

# Broads Local Access Forum

## Agenda 20 May 2026

Arrival from 9.30am. Meeting starts at 10.00am

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

### 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 19/11/2025
4. Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings- to note the schedule.

### Items for discussion

5. **Halvergate Marshes Bridleway Loop** - Update from BLAF member Christine Cane
6. **Norfolk County Council - PROW Footpaths update** - Update from Norfolk County Council
7. **Potter Heigham Staithe re-piling and mooring space** - Report by Waterways Project Officer
8. **Active Travel England Report** - Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
9. **Integrated Access Strategy Annual Report** - Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
10. **Potter Heigham and Ludham Marshes NNR CROW Restriction Review Report** - Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
11. **BLAF Annual Report 2025/26** - Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
12. **Access for All report** - Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

### Other matters

13. Any other business
14. To note the date of the next meeting

## Broads Local Access Forum membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Richard Atkins	Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF	01508 538083	<a href="mailto:richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com">richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com</a>	Paddle sports/ walking
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	<a href="mailto:keithbacon@broadland.net">keithbacon@broadland.net</a>	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Chris Balls	New member May 2026 - Confirming details			Waterborne recreation
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	<a href="mailto:Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk">Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk</a>	Broads Authority
Natalie Butler	New member May 2026 - Confirming details			Archaeology and landscape heritage
Christine Cane	The Roundhouse 160 Tuttlles Lane West Wymondham NR18 0JJ	01953 606019	<a href="mailto:christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk">christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk</a>	Equestrian riding and driving
Mark Collins	New member May 2026 - Confirming details			Waterborne recreation
Peter Dixon	The Smea Hickling NR12 0YL	078509 30486	<a href="mailto:Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com">Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com</a>	Broads Authority
Geoff Doggett	68 Pilgrims Way Harleston Norfolk IP20 9QE	01379 853464	<a href="mailto:geoffdoggett@gmail.com">geoffdoggett@gmail.com</a>	Waterborne recreation/nature conservation
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	<a href="mailto:tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com">tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com</a>	Angling

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Edward Gilder	30 The Hills Reedham Norwich NR13 3AR	0777188 3406	<a href="mailto:edwardgilder@yahoo.co.uk">edwardgilder@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Cycling/ archaeology and landscape heritage
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	<a href="mailto:tim@catfieldhall.com">tim@catfieldhall.com</a>	Nature conservation / archaeology and landscape heritage
Duncan Holmes	127 Lower Street Salhouse Norfolk NR13 6RX	0739356 6749	<a href="mailto:duncanholmes123@hotmail.com">duncanholmes123@hotmail.com</a>	Waterborne recreation/angling
Patricia Holtom	7 Market Place Loddon Norfolk NR14 6EY	0779649 1063	<a href="mailto:pat@holtom.org.uk">pat@holtom.org.uk</a>	Tourism and local business/walking
David Lilley	26 Burnt Hill Way Oulton Broad Lowestoft Suffolk NR33 8PF	0773824 4595	<a href="mailto:lilleyd@live.co.uk">lilleyd@live.co.uk</a>	Angling
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	<a href="mailto:peter.mason120780@gmail.com">peter.mason120780@gmail.com</a>	Walking/tourism and local business
Katie Phillips	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe House Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 610734	<a href="mailto:outdoorskatiep@gmail.com">outdoorskatiep@gmail.com</a>	Walking/nature conservation
Darren Reeve	New member May 2026 - Confirming details			Waterborne recreation
Jane Wallis	New member May 2026 - Confirming details			Waterborne recreation
Darren Wynne	New member May 2026 - Confirming details			Waterborne recreation

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Christopher Yardley	Larkhill Cottage Priory Lane Ingworth NR116PG	01263 479691	<a href="mailto:Ci.yardley@tiscali.co.uk">Ci.yardley@tiscali.co.uk</a>	Waterborne recreational users/ nature conservation

**Rebecca Clark - 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 19 November 2025

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## Present

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Richard Atkins, Harry Blathwayt, Christine Cane, Peter Dixon, Geoff Doggett, Edward Gilder, Tim Harris, Pat Holtom, David Lilley, Peter Mason, Katie Phillips, Christopher Yardley.

## In attendance

Hannah Davison – Natural England, Dan Hoare – Head of Operations, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Tobi Radcliffe – Waterways and Recreation Officer.

## 1. Appointment of Chair

Keith Bacon was proposed by Christopher Yardley and seconded by Harry Blathwayt.

**There being no other nominations Keith Bacon was appointed Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum for the forthcoming year 2025/26.**

## 2. Appointment of Vice Chair

David Lilley was proposed by Christopher Yardley and seconded by Edward Gilder.

**There being no other nominations David Lilley was appointed Vice Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum for the forthcoming year 2025/26.**

## 3. Apologies for absence and welcome

**Apologies** received from Tony Gibbons.

## 4. 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.

## 5. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 4 June 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2025 were approved as a correct record and agreed by the Chair.

## 6. Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings

A Forum member asked why Caroline Bidwell, Team Leader of the Green Infrastructure team is not attending. Dan Hoare responded, Caroline Bidwell was planning to attend today but they had a meeting clash and was unable to attend. They have sent their apologies and plan to attend at the next meeting in May 2026.

## Lost Paths

Richard Atkins reported that they responded to the request to submit evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group for outdoor recreation and access to nature in July. The response was submitted as an individual, but the Broads Local Access Forum were listed as their organisation. The response highlighted the issues of inland paths that follow the rivers and asked the group to consider extending the right of deviation that exists on coastal paths to paths that follow inland waterways.

## 7. Active Travel England update

Tobi Radcliffe joined the meeting as the new Waterways and Recreation Officer and introduced the Active Travel England (ATE) report. They previously worked as a Ranger for the Authority and have over 20 years of experience working in the Broads and started the role last week.

Phase One of ATE completed in June 2025 with the publication of the of the Broads Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), titled 'Broads Cycling, Wheeling and Walking Plan'. As part of the plan, proposed infrastructure and travel route improvements were identified with associated timescales and priorities. ATE have confirmed that all 10 of the English National Parks will receive funding for Phase Two in 2026/2027. Phase Two funding requires at least one proposed project to undertake a feasibility study that is developed to the stage where it can be delivered once funding becomes available. Project ideas need to be submitted to ATE for assessment by 12 January 2026. The funding will also enable the Authority to add capacity to the team for during Phase Two.

The 'wheeling' part of the title refers to all forms of mobility which helps people to get around, for example a powered wheelchair or pushchair. Similarly, Sustrans have recently changed their name to the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.

A Forum member commented that they were disappointed to see that there was not any site specific priorities with an immediate priority, instead they are all in the medium and long-term ranging from three to five years. They would like to see some delivery taking place sooner, for example the Postwick to Acle cycle route would only require sign posting. Tobi Radcliffe responded, this is the type of feedback that they are looking for from BLAF members to help prioritise and understand which routes are suitable to take forward to the feasibility stage. It is also possible to take forward a project with other sources of external funding as and when they come available.

Edward Gilder offered to share their knowledge of cycling routes in the Broads and talk about the practicalities of delivering some of the routes set out in Annex A of the LCWIP with Tobi Radcliffe.

It is not the intention that all of the recommendations set out in Annex A will be upgraded to a cycle route. The change would require a legal process with the respective County Council.

Regarding TH3, Repps Staithe to Thurne Village, a Forum member commented that the route is an existing pedestrian Public Right of Way and is part of the Weavers' Way, they asked if the

recommendation is to upgrade to allow cycling, or for the route to maintain it's existing status. Tobi Radcliffe responded, the suggestion is for repair and maintenance.

A Forum member commented that TH1 refers to How Hill, but it has not been included on the map. They added that the Forum and the Broads Authority have previously spent a lot of time on the route from Ludham Bridge to St Benet's Abbey and questioned if that should be included in the recommendation. A Forum member commented that the section of path that leads up to the riverbank is muddy most of the time and it could not be upgraded for wheelchair or cycle use without major investment. Another Forum member added that whilst it is not suitable, they have seen cyclists use the footpath from Ludham Bridge to St Benet's Abbey.

The route UB2, Hoveton Viaduct to Wroxham Bridge improvement links in to the ATE and government aims of encouraging more people to commute and move around without cars. For the Broads this also includes ways in which visitors can explore the area without a car.

A Forum member commented that that there is a quiet lane option between Pilson Green and Upton for the route UB1, Wroxham to Acle, but the map indicates that the route goes along a main road which could be avoided.

Hannah Davison commented that it would be good to prioritise access between Stalham Staithe and the town, particularly as an area of higher deprivation. Currently you need to cross a busy main road. A Forum member commented that they would welcome any suggestions on the crossing, North Norfolk District Council have been looking at ways to improve the crossing and met just this week to discuss the issue, but there are a number of difficulties.

Regarding UB5, Horning to Ludham Bridge, the Three Rivers route runs from Hoveton to Horning and the next phase was to run from Horning to Luham Bridge and then onto Ludham. A Forum member noted that a number of routes were explored in the area when the scheme was first developed several years ago. Another member commented that it is possible to get from Ludham to the bridge at Johnson Street almost entirely on a traffic free track.

The WA4 route proposed at Haddiscoe includes the disused railway line which in places has long disappeared. A Forum member commented that the biggest issue in that areas is the Haddiscoe bends which contain a number of blind spots for both walkers and cyclists. A Forum member commented that the British Horse Society had asked if a route would be possible across the old railway line from Haddiscoe to St Olaves and requested that they meet with Tobi Radcliffe to discuss this further. A Forum member suggested signage at Haddiscoe bends to advise horse riders of the dangers of the road. Another Forum member added, the reduced speed limit on the stretch of road has helped, but it is dangerous for anything other than a car, this includes pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders. A Forum member asked if there is already a bridleway in place that runs from Thorpe Hall to the bridge which would avoid Haddiscoe Dam Road. Dan Hoare commented that Haddiscoe FP2 and Thurlton FP6 connect Thorpe and Thurton towards Haddiscoe, but users will still need to cross St Olaves

bridge as shown on the interactive [Norfolk Highways and Public Rights of Way](#) map. There are no existing rights of way on the disused railway track.

The route YA6, Surlingham to Postwick is noted as a feasibility study for a new foot/cycle ferry crossing over the River Yare.

The route YA1, Whitlingham to Broadland Business Park includes a cycle crossing at the Postwick flyover on the A47, currently it is a pavement on the side of an A road with no segregation from the traffic. A Forum member commented that the current options is dangerous, and they have stopped using this route when cycling as a group.

A Forum member commented that there is already a permissive path in place from Loddon Village to Pyes Mill which is similar to YA5. The recommendation is for signage and interpretation.

Hannah Davison asked if there has been any coordination with Whitlingham Country Park regarding the route YA1. Last year they carried out a large public consultation asking visitors for their feedback on accessing the Country Park. It is well known that most visitors access Whitlingham by car so anything that moves away from this would be welcomed. The NatureCityNorwich bid was also successful and there could be more opportunities to collaborate in the area.

Regarding YA2, Broadland Business Park to Brundall, a Forum member commented that the route is well signposted, but users need to navigate the shared path over the A47. There is also an alternative option via Low Road in Postwick.

A Forum member noted that YA3, Brundall to Acle would need to get across the Cantley Road, which in the autumn and winter is very busy with sugar beet lorries. They suggested that cyclists cross at Beighton.

A Forum member asked if the YA3, Brundall to Acle will be affected by the duelling of the A47 which may be finished next year. Another Forum member responded, the duelling will make it easier for cyclists to cross the A47 because there will be a shared use path at the White House junction making it easier to travel to South Walsham and into the Broads.

## 8. Any other business

Dan Hoare provided an update on the progress of the Wherryman's Way. The active project is the upgrading on Bramerton FP5 which runs from Bramerton Common up to Surlingham FP3 and the section that has been eroded away by the river. The plan is to install a rock mattress as part of the erosion protection, and this is a live application on the Authority's planning system which will be presented to the planning committee on 5 December. The biggest challenge at the moment is the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) test that is required for applications where the river edge will be modified. The BNG test is aimed at large developments rather than surfacing a footpath in a rural environment, as a result the BNG weighting had unproportionally calculated that £400,000 worth of offsite mitigation is required which is not feasible. The BNG officer for the project has submitted the application

under 'Rule 4' which allows for schemes to happen where the metric does not work for the project because the County Council are trying to follow a statutory function to maintain access.

A Forum commented that the Broads is the only National Park that does not have a Youth Hostel and asked if there are any connections to the Youth Hostel Association. A Youth Hostel would aid walkers, cyclists, paddleboarders and any other users to stay cheaply in the area.

A Forum member requested that BLAF members report any sightings of floating pennywort when they are out in the Broads. Currently there is an outbreak in the Waveney as well as the upper Ant. The Broads Internal Drainage Board (IDB) recently reported floating pennywort at Burgh Castle, but it is not clear if it was over the flood bank, part of the drainage system. Another Forum member commented that floating pennywort has been on the Waveney for a long time and the Norfolk Invasive Species Group already have an action plan in place. Norfolk County Councils invasive species officer has been vacant since August, and the role includes coordination between various agencies which is currently missing. Whilst the pennywort weevil is an option to deal with floating pennywort, it is often used as a last resort and it expensive at £20,000 per dose.

A Forum member asked for more information on the barriers that have been put up on the River Chet by Pyes Mill, they added that there is a delegation of people who often fish in the area and are now unable to, but there has not been a lot of communication as to why parts of the moorings are closed. The closures also have an economic impact with less people being able to moor their boats and visit nearby shops and eateries. Dan Hoare responded, South Norfolk Council own the site and the Broads Authority manage it on their behalf. The piling which has been taped off is unsafe to moor and fish from. Because the area is managed as a 24-hour mooring, anglers would also need to give way to boats coming into moor. The Authority are an impasse with the South Norfolk Council who do not have the money to invest in repiling the edges to make it safe for users, so the Authority is currently managing a poor condition asset.

Regarding the bird hide on the Wherryman's Way, a Forum member asked for an update on the footpath which leads to the bird hide. Dan Hoare replied, the bird hide is currently dilapidated and in need of repair. The footpath along the river edge and bank maintenance is a challenge in those areas, but the decision lies with the County Council. It is hoped that an update will be provided when Caroline Bidwell of Norfolk Council attends a future Forum meeting.

A Forum member commented that they were disappointed to see BLAF meeting reduce from four to two per year and questioned if it was a cost cutting measure or if it because of the criticism which the Forum provides. The Chair confirmed that the reduction in meetings was a financial decision. Harry Blathwayt, member of BLAF and Chair of the Broad Authority added, the decision is purely financial. The Authority received a cut of 8.2% to the revenue budget and that has affected staffing across the board. Discussions that are had in their meeting welcome, including the criticism which is valid and constructive. Dan Hoare agreed that the feedback is needed as demonstrated during today's meetings. To make best use of the

reduced meetings it is helpful for members to take the time and read the papers ahead of the meetings. Where specific topics require more discussions, it may be that a subgroup is formed outside of the meetings with Tobi Radcliffe.

Kylie Moos will be changing roles at the Authority next month, and Forum members are reminded to continue to use the [BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk) email address for any future correspondence.

The Chair commented on the good turn out to today's meeting and encouraged members of the Forum to consider future agenda items or site visits in advance of the next meeting. They suggested an update from Norfolk Wildlife Trust and their vision for Hickling, and access in the reserve. The reserve could also serve as a future site visit for the Forum.

## 9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 20 May 2026.

The meeting ended at 11.25am.

Signed by

Chair



# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 7

## Potter Heigham Staithe re-piling and mooring space

Report by Waterways Project Officer

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### Summary

Consultation with the Broads Local Access Forum for the proposed works at Potter Heigham Staithe on the River Thurne.

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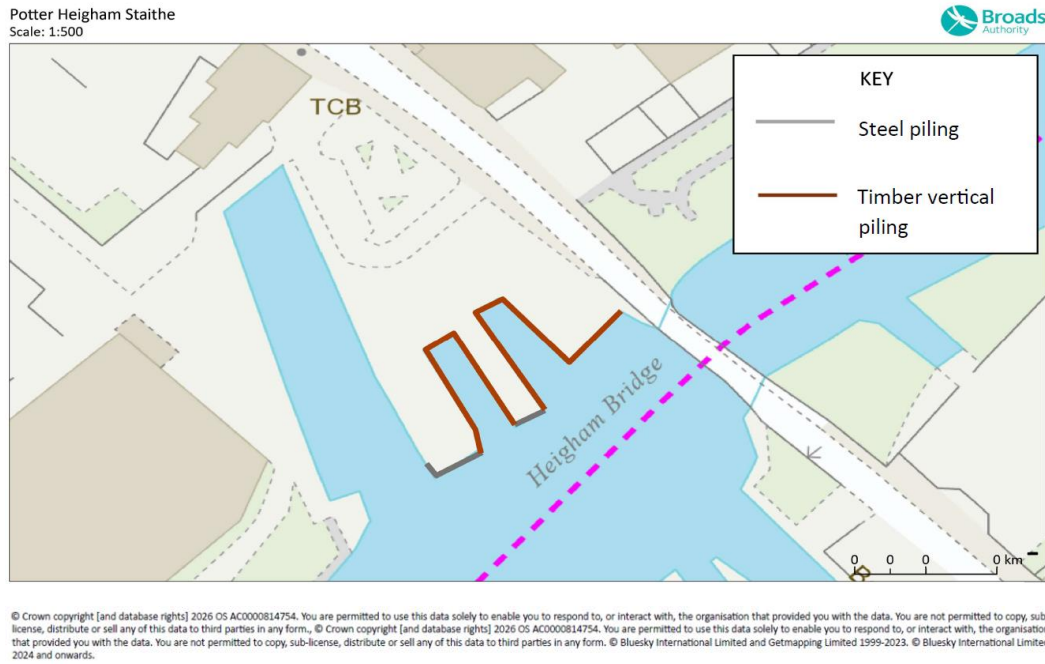
## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Authority manages several public 24-hour moorings within the area of Potter Heigham, and this report focuses on the site named Potter Heigham Staithe. This site is not a 24-hour mooring but does have river frontage. It is owned by the Broads Authority, popular with visitors who appreciate river views and use the local amenities.
- 1.2. Part of the site has staithe rights, this means that this is a place “where individuals have a right to moor boats, at least for the purpose of depositing cargoes” (The Staithe of the Broads: a history and assessment paper).
- 1.3. The timber piling has reached the end of its structural life and no longer meets the Authority’s safety standards. The current surfacing at the Staithe requires regular repair due to movement of the failing piling. There are currently several different phases of construction with different materials used on site (see Figure 1).

- 1.4. There are several options for consideration which offer changes to the mooring capacity and layout of the river frontage with a more consistent construction and visual appearance.

## 2. Options Appraisal

- 2.1. Figure 1: Site location and current river frontage materials and layout



- 2.2. The river frontage defined in Figure 1, currently comprises a mixture of steel and timber piling, with a tarmac surfacing behind the capping. Based on the latest structural condition assessment, the timber piling is in poor condition and needs replacing. For the steel piling sections some of the tie rods need replacing.
- 2.3. The basic requirement is to replace the failing timber piling with steel sheet piling. Replacement with steel will improve the robustness of the river frontage and enable effective connection to the existing steel sheets which are in good condition.
- 2.4. An outline description of the different design and layout options open for consideration is in Table 1.
- 2.5. Table 1: Description of the different options considered (See Appendix 1 for matching diagrams)

Option	Description
1	To remove the central peninsula and re-pile around the inlet. Installation of a 2 m wide pontoon will follow.
2	To infill both mooring cuts and pile across the entire frontage.

Option	Description
3	To infill the downstream mooring cut, pile across the front and replace the timber piles.
4	To infill the upstream mooring cut, pile across the front and replace timber piles
5	To install new steel piling in the current configuration

### 3. Risk implications

- 3.1. Site condition assessment shows that remedial work is required. Like-for-like replacement on the exact same footprint (Option 5) offers limited scope for gaining cost efficiencies, such as may be gained through reducing the linear length of expensive sheet piling, or for different mooring opportunities.
- 3.2. All consents and permissions required would be applied for and gained before any work takes place on site. This would include working with Historic England to monitor the impact on Potter Heigham Bridge (Scheduled Ancient Monument).

### 4. Summary

- 4.1. Members' views are sought on any matters of relevance to access to the waterways and staithe rights for Options 1 to 5. Responses will be considered as part of the on-going project planning process.

Author: Emily Leonard

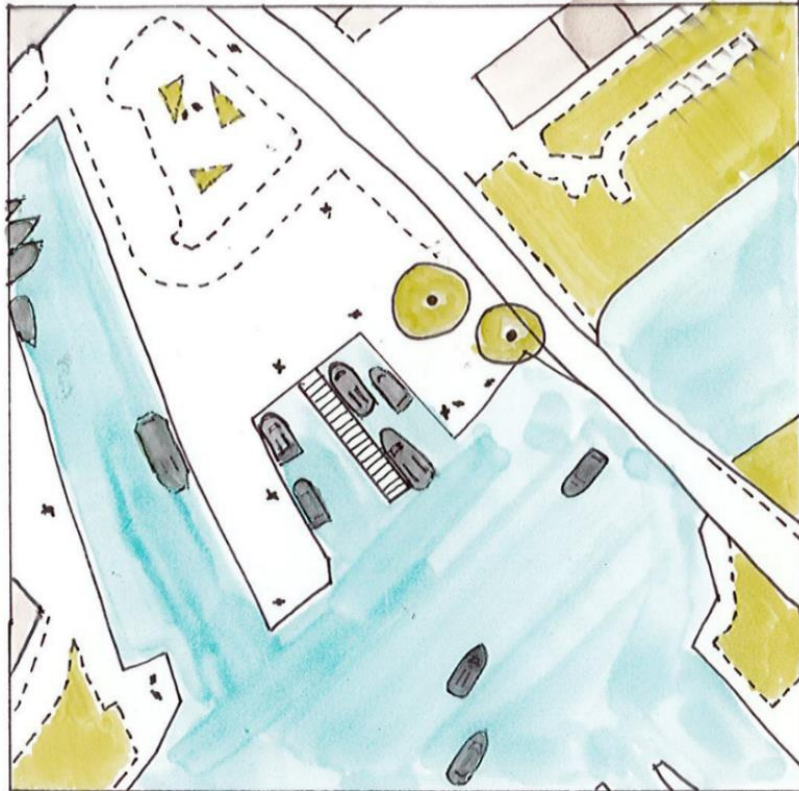
Date of report: 01 May 2026

Background papers: The Staithe of the Broads: a history and assessment paper- [The Staithe of the Broads](#)

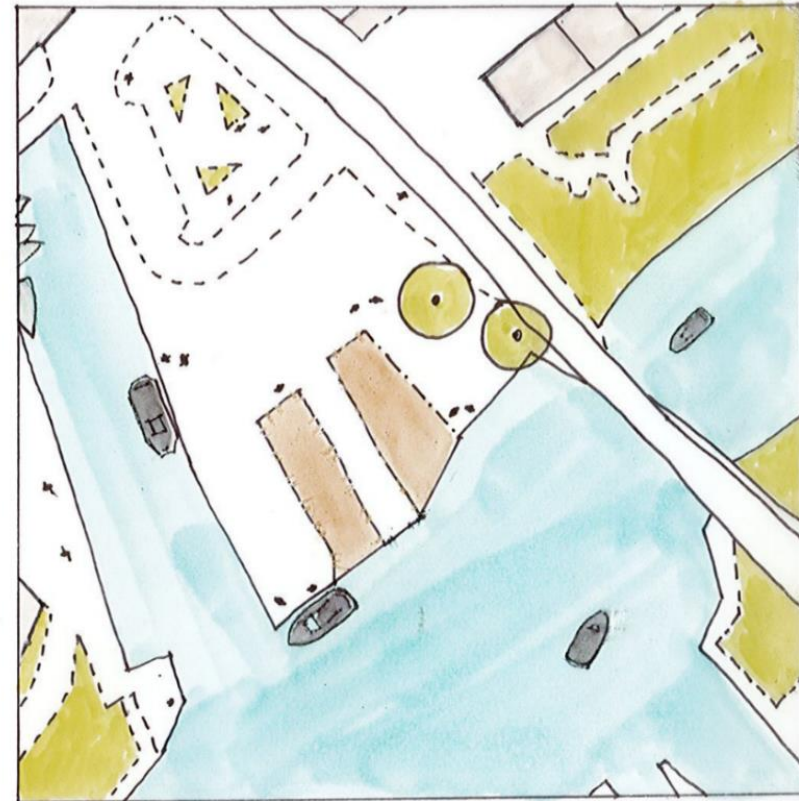
[Broads Plan](#) objectives: C2, E1

Appendix 1 – Sketch plans of Option 1-5

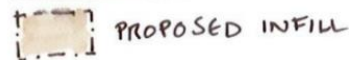
## Appendix 1- Sketch plans of Options 1-5

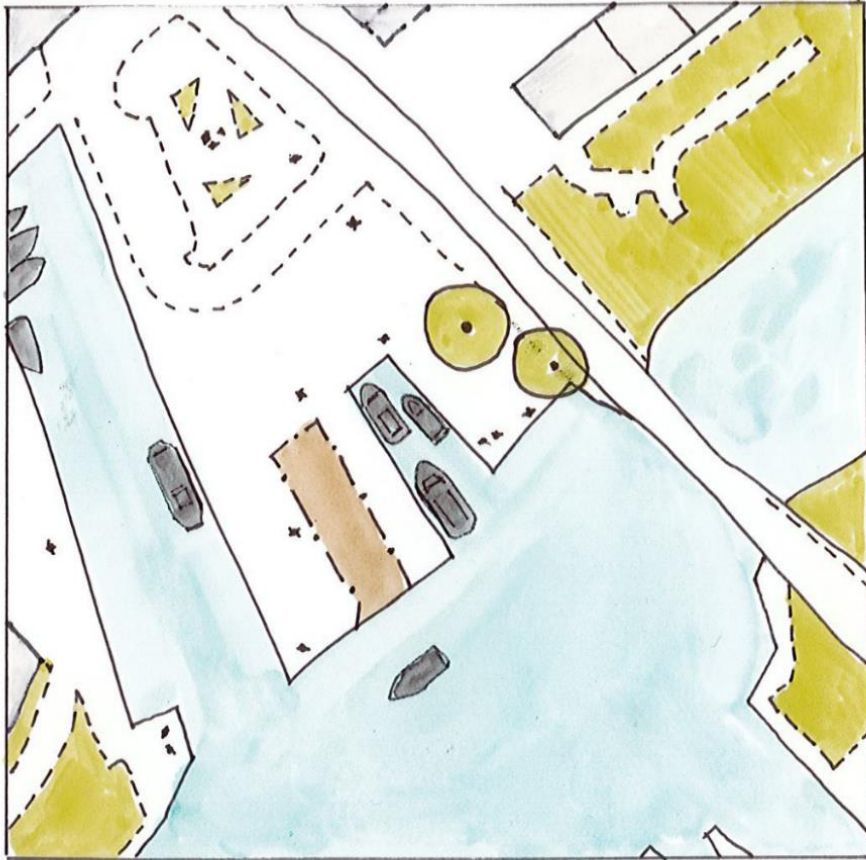


OPTION 1 : REMOVE CENTRAL PENINSULA AND  
 REPLACE WITH PONTOON



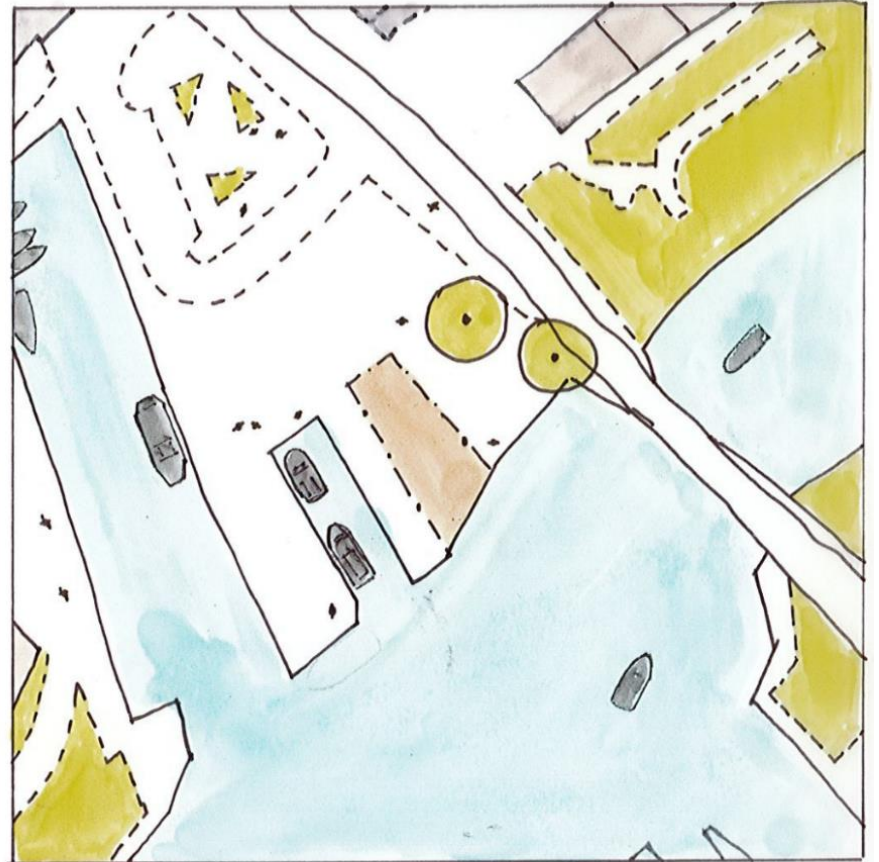
OPTION 2 : INFILL BOTH INLETS






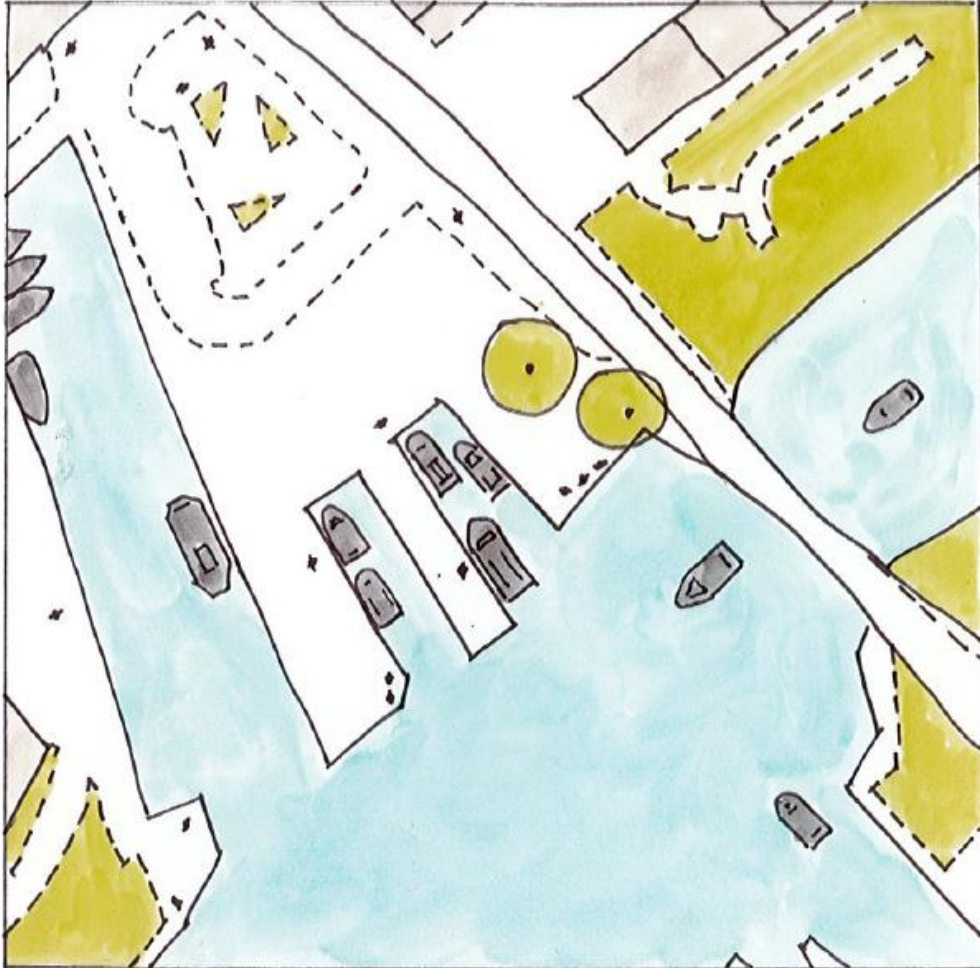
OPTION 3 ; INFILL DOWNSTREAM INLET

 PROPOSED INFILL



OPTION 4 ; INFILL UPSTREAM INLET

 PROPOSED INFILL



OPTION 5 : PILE LIKE FOR LIKE

POTTER HEIGHAM STAITHE | 1:500 | 24.03.2026

# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 8

## Active Travel England Report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Forum members of the position and progress of Phase 2 of the Active Travel England National Parks Capability Fund.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Active Travel England (ATE) aims to improve health and wellbeing, tackle climate change and restore nature through increased active travel replacing shorter journeys and commutes, achieved by improving connectivity.
- 1.2. This has been supported through the ATE 'Capability Fund', allocated across the ten English National Parks, enabling them and their co-located authorities to develop inclusive active travel programmes.
- 1.3. Phase 1 of the ATE Capability Fund saw the production of the Broads Local Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (Broads LCWIP). Phase 2 was announced in 2025 and the Broads Authority submitted its bid for this funding in January 2026.

## 2. Phase Two Project Progress

- 2.1. Following a successful bid for Phase 2 of the National Parks Capability Fund, the Broads Authority was awarded £200,000 in March 2026. The Authority has 18 months to bring priority schemes, highlighted in the Broads LCWIP, to a design ready stage. Completed scheme designs can then be taken forward to delivery, should suitable funding become available.
- 2.2. A Steering Group has been set up to guide and support the project; the group comprises members of Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, Natural England, Forum representatives for cycling and walking and Broads Authority staff.
- 2.3. Early project milestones, now completed, included the submission of a 'Theory of Change' model (Appendix 1) and a Project Plan (Appendix 2).
- 2.4. The Phase 2 mandatory activity over the 18 months requires at least one scheme to reach a design stage ready for external funding bids and delivery. As part of the

Capability Fund, the Broads Authority's project includes employing an Active Travel Project Officer (ATPO) who will be in post until October 2027. Activities to be delivered include local public engagement events, additional staff training on Active Travel, data collection, and pooling National Park resources to look at cost-cutting issues.

- 2.5. The ATPO role is currently going through evaluation with a view to advertise and interview end of May/ beginning of June. The role would then be filled with an officer in post by mid July 2026.
- 2.6. Work has commenced reviewing schemes in the Broads LCWIP, finalising a metric for scoring according to a number of factors including: active travel benefits, economic viability and connectivity within the Broads.

### 3. Financial implications

- 3.1. Phase 2 will be funded by ATE with £200,000 allocated for expenditure in 2026/27 and 2027/28 for project completion in October 2027. The Authority shall engage a contractor to assist with the detailed scheme feasibility and design work. A report shall be brought to Forum meetings to update on progress.

### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The ATE NPCF Phase 2 project will bring to life prioritised schemes highlighted in the Broads LCWIP, as budget allows. Through increased internal capacity with the employment of a project officer, engagement with local Active Travel experts, staff training and public engagement the project plan will be closely monitored. The Steering Group will support this work, to ensure the ATE aims are met and the schemes taken forward will bring active travel benefits to the Broads.

Author: Tobi Radcliffe

Date of report: 29 April 2026

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: E1 – Improve the integrated network of access routes and points (with easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs), linked to visitor facilities

Appendix 1 – [Theory of Change – Broads NPCF Phase 2](#)

Appendix 2 – [Project Plan – Broads NPCF Phase 2](#)

# ATE Capability Fund Phase 2

Objectives: to bring 3 schemes to design stage ready to bid for capital funding; increase resilience, capacity and upskill Broads Authority staff; form partnerships with LHAs and stakeholders within the Broads.



ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Work	Duration	Start	Finish	% Work Complete	Qtr 2, 2026			Qtr 3, 2026			Qtr 4, 2026			Qtr 1, 2027			Qtr 2, 2027			Qtr 3, 2027			Qtr 4, 2027			Qtr 1, 2028		
								Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1		<b>ATE NPCF P2</b>	535.85 days	391.24 days?	Wed 01/04/26	Wed 13/10/27	1%																								
2		<b>MEETINGS</b>	10.5 days	370.49 days	Thu 23/04/26	Thu 07/10/27	2%																								
3		<b>Quarterly meetings</b>	4.25 days	318.33 days	Mon 08/06/26	Thu 09/09/27	0%																								
4		Quarterly Catch Up	10.75 days	0.25 days	Mon 08/06/26	Mon 08/06/26	0%																								
5		Quarterly catch Up	1 day	0.25 days	Mon 07/09/26	Mon 07/09/26	0%																								
6		Quarterly Catch Up	10.25 days	0.25 days	Mon 07/12/26	Mon 07/12/26	0%																								
7		Quarterly Catch up	1 day	0.25 days	Tue 09/03/27	Tue 09/03/27	0%																								
8		Quarterly catch up	20.25 days	0.25 days	Tue 08/06/27	Tue 08/06/27	0%																								
9		Quarterly catch up	31 day	0.25 days	Thu 09/09/27	Thu 09/09/27	0%																								
10		<b>Steering Group meetin</b>	6.25 days	370.49 days	Thu 23/04/26	Thu 07/10/27	4%																								
11		Steering Group Kick-	0.25 days	0.25 days	Thu 23/04/26	Thu 23/04/26	100%																								
12		Steering group finalise 3 schemes	1 day	0.25 days	Mon 27/07/26	Mon 27/07/26	0%																								
13		Steering group - discuss feasibility of	1 day	0.25 days	Thu 08/10/26	Thu 08/10/26	0%																								
14		Steering Group - concept design presentation, progress on	1 day	0.25 days	Mon 11/01/27	Mon 11/01/27	0%																								
15		Steering Group - review preliminary	1 day	0.25 days	Thu 08/04/27	Thu 08/04/27	0%																								
16		Steering Group - review detailed	1 day	0.25 days	Thu 10/06/27	Thu 10/06/27	0%																								
17		Steering Group - wrap up meeting	1 day	0.25 days	Thu 07/10/27	Thu 07/10/27	0%																								
18		<b>CAPACITY BUILDING TAS</b>	368.6 days	379.24 days?	Fri 17/04/26	Wed 13/10/27	1%																								
19		<b>Recruitment</b>	15 days	28.08 days	Fri 08/05/26	Tue 16/06/26	7%																								
20		Finalise ATPO JD	1 day	0.5 days	Fri 08/05/26	Fri 08/05/26	100%																								
21		ATPO JD published - advert out	0 days	0 days	Mon 18/05/26	Mon 18/05/26	0%																								
22		ATPO short list	2 days	1 day	Tue 02/06/26	Tue 02/06/26	0%																								
23		ATPO interviews	2 days	1 day	Tue 09/06/26	Tue 09/06/26	0%																								
24		ATPO start	0 days	0 days	Wed 10/06/26	Wed 10/06/26	0%																								
25		ATPO Induction	10 days	5 days	Wed 10/06/26	Tue 16/06/26	0%																								
26		<b>ATPO Tasks</b>	22.79 days	379.24 days	Fri 17/04/26	Wed 13/10/27	18%																								
27		<b>Preparation tasks</b>	9.84 days	5 days	Mon 27/04/26	Fri 01/05/26	41%																								
28		Create Project Pla	4.89 days	4.89 days	Mon 27/04/26	Fri 01/05/26	41%																								
29		Create Theory of	4.95 days	4.95 days	Mon 27/04/26	Fri 01/05/26	40%																								
30		Create and apply matrix to routes to prioritise schemes	9.25 days	10 days	Mon 11/05/26	Fri 22/05/26	0%																								
31		Review proposed routes in LCWIP	1.85 days	2 days	Tue 12/05/26	Wed 13/05/26	0%																								

Project: Phase 2 plan 2026 - 20  
Date: Fri 01/05/26

Task		Project Summary		Manual Task		Start-only		Deadline	
Split		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only		Progress	
Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress	
Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone			



# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 9

## Integrated Access Strategy Annual Report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

This report provides the annual progress (2025/26) against the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) Action Plan.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The [Integrated Access Strategy](#) (IAS) for the Broads was adopted in April 2024 (and sets out a comprehensive framework to improve access across the Broads National Park. Its overarching goal is to enhance connectivity on land and water, ensuring inclusive access to visitor facilities is considered. The strategy is underpinned by a commitment to equality, diversity, and environmental stewardship, with specific objectives grouped under land-based access, land-to-water connections, and mooring and de-masting provision. This progress report provides a year end update on the implementation of 2025/26 tasks, with insights into achievements, challenges and areas requiring further action.
- 1.2. Through capital grant funding available in 2025/26 from DEFRA and Active Travel England, progress has been made to enable improvements to access including some land-to-water initiatives. The Waterways and Recreation Officer role was vacant between April to November 2025, but since then, there has been good progress against IAS objectives.

## 2. Progress Matrix

- 2.1. The Appendices 1-3 show the strategic aims and the 2025/26 progress made against each objective. The progress has been ranked with a traffic light system. Green is on target; Amber is progressing but more to be done; Red is behind target.

## 3. Summary

- 3.1. 2025/26 progress follows the pattern of 2024/25. More comprehensive completion of land based objectives, with land-water and mooring & demasting showing some progress through strengthened cross-sector collaboration. This includes partnerships

with PaddleUK, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, and local landowners. The focus over the past two years on land based objectives highlights a need in 2026/27 to increase effort and resource to keep pace with planned land-water and moorings & demasting objectives.

- 3.2. Progress has been delayed in several areas due to the Waterways and Recreation Officer post being vacant for seven months.
- 3.3. Additional Access grant funding from Defra in 2026/27 and ATE National Park Capability Fund (Phase Two project) will enable project delivery to achieve outcomes, advancing the vision of a more accessible and connected Broads National Park.

Author: Tobi Radcliffe

Date of report: 01 May 2026

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: C2 – Maintain existing navigation water space and develop appropriate opportunities to extend access for various types of craft; C4 – Maintain and improve safety and security standards and user behaviour on the waterways ; E1 – Improve the integrated network of access routes and points (with easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs), linked to visitor facilities.

Appendix 1 – [IAS Land 2025/26 Progress update](#)

Appendix 2 – [IAS Land to Water 2025/26 Progress update](#)

Appendix 3 – [IAS Mooring and Demasting 2025/26 Progress update](#)

Objective number	Land Based Access Objectives	Action	Year 2 update
L 1	<b>Develop a Communications Plan to ensure equality, diversity, and inclusivity in land access provision around the Broads.</b>	Implement communications plan.	Discussions taken place with Rob Leigh to start working towards creating a plan. Also producing guidance for accessibility in signage.
L 2	<b>Review the Broads Authority role in Public Rights of Way (PRoW) maintenance.</b>	Consult with stakeholders.	Discussions with NCC regarding current (2026) cutting responsibilities alongside EA cutting.
L 3	<b>Identify priority sites for new and improved access provision.</b>	Project plan and seek funding.	Implementation of access projects Acle, Worlingham, HRP using Access for All funding
L 4	<b>Consult with users regarding priority locations for the development and promotion of access hubs and facility improvements.</b>	Promote facilities.  Project plan for improvements.  Seek funding.	Discovery Hubs established Salhouse, Beccles, Great Yarmouth - publicised online  Proposed engagement with users via QR codes and MS Forms  Additional access funding for 2026/27 following 2025/26 funding. BLAF consulted.
		Promote facilities.	Broadcaster and social media. RL working with Greater Anglia.

L 5	<b>Work with local authorities and transport providers, to promote use and enhancement of the travel around the Broads.</b>	Project plan for improvements.  Seek funding.	Additional planning and feasibility for ATE Phase 2.  ATE funding for improved Active Travel aims.
L 6	<b>Carry out feasibility study of installing electric charging points for cars and cycles at Broads Authority sites.</b>	Seek external funding and partners who could aid with increasing access to electric charging points for vehicles and boats.	Bike charge pods (Connecting Places Catapult Rural Transport Accelerator Programme) installed at Salhouse, Reedham Ferry, Carlton Marshes. BMW car charge Hickling Pleasureboat Inn, new boat pillars at NYS.
L 7	<b>Look at what Open Access land is available for increased access opportunities.</b>	Review access provision and barriers to greater usage of Open Access land.	Working with NE to increase awareness of barriers and social inclusion. Training schedule using ATE funding to increase staff awareness of barriers and solutions in the rural environment.
L 8	<b>Norfolk County Council Walking, Wheeling, and Cycling Strategy and Suffolk County Council Cycling and Walking Strategy linking up with BLAF to promote cycling, walking and horse-riding provision.</b>	Identify how the strategies can be used within the Broads.	Working with NCC and SCC to produce schemes for design under ATE Phase 2

Objective Number	Land-to-Water Access Objectives	Action	Year 2 update
LW 1	Develop a Communications plan for land-to-water access on the Broads.	Implement communications plan.	Discussions taken place with Rob Leigh to start working towards creating a plan. Also producing guidance for accessibility in signage.
LW 2	To assist the prioritisation of service delivery, develop a method of determining the relative boating activity within waterways management units, by using aggregated and anonymised mobile phone data.	Implement prioritisation matrix.	Activexchange data used to create usage ratings for sections of rivers in Broads network.
LW 3	Continue to work at multi-use hubs with access to water identified around the Broads.	Promote multi-use hubs with access to water.	Discovery hubs promoted online. Using feedback forms and QR codes on access points for paddlecraft, enable feedback on usage and suggestions for other requirements
LW 4	Update and disseminate open water swimming advice and guidance.	Continue monitoring and working with partners on safety communications. Consider safety at hot spots. Report to BLAF.	Working with Ranger team and Drowning Prevention Group Identifying hot spot areas and increasing safety signage provision For discussion
LW 5	Develop a web-based zoomable/ scrollable map of access facilities in the Broads.	Annual review and update.	Conversations taken place on adding layers to moorings maps and slipways/ launch points.
LW 6	Carry out a review with stakeholders to understand the issues and barriers to sailing in the Broads.	See what improvements can be made to break down barriers.	Contact to be made with sailing groups, yacht clubs in 2026
LW 7	Promote and enhance opportunities for launch of small vessels and paddlecraft where vehicle access or parking is possible.	Use study to seek partners, external funding and improve facilities at sites.	Regular catch ups with PaddleUK PaddlePoints officer, linking in with PaddlePoints mapping. Feedback form via QR code being installed on launch points. Paddle Trust an option for additional paddle craft linked funding.

		Maintain existing access points	Hoveton Riverside Park launch pontoon delivered, additional sites being identified.
LW 8	<b>Maintain and promote the Broads Authority managed angling pads/ platforms.</b>	Maintain existing platforms.  Work with comms team to promote.  Work with local stakeholders to promote.	Refurbishment of Worlingham angling platforms x 2 (Access for All), input and suggestions from staff and MoP for additional angling access improvements  Website updated. Discussions to plot information on interactive map as per moorings.  Update to BLAF
LW 9	<b>Promote and enhance opportunities for paddlecraft routes/trails.</b>	Work with stakeholders on routes and facilities within the Broads.	Continued updates with PaddleUK. Close working with local paddle groups. Creating network of access launch points needing improvement
LW 10	<b>Review of access provision at Mutford Lock and adjacent Authority owned land.</b>	Develop a business case, project plan.  Seek partners and funding for any access developments which have become apparent from survey.	No progress  No progress
LW 11	<b>Review access to slipways across the Broads to ensure long-term usage.</b>	Review of locations, ownership, general condition and barriers to wider usage.	Review 2026
LW 12	<b>Review the accessibility arrangements for public boat trips.</b>	Carry out review; seek partners and funding; seek accessibility enhancements.	Review 2026

Objective Number	Mooring and Demasting Provision Objectives	Action	Year 2 update
M 1	Report annually on total mooring length managed by the Broads Authority compared to agreed baseline.	Baseline to be agreed	Information exists as part of interactive map base <a href="https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/facilities/moorings">https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/facilities/moorings</a>
M 2	Review policy regarding DP16 moorings. Improve communications to public regarding DP16 moorings.	Review	Now known as DM33 moorings. Update to Broadcaster centre pages map to reflect availability of moorings. Update to website to list available moorings. March 2026, audit of moorings carried out with Planning Enforcement Officer - actions raised regarding contacting landowners. Comms to update moorings list webpage.
M 3	Identify locations for new short-stay moorings in gaps identified by gap analysis.	Discuss process with Director of Delivery	Meeting requested.
M 4	Review de-masting provision in the Broads and develop a prioritisation methodology to guide future investment in new provision.	Methodology to be developed. Update list of Demasting moorings.	Review commenced and list created
M 5	Review ancillary services provision at 24-hour moorings.		Electric hook ups being upgraded. Check with AS on whether a review of ancillary services was also carried out.
M 6	Identify the highest priority modification for accessibility at 24-hour moorings.	Devise process for consultation of users	
M 7	Review lease fees and assess on a case by case basis.	Review - arrange meeting with Danny to determine	Meeting with Asset Officer scheduled. Lease fees review carried out annually by contractors.
M 8	Feasibility study of different mooring design options and consult.	Feasibility study	<a href="#">Future proofing Broads Authority public moorings</a>
M 9	Work on a zoomable/ scrollable map of Broads Authority Waterways facilities which include moorings.	Develop	BA 24hr moorings live on interactive map. Map development proposals 2026 - include all moorings available, not just 24 hour moorings.
M 10	Review every 3 years double alongside and stern-on mooring provision in appropriate locations.	Review	Stern on mooring review in 2023-4? Check results for comparison - TBC
M 11	Identify if there are popular moorings which need to become staffed.	Review	Ranworth now staffed successfully. Review in Yr 3 further options for staffing moorings.

# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 10

## Potter Heigham and Ludham Marshes NNR CROW Restriction Review Report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

The Broads Local Access Forum has a statutory role in both the initial and formal consultation stages regarding the restriction of public access on Open Access land, as administered by the Broads Authority. This report gives an opportunity to refresh Forum members on the process and introduce the consultation review for a site requiring a periodic review of an existing access restriction within the Broads area. This report provides information to the Forum so that comments to the Broads Authority can be gained as part of the initial consultation on the review of restriction of dog access on Open Access land at Ludham and Potter Heigham marshes.

### Recommendation

To review the details of the restriction and provide the Broads Authority with the Forum's initial feedback, prior to the opening of the public consultation period by the Broads Authority.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, the Broads Authority is obligated to consult on new applications, or review any long-term restrictions over Open Access land within the Broads Authority executive area. Such reviews are expected every five years until the restriction is revoked or expired, as required by the CROW Act, section 27 (3).
- 1.2. This particular direction at Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes is for the purposes of protecting sensitive wildlife under section 26(3)(a) of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.
- 1.3. The nature of the restriction means that public access by virtue of section 2(1) of the CROW Act to the land highlighted on the map is not exercisable by any persons accompanied by their dogs.

## 2. Natural England

- 2.1. In November 2011 Natural England decided that all parts of eligible National Nature Reserves (NNRs) should be dedicated for permanent public access unless there are compelling reasons on particular sites not to do so.
- 2.2. Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes is highly compartmentalised by a network of dykes across much of the site, which practically impedes access use. There are a number of existing access routes around the site on public rights of way, which are located on land adjacent to, but outside of, the boundary of land owned by Natural England.
- 2.3. There was however one short section (320m) of land across the NNR (Appendix 1) that was deemed suitable for access rights, and would allow for a complete circular walk around the marshes. After consulting with the Natural England Responsible Officer for the site, the decision was to allow public access along a narrow path, as long as a restriction was imposed by not permitting dogs.
- 2.4. The restriction first came into effect on the 17th of November 2016 and was carried out by Natural England as the Broads Authority did not have the staff availability at the time. The restriction was subsequently reviewed by the Authority in 2021 and the restriction re-issued 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

## 3. Reviewing the access restriction process

- 3.1. The following timeline and list of actions demonstrates the process for reviewing long term restrictions on Open Access Land which must take place every five years:
  - Before the review, the Broads Authority is to carry out an initial consultation with the Broads Local Access Forum, the applicant (usually the landowner) and Natural England. (Appendix 2 – Statement from NE officer).
  - If all parties agree with Natural England and their reasoning (Appendix 3 – Initial screening report of the site). Then the process can proceed to the formal consultation.
  - Broads Authority to inform the Open Access contact centre (OACC) of the consultation and the period that this will run. OACC to generate the maps.
  - Broads Authority to submit initial consultation report to the OACC who will upload it with the maps to the GOV.UK website. Broads Authority to serve direction notices to the statutory consultees and erect signs on site.
  - Public consultation period commences.
  - Public consultation period ends and Broads Authority complete the consultation outcome report and send to OACC with the direction notice.

- OACC will create the exclusion maps and upload them along with the outcome report on.GOV.UK website.
- The restriction is then complete and will need to be reviewed after five years by the Broads Authority.

## 4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Broads Local Access Forum will be consulted formally, with a direction notice sent to the chairman in the coming weeks, regarding the renewal of this restriction.
- 4.2. It is the view of Natural England that a restriction should remain in place on Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes National Nature Reserve to prevent access for dog walking given the continued sensitivity of birds breeding and feeding on the site.
- 4.3. This site is particularly sensitive to disturbance by human activity as it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in part due to its assemblage of wintering birds and breeding birds including small numbers of Redshank, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Snipe and Yellow Wagtail.

Author: Tobi Radcliffe

Date of report: 01 May 2026

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: B3, B4, D3

Appendix 1 – [NE Map of restriction](#)

Appendix 2 – [Statement from NE Officer](#)

Appendix 3 – [Access sensitive features appraisal](#)

NATURAL  
ENGLAND

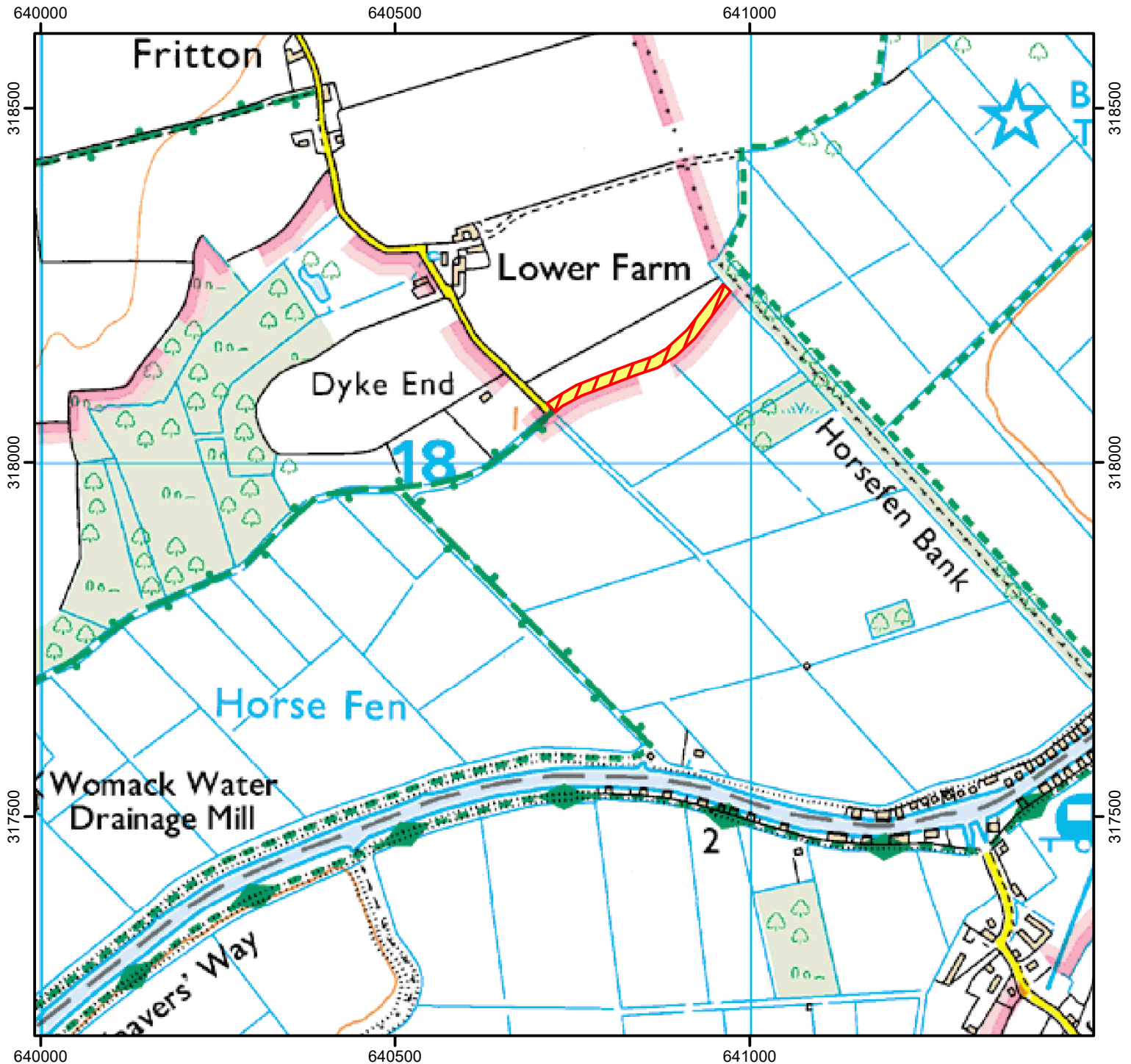
# CROW Open Access: Consultation on review of restriction.

This does not affect Public Rights of Way

Consultation start date: 20 September 2021

Consultation end date : 18 October 2021

Case Number: 2016088212



0 250 500 Metres

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Ordnance Survey 100022021



CROW Consultation



CROW Access Land



For more information call the Open Access Contact Centre on 0300 060 2091  
or visit our website at [www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam](http://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam)

05/05/2026

Our ref: Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes CROW Access

Your ref: 2016088212

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

Natural England,  
Dragonfly House,  
2 Gilders Way  
Norwich,  
NR3 1UB



Dear Tobi,

### **Natural England's view on CROW Access Restrictions at Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes**

It is the view of Natural England that a restriction should remain in place on Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes National Nature Reserve to prevent access for dog walking.

This site is particularly sensitive to disturbance by human activity as it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in part due to its assemblage of wintering birds and breeding birds including "small numbers of Redshank, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Snipe and Yellow Wagtail". In recent years these species have struggled to establish breeding populations on the site. Any further disturbance might well cause these species to abandon nesting attempts entirely and thus lead to the site entering Unfavourable Condition. Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes are also designated as a part of the Broadland SPA and The Broads SAC due to its role in providing habitat for both the species listed above, as well as others such as otters, which might also be vulnerable to disturbance by dogs. Brown hare and water vole, both Section 41 Species species, are also present on site and vulnerable to disturbance.

In addition to protecting the designated features of the site there is also a concern for the health and safety of any dog walkers who might wish to use the site. In order to promote the plant and bird communities for which the site is designated it is vital to graze the site with cattle. Bulls are sometimes present. Whilst these should not present a threat to humans normally, interactions between dogs and cattle increase the risk of a health and safety incident.

Yours faithfully,

**HOWARD JONES**

Senior Reserves Manager – The Broads

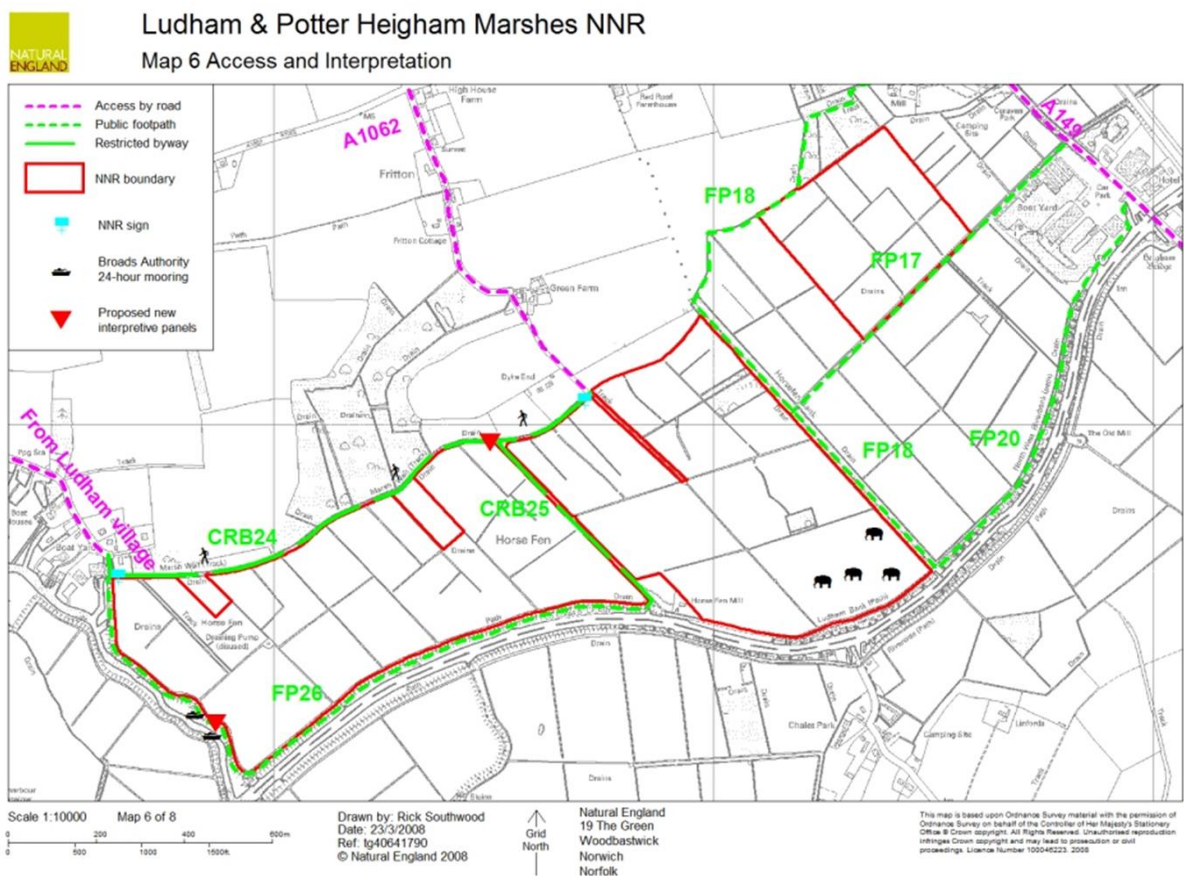
[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

## Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal

Programme	NNR Dedication
Proposal title	Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes NNR, Norfolk
Aim and location	Dedication of linear route on freehold NNR owned by Natural England in the Norfolk Broads
Report Status	Final
Date	27 October 2015
TRIM reference	
Access Case Officer	Sarah Haigh
Site Responsible Officer	Diane Monsey

### Section 1: SITE MAP(S) AND OVERVIEW OF NEW ACCESS PROPOSAL/ CONSIDERATION

#### Map



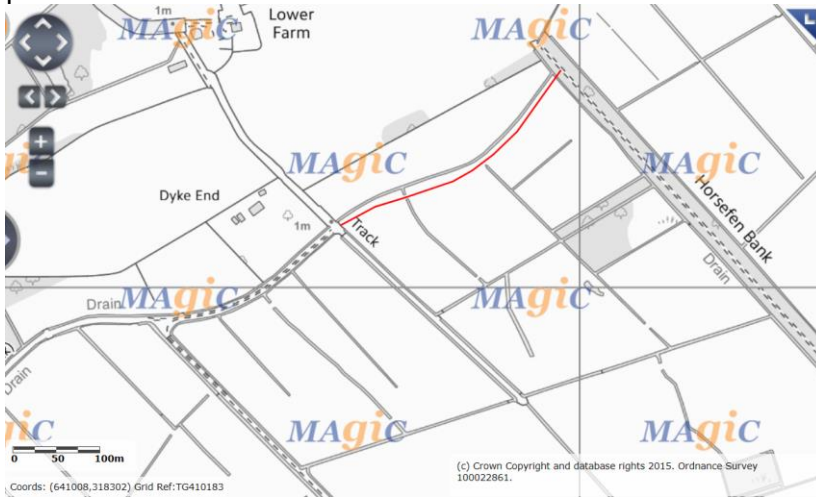
Land within NNR boundary is freehold owned by Natural England.

#### Proposed new access provisions

In November 2011 the Natural England Board decided that all parts of our eligible National Nature Reserves (NNRs) should be dedicated for permanent public access unless there are compelling reasons on particular sites not to do so.

Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes is highly compartmentalised by a network of dykes across much of the site, which practically impedes access use. There are a number of existing access routes around the site on public rights of way, which are located on land adjacent to, but outside of, the boundary of land owned by Natural England. There is also an existing informal route accessed by the public on foot along the southern side of Ludham Marshes linking the existing public footpaths. This informal path is located on land adjacent to, but outside of, the boundary of land owned by Natural England.

Considering the practical difficulties in accessing the site and the existing network of paths around the site that offer good views across it, we have decided not to dedicate permanent public access on foot across the whole site. However, permanent public access on foot will be dedicated in perpetuity under Section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 on land owned by Natural England along a linear route on the northern side of Ludham Marshes (indicated in red on the map below). The new access provision will introduce CROW open access rights on foot, linking to the current established access provided by Public Rights of Way. To maintain the current circumstances where dogs are not present on the site, a year round exclusion on dogs will be given to continue to protect the various nature conservation interests.



The dedicated route has been assessed as unsuitable for use by horses or bikes. There are no other paths or tracks on land that we own here to assess for suitability for higher rights, and there are no other opportunities to extend access on horses and bikes beyond that which already exists on adjacent public rights of way.

## Section 2: PREDICTED CHANGE IN PUBLIC USE OF AREA

*[For completion only if the Responsible Officer has initial concerns about the potential impact of the new access proposal on our conservation objectives]*

### How do visitors already use the site?

Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes are located within the Norfolk Broads, covering 86 hectares. The NNR has two sections of land; the larger, western area is Ludham Marshes and the smaller, eastern area is Potter Heigham Marshes.

The public have views to the site using the public rights of way shown on the map. Level of usage is generally low. No recreational use is made of the reserve other than walking, dog walking and occasional horse riding on the public rights of way. The public rights of way (footpaths and a Restricted Byway) which surround the site offer linear and circular walks, with views from the elevated riverbank, giving considerable opportunities to appreciate its qualities, without compromising nature conservation interests or grazing.

A Broads Authority 24-hour mooring at Womack water gives views over the NNR and access to the footpath system. There are no visitor facilities present on the site, other than the public rights of way, the condition of which varies from wide hard-surfaced tracks to narrow footpaths. NNR signs are in place, and there is scope for interpretive panels.

**How is the new access proposal likely to affect use of this site by the public?**

There is no evidence of demand for additional access to the site by the public, and it is anticipated that the current use of the site is unlikely to change significantly with the dedication of the linear route with CROW access rights in the immediate future. However, it is anticipated that the new access right will provide a useful link between the existing public rights of way, enabling a larger circular route around Ludham Marshes for access use.

Concerns raised by the Senior Reserve Manager

*Wintering birds (from 1st October to 31st March) – easily disturbed, by as little as one person crossing the marshes, and especially by dogs. This is at a time when we would expect little or no human presence, since there is no need for graziers to be onsite.*

*Breeding birds (from 15th March to 31st July) – ground-nesting waders are currently at very low numbers, both locally and nationally. We have been trying to make the site more attractive for breeding waders by water level and predator management. Human disturbance can be a contributory factor in both site selection (failure to use otherwise suitable habitat) and nest failure. Dogs are inimical to nests, eggs and unfledged young.*

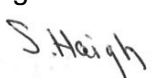
*Otter (SAC), brown hare (BAP), water vole (BAP) are all susceptible to disturbance, particularly by dogs. Brown hare probably most susceptible, others are semi-aquatic.*

There is no existing public access with dogs on the NNR, but the linear route will cross open compartments of land. The introduction of dogs onto the site would have a detrimental impact on wintering and ground nesting birds, and on the otter, water vole and brown hare population. To maintain the current circumstances where dogs are essentially excluded from the site, and to protect the various nature conservation interests at risk from disturbance from the presence of dogs, Natural England recommends that dogs are excluded from the site entirely, all year round.

Regarding concerns of disturbance from people to wintering birds and ground nesting birds, people with dogs are generally considered as a more disturbing factor than people without dogs. Given that we are only dedicating a linear route across a small area of the NNR, we believe that a dog exclusion is sufficient in preventing disturbance, with the proviso that we will revisit this arrangement if circumstances change.

The Norfolk Broads Authority are the Relevant Authority, and will need to give the direction described above. Interpretation boards will need to be updated to reflect the restriction that will be put in place.

**Access case officer**

Signed: 	Name: Sarah Haigh	Date: 27 October 2015
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**Section 3: POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FEATURES FROM NEW ACCESS PROPOSAL**

Broadland SPA & Ramsar, The Broads SAC, Ludham-Potter Heigham Marshes SSSI									
	SPA	p/SPA	SAC	p/SAC	Ramsar	p/Ramsar	SSSI		
<b>Designation types present</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		

Potential concern about new access proposal (summary)

Wintering birds (from 1st October to 31st March) – easily disturbed, by as little as one person crossing the marshes, and especially by dogs. This is at a time when we would expect little or no human presence, since there is no need for graziers to be onsite.

Breeding birds (from 15th March to 31st July) – ground-nesting waders are currently at very low numbers, both locally and nationally. We have been trying to make the site more attractive for breeding waders by water level and predator management. Human disturbance can be a contributory factor in both site selection (failure to use otherwise suitable habitat) and nest failure. Dogs are inimical to nests, eggs and unfledged young.

Otter (SAC), brown hare (BAP), water vole (BAP) are all susceptible to disturbance, particularly by dogs. Brown hare probably most susceptible, others are semi-aquatic.

Concerns about existing public use and action already taken to address this (summary)

None.

Key sensitive features relevant to site (detail)

Feature	Any potential sensitivity to visitors	Any likely impact
(Full breakdown in NNR management plan)	<i>In each case give details of the location or distribution of this feature within the site (show on the map as appropriate) and the nature of any known sensitivity to visitors.</i>	<i>State in each case whether the access proposal (incorporating any special measures that are now proposed) adequately addresses the known sensitivity of this feature.</i>
SAC: Natural eutrophic lakes, Molinia meadows, Alluvial forests, Lutra lutra; Otter	Wintering and breeding bird assemblages are susceptible to disturbance from visitors, particularly those with dogs.	Existing patterns and levels of visitors on foot across the site are unlikely to change as a result of this proposal.
SPA/RAMSAR: Wintering waterfowl assemblage, Cygnus columbianus bewickii; Bewick’s swan, Cygnus cygnus; Whooper swan, Anas strepera; Gadwall,	Otters (SAC), hares (BAP) and water voles (BAP) are susceptible to disturbance from visitors, particularly those with dogs.	To maintain the current circumstances where dogs are not present on the site, a year round exclusion on dogs will be given, to continue to protect the various nature conservation interests.  As a result, no likely impact is anticipated.

<p>Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler, Philomachus pugnax; Ruff</p> <p>SSSI: Assemblage of breeding birds, including Vanellus vanellus; Lapwing, Gallinago gallinago; Snipe, Alauda arvensis; Skylark, Tringa tetanus; Redshank</p> <p>Circus aeruginosus; Eurasian marsh harrier</p> <p>BAP: Lepus capensis; Brown hare</p>		
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**Note: If the table suggests unacceptable residual impacts on the features in question, the norm is to repeat the earlier process of consideration, and complete when ready a further version of the template. But if at this point the access case officer and responsible officer cannot agree whether the access proposal adequately addresses the potential sensitivities, the case should be referred to the Access and Nature Conservation Review Panel.**

**Section 4: FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

**THIS FINAL STAGE SHOULD ONLY BE COMPLETED AFTER THE ACCESS CASE OFFICER AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICER HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT, OR FOLLOWING ESCALATION TO THE ACCESS AND NATURE CONSERVATION REVIEW PANEL**

*[Inapplicable sections below should be left blank]*

**4A: FINAL CONCLUSION - EUROPEAN SITE**

**Screening for Likely Significant Effect under Habitats Regulations – alone**

In relation to the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2, taken alone, Natural England has concluded on the best available evidence and information that:

*[Mark one box with an X only, and complete that entry as shown]*

A. **It can be excluded that the new access proposal, taken alone, will have any effect** on any of the features listed in section 3 above for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

*[Summarise reasons here]*

B. While it cannot be excluded that the new access proposal taken alone will have an effect, **it is not considered that the effect is likely to be significant**, for the following reasons:

With a dog exclusion and a very small area of the site that could be affected by the dedicated route, no likely significant effect is anticipated.

C. **It cannot be excluded that the new access proposal, taken alone, will have a significant effect** on the following feature(s) for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

*[Specify relevant feature(s) here and summarise reasons]*

**Screening for Likely Significant Effect under Habitats Regulations – in combination**

*(See Notes on Completion)*

Other relevant plan or project	Is each other plan or project clear and specific enough for a judgement to be made at this stage about the probability or risk of its having any <i>similar</i> effect on the features in question? <i>(see notes)</i>	Where the answer in Column 2 is Yes, what effect is it considered the other plan or project is likely to have in its own right on the features in question? Enter <u>one</u> of the following values, with brief reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No effect</li> <li>• A non-significant effect</li> <li>• A significant effect</li> </ul> Where the answer in Column 2 is No, enter “Not applicable” in this column.

**Conclusions of screening in combination** *(leave blank unless In Combination Table used)*

Having considered the best available evidence and information on any other qualifying plans or projects that might operate in combination with the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2, Natural England has concluded that **it can/cannot be excluded** *[delete as appropriate]* that the new access proposal, in combination with any such qualifying plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any of the features for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

*[Summarise reasons for conclusion]*

**Overall Screening Decision for European site/features**

Accordingly, taking into account the preceding screening both alone and, where appropriate, in combination, Natural England has concluded:

*[Mark with an X as appropriate]*

**No likely significant effect** – the new access proposal may proceed as finally specified, subject to any separate considerations in relation to SSSI features etc (see below);

OR

**Likely significant effect** - appropriate assessment is required to consider whether the new access proposal may proceed.

*[Continued]*

**PART 4B: FINAL CONCLUSION – SSSI**

**Conclusion**

In the light of the analysis in section 3, Natural England has concluded that the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2:

*[Mark one box with an X only below]*

- complies with NE’s duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of the SSSI, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions<sup>1</sup> - and accordingly the new access proposal may proceed as finally specified in this template
- would not comply with the duty referred to in (a) – and accordingly permission/ authorisation/ assent for the new proposal should not be given, for the following reasons:

*[summarise reasons here if this option is selected]*

*[Continued]*

**PART 4C: FINAL CONCLUSION - Other features about which concerns have been expressed**

**Conclusion**

In the light of the analysis in section 3, Natural England has concluded that:

*[Mark one box with an X only below]*

- the appropriate balance has been struck by the new access proposal between NE’s conservation and access objectives, duties and purposes - and accordingly the new access proposal should proceed as finally specified in this template
- the appropriate balance referred to above has not been struck – and accordingly the new access proposal should not proceed in the form specified in this template, for the following


1

reasons:

*[Summarise reasons here if this option is selected]*

*[Continued]*

**SIGNATURE COVERING THE WHOLE OF PART 4:**

<b>Responsible officer</b>		
Name: Diane Monsey	Signed: 	Date: 28/10/2015

## Access and Sensitive Features Template - Notes On Completion

### Purpose

1. We use this template where a Natural England programme is developing proposals for new or improved public access that might potentially impact on key sensitive features that occur on designated or other sites. This is to ensure that levels of protection appropriate to the status of the sensitive features in question are built in to proposals at the design stage, and that a proportionate audit trail is kept according to the circumstances.

### Process

2. The template should be used wherever access programmes interface with designated conservation sites. A number of designated sites within the same area may be grouped together for this purpose if the responsible officer agrees this is the most efficient way to consider the issues. The template may also be used to provide an audit trail for decisions relating to non-designated sites.

3. Only the relevant parts of the template should be completed. For example if the features for which a site is designated are not sensitive to access at all, it may be appropriate to leave section 2 uncompleted and simply complete the overview of section 3, and then proceed to the conclusions at section 4. Where there are known to be potential sensitivities, it is important that preliminary discussions (see below) clarify potentially viable access options that can sensibly be considered and evaluated, rather than completing the template mechanistically for access options that are never going to be viable.

4. The key stages in the process are:

1. Map affected area and summarise new access proposal.
2. If there are potential concerns, predict how public use of area likely to change.
3. Document sensitivities and consider whether proposal deals with them.
4. Record formal conclusions for affected European site, SSSI or other areas.

5. In practice the process is highly iterative between the Access Case Officer and the Responsible Officer. It also involves as appropriate discussion with other key interests, such as site staff, local conservation organisations, the local access authority and subject specialists - so that the relevant expertise and information can be applied to the case, any concerns identified early and constructive discussions held. For Coastal Access projects, specific commitments in this respect are set out in section 4.9 of the statutory Scheme.

6. The template is designed so that only the necessary sections have to be completed in each case. Even so, it may be necessary in some cases to complete more than one version of sections 1 to 3 before the right solution is identified, and the final conclusions are then recorded at section 4. The template refers to this possibility.

## Who does what

7. The Access Case Officer should take the lead in completing all sections of the form, drawing extensively on the views expressed (or evidence supplied) by the Site Responsible Officer or others. Ultimate responsibility for quality assuring the resulting content is colour coded like this in the different section headings of the template:

Access case officer

Responsible officer

8. These two officers have to sign sections 2 and 4 respectively, once the final version of the template has been agreed. The formal set of conclusions at section 4 should be something the two officers have agreed upon. If this does not prove possible, the case should be referred to the Access and Nature Conservation Review Panel for advice before section 4 is signed off. Should appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations exceptionally prove necessary, customised advice should be sought on appropriate documentation.

9. The final version of the template will usually be made available via our website but all completed versions of it should be stored on Trim as part of the audit trail for the case.

## Map (Section 1)

10. As noted in the template itself, the map used for Section 1 may be any suitable existing map, suitably annotated in relation to the issues mentioned there. It need not be (but may be) a specially produced electronic map.

## In combination screening (Section 4A) – some detailed guidance

11. The table in the second part of section 4A only needs to be completed where in the first part of the same section, Box B is ticked to indicate that:

- it cannot be excluded that the new access proposal taken alone will have any adverse effect, but
- it is not considered that the effect is likely to be significant.

In this situation (only), the In Combination table is completed. Do not complete the table if Box A or Box C have been ticked in the first part of section 4A.

12. Where the table is used, a separate row should be completed for each other current or forthcoming plan or project in the vicinity.

13. Where the entry in the third column is “Not applicable” because a proposal currently lacks sufficiently clear and specific information to enable an informed prediction to be made of its likely impact on any of the features for which the European site has been designated or classified, in combination screening is **not** appropriate.

14. Similarly, where the prediction in Column 3 is No Effect or A Significant Effect, in combination screening is **not** appropriate.

15. The possibility of an in combination effect **may** need to be considered for any rows in the table where the prediction in Column 3 is A Non-Significant Effect – ie that:

- it cannot be excluded that the ‘other’ proposal taken alone will have any adverse effect, but
- it is not considered that the effect is likely to be significant.

Where this is so, the further question to be clear about is whether the Non-Significant Effect that is predicted relates to the same feature(s) as the one to which the Non-Significant Effect of the access proposal relates:

- if yes, then in combination screening **is** needed;
- if no, then in combination screening is **not needed**.

16. Where in combination screening is needed, the Responsible Officer must also complete the further statement found immediately below the table, headed “Conclusions of screening in combination”.

17. Further information on In Combination Assessment can be found in the Habitats Regulation guidance linked below if required.

#### Resources and further guidance

18. The following resources and guidance may be useful when working through this process:

- Webmap provides details of designated sites.
- For advice on potentially vulnerable habitats and species, please see the published Wildlife and Access Advisory Group Guidance reports NECR012 and NECR013.
- The current conservation objectives and notified species or habitats for European Sites are available [here](#)
- The corresponding SSSI information is available [here](#)
- Internal Habitats Regulations operational guidance is available [here](#)

# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 11

## Broads Local Access Forum annual report 2025-2026

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

This report summarises the Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) activities to report to the Broads Authority's AGM in July 2026. The report outlines the activities and advice of the Broads Local Access Forum during the 2025–26 period, summarising the Forum's input on access to land and water for open-air recreation and its statutory advisory role to the Broads Authority under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It is submitted annually to inform and support the Authority's strategic access planning.

BLAF members' views are sought on the draft report to be tabled at the Broads Authority AGM (sections 1-6).

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) has continued to fulfil its statutory role under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, providing strategic advice on matters of public access to land and water within the Broads Authority executive area. The Forum met formally twice during the period (in June and November 2025). BLAF has made valuable contributions to strategic access planning, infrastructure development through Authority delivery of specific access projects and stakeholder engagement.

## 2. Membership and governance

- 2.1. BLAF membership remained broadly representative, covering access interests across land and access to water: cycling, horse riding, walking, archaeology, angling, nature conservation, tourism and local business, and waterborne activities. Of the maximum possible 22 positions, 14 were filled, where one new member was recruited in April 2025 (Pat Holtom) and three members resigned. In November 2025 Keith Bacon was elected as Chair, with David Lilley appointed Vice-Chair, both bringing experience and continuity to the Forum's work. All meetings complied with the Forum's constitution and Broads Authority support ensured administrative transparency and public access to meeting documentation.

## 3. Advice and contribution to strategy

- 3.1. BLAF played an active role in supporting the Broads Authority's development of a new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), funded through Active Travel England, particularly reviewing proposed schemes as the Active Travel England National Parks Capability Fund heads into Phase 2 of its funding. The Forum provided significant feedback on proposed schemes, emphasising the importance of sustainable travel for the Broads' seven million annual visitors, especially considering the area's rural character and local population base. Members highlighted the value of inclusive infrastructure, such as safer routes, improved wayfinding and better integration with public transport and community venues. Specific suggestions included improvements to Haddiscoe bends, quiet lane options between Pilson Green and Upton, inclusion of connecting routes at How Hill, a cyclist crossing at Beighton, and extending the refurbished permissive path which runs from Acle to Acle Bridge to Stokesby turnoff.
- 3.2. BLAF reviewed the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) report for Year 1 progress, and stressed the importance of having a Waterways and Recreation Officer since the role was (at the time, April 2025) vacant. It was noted that the Broads LCWIP brought more focussed to land based activities and that strategic priorities should not overlook land to water objectives.
- 3.3. "Paths lost to the river" continues to be a strong topic of interest, particularly regarding Bramerton (FP5) and Surlingham (FP1), with updates requested (and given) on these sections and others identified as 'vulnerable' such as FP4 at Burgh Castle. High project costs and meeting Biodiversity Net Gain requirements have played a large part in stalling progress, particularly with the Norfolk County Council led path reinstatement project at Bramerton FP5.

## 4. Access improvement

- 4.1. Access for All funding from Defra enabled completion of projects on the Broads Authority's permissive path from Acle to Acle Bridge (surface improvements) and path refurbishment works at Hoveton Riverside Park. BLAF recommendations included wayfinding to improve connectivity between routes and moorings.

## 5. Stakeholder engagement and public involvement

5.1 The Forum maintained strong relationships with partner organisations, including Norfolk County Council, the Environment Agency, and Natural England. Though efforts to recruit new members will aim to strengthen representation, BLAF continues to offer valuable insight from landowners, user groups, conservationists and the general public.

## 6. Reflections and priorities

6.1. BLAF remained active and effective in offering strategic guidance. Key achievements during the year included supporting the Broads LCWIP, securing funding and delivery for access improvements, and continuing to advocate for long-term rights of way solutions and environmental protections.

6.2. Looking ahead, BLAF's priorities include:

- Broadening and diversifying membership through the April 2026 recruitment;
- Promoting and monitoring the implementation of IAS and LCWIP recommendations;
- Advocating for the reinstatement and protection of riverside rights of way;
- Supporting further developments in accessible infrastructure and inclusive interpretation;
- Continuing input into water quality, salinity monitoring, and climate resilience where these have a direct influence on public enjoyment and recreation;
- Supporting Land to Water access with insight to key areas of interaction and access requirements within the Broads.

6.3. The Forum extends sincere thanks to all its members, supporting officers at the Broads Authority, and external stakeholders who contributed their time, expertise and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Author: Tobi Radcliffe

Date of report: 01 May 2026

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: Theme E: Promoting understand and enjoyment.

# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 12

## Access for All report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

This report provides an overview of the completed projects and spending of Access for All grant funding from DEFRA for 2025-2026.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Access for All funding is for physical and digital infrastructure improvements to make Protected Landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds, creating ‘places for everyone.’
- 1.2. In 2025, DEFRA allocated £135,478 to the Broads Authority for Access for All capital projects, to be spent by March 2026.

## 2. Projects Overview 2025/26

- 2.1. Projects were highlighted to improve accessibility around the Broads network in a variety of different areas, for a range of active interests. Projects include:
- 2.2. April 2025 – final completion of the 2024/25 project to widen the Acle permissive footpath connecting Acle Bridge to Acle village and laying a new, crushed aggregate surface.
- 2.3. March 2026 – Installation of an accessible paddlecraft launch pontoon in Hoveton. This has features to improve accessibility including an EZ kayak launch module which offers a stable platform for ingress/ egress and additional transfer bench enabling wheelchair users to utilise the platform.
- 2.4. February to April 2026 - Renovation of Acle toilet block to include more accessible areas and features: accessible toilet cubicles in both male and female toilets, baby change units, a shower cubicle in each and larger toilet cubicles with improved colour contrast throughout.
- 2.5. March 2026 – review and installation of Paddle Safety signage to include more accessible design through clearer messaging and matt finish. Links to information about additional places to visit ties in with PaddleUK’s Paddle Points and Broads Authority’s

website via QR codes provide a better connected visitor experience with provision of information.

### 3. Further projects and additional funding

3.1. Additional access funding has been confirmed for 2026/27.

3.2. Projects proposed for 2026/27 include:

- Completion of access improvements to Acle toilet block, including re-landscaping and re-levelling the approach paths to the block.
- Accessible desire line path widening at Hoveton Riverside Park.
- Installation of perch benches at Hoveton Viaduct moorings and path.
- Improved access at Cary's Meadow for paths, gates and paddlecraft launch.
- Further public engagement at events such as Norfolk Show to gain extra input of ideas for accessible project provision around the Broads network.

### 4. Financial implications

4.1. Funding spent in 2025/26 totalled £135,218.

4.2. £135,478 confirmed allocation for 2026/27.

### 5. Summary

5.1. Continuing to plan for a network of accessibility interventions in the Broads enables the Authority to plan and integrate a range of improvements for a multitude of users. The activities funded through this DEFRA grant assist with meeting Integrated Access Strategy objectives.

Author: Tobi Radcliffe

Date of report: 29 April 2026

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: E1