. Officers raised the matter on 13th January as part of the Defra Annual Review.</p> <p>September 2025: Defra has provided the Authority with flexibility in the use of National Park capital funding. The Change Control Notice stated the following: “The capital grant and any income derived from the expenditure is to be treated as National Park income and must be used in furtherance of section 2(1)(a) and (b) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988. Any such income may be applied to an expenditure that incidentally supports Section 2(1)(c) provided the primary aim of the expenditure remains the pursuit of Section 2(1)(a) and (b)”. Section 2(1) (b) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act states: <i>It shall be the general duty of the Authority to manage the Broads for the purposes of: (b) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public.</i> The argument accepted by Defra is that improving access to and from the water is one of the main ways the public enjoy the special qualities of the Broads.</p> <p>February 2026: Item closed.</p>	
Haven Bridge	02/04/2024	John Packman	The Great Yarmouth Ports Leisure Users meeting on 2 April had a long discussion regarding the problems with the Haven Bridge. There is a dispute between Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council regarding opening the bridge which is having an adverse impact on commercial and private boat owners based in the Broads.	<p>April 2024: Chief Executive has contacted Norfolk County Council and has been asked to brief the local MP. Awaiting outcome of discussions between Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>July 2024: Temporary arrangements agreed by Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council have allowed the bridge to open. The Monitoring Officer has written to the Great Yarmouth Port Authority reminding it of its statutory duties.</p>	

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				<p>August 2024: Response received from Great Yarmouth Port Authority and meeting to be arranged to discuss Haven Bridge.</p> <p>September 2024: Meeting deferred until after the Port Authority have had their AGM.</p> <p>November 2024: Meeting with users on lifting arrangements on 14 November 2024. Peel Ports proposed that charges be introduced for lifting the bridge and the Port Users Group would formulate a response to that proposal.</p> <p>December 2024: Peel Ports is consulting with the Port Users Group on a proposal to introduce charges for raising the Haven Bridge. The Group has written to the Great Yarmouth Port Authority highlighting Clause 59 of the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Act 1866 which states that “no charge shall be made in respect of opening the Bridge”. They have also pointed out that the introduction earlier this year of a transit fee on pleasure craft contravenes Clause 113 of the same Act. The Authority is seeking a meeting with the Port Authority and Peel Ports to establish the position.</p> <p>January 2025: Great Yarmouth Port Authority has indicated that the proposed Bridge Lifting Charge "will not be applied for 2025".</p> <p>March 2025: The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer met with Peel Ports on 19 February and covered a range of issues.</p> <p>November 2025: A Port Users Group meeting will be held on 4 December 2025.</p> <p>December 2025: Norfolk County Council has given notice that Haven Bridge would be closed for two weeks from 1 December 2025 to carry out further repairs which included the replacement of barriers and repairs to the paths, parapets, and all timber blocks on the bridge deck.</p> <p>February 2026: Norfolk County Council has given notice that Haven Bridge would be closed for five nights from Monday 9 February 2026 to carry out resurfacing works.</p>	
Landscapes Connections	24/01/2025	Andrew Farrell	To track the progress of the submission of an expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Landscape Connection Scheme and the subsequent development of an initial bid ready for submission at the end of 2025.	<p>January 2025: Members authorised the submission of the expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Landscape Connection Scheme.</p> <p>March 2025: Further advice given from senior officers at the Heritage Fund on the timings of development funding</p>	

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				<p>application and Expression #LC of Interest. Initial application for development funding to cover officer costs to develop the Landscape Connections Partnership bid being in the next few weeks.</p> <p>April 2025: Work continues to develop the development funding application. This is incorporating recently arising needs to further develop our work to support small local heritage partner's organisational sustainability, which is one of the key funding priorities of the Heritage Fund. We are also having key conversations with partners around the needs to meet our cash-match funding needs next year.</p> <p>June 2025: Continuing to meet with Heritage Fund and partners to scope out overall project. Speaking with potential funders to cover initial match funding requirements for development stage.</p> <p>September 2025: An initial application for resilience funding to the Heritage Fund has been submitted to build capacity to support building the partnership.</p> <p>November 2025: We have been awarded a grant of £129,312 in resilience funding for a project titled "#LC Broads Heritage Partnership: A Vision for the Future". This funding will allow us to bring together the new partnership, through funded officer time, to develop and submit the first round bid to the Heritage Fund. We will be recruiting a new externally funded Partnership Develop Officer to lead in this work. In the first week of Nov. we hosted a visit with the regional director of the Heritage Fund and one of the Senior engagement managers where we discussed our plans for developing our schemes for the programme.</p> <p>February 2026: We have begun delivery of the project and have appointed a Partnership Development Officer to lead on this work. We have also appointed consultants to work with the partnership ,including ourselves, to identify gaps and needs within the partnership, potential funding opportunities and to develop the next phase of funding for the scheme. They will deliver a report evidencing the needs of the partners in the landscape which will be a foundational piece of evidence with our next funding bid. We have continued to meet with the engagement team from the</p>	

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				Heritage Fund to discuss the development of our plans for the next phase.	
Appointment of a Monitoring Officer	25/07/2025	John Packman	At the Broads Authority meeting on 25 July 2025, the Board approved the transfer of the position of Monitoring Officer from Jonathan Goolden at Wilkins Chapman to Robert Thomas, Head of Governance as from 12 November 2025.	<p>November 2025: Since the decision by the Broads Authority, Robert Thomas has resigned from his post and will be leaving the Authority on Friday 5 December. To ensure the Authority remains compliant under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Jonathan Goolden of Wilkins Chapman has agreed to be the Authority's Monitoring Officer. Lorraine Taylor has been appointed Head of Governance as from 8 December 2025 and the plan is that she will in due course take over the role of Monitoring Officer. She has completed her first Monitoring Officer Foundation Course and will take on the Deputy Monitoring Officer position, providing essential continuity during this transition. A Monitoring Officer work program has been developed and this will be handed over to the Deputy Monitoring Officer to implement and maintain.</p> <p>February 2026: Lorraine Taylor has started the Monitoring Officer course and is due to complete this by 27 March 2026.</p>	01/12/2025

Date of report: 05 February 2026