

Broads Local Access Forum

Agenda 01 December 2021

10.00am

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

Participants: You will be sent a link to join the meeting. The room will open at 9.30am and we request that you **log in by 9.45am** to allow us to check connections and other technical details.

Members of the public: Please email BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk for joining details

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 1 September 2021** (Pages 6- 13)
4. **Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings- to note the schedule** (Pages 14-15)

Items for discussion

5. **MONUMENT project**
Presentation by Annabelle Fortuna
6. **Carbon reduction in the Broads**
Presentation by Carbon Reduction Officer
7. **Project update from Norfolk County Council**
Verbal update by Matt Hayward
8. **Integrated Access Strategy: Update** (Pages 16-20)
Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
9. **Open access restriction at Ludham and Potter Heigham Marshes National Nature Reserve outcome**
Verbal update by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Other matters

10. Any other business

11. To note the date of the next meeting – **Wednesday 9 March 2022** at 10.00am.

Broads Local Access Forum membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Linda Aspland	Quercus 229 Norwich Road Wroxham NR12 8SL	01603 951814	linda.aspland@icloud.com	Waterborne recreational users / Paddle sports
Richard Atkins	Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF	01508 538083	richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com	Paddle sports/ Walking
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	keithbacon@keme.co.uk keithbacon@broadland.net	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Louis Baugh	Neatishead Hall Neatishead NR12 8XX	07785 224589	lbaugh@netcom.co.uk	Landowners and managers
Katie Baxter	18 Keys Drive Wroxham Norwich NR12 8SS	07917 785282	info@gopaddle.co.uk	Paddle Sports/ Tourism and local business
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk	Broads Authority
Robin Buxton	Speedwell House South Burlingham Road Lingwood NR13 4ET	01493 750102	robin.buxton@buxtonpropertymanagement.co.uk	Landowners and managers/ Tourism and local businesses
Christine Cane	The Roundhouse 160 Tuttle Lane West Wymondham NR18 0JJ	01953 606019	bhs.southnorfolk@gmail.com	Equestrian riding and driving
Peter Dixon	The Smea Hickling NR12 0YL	078509 30486	Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com	Waterborne recreational users

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com	Angling
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	tim@catfieldhall.com	Nature conservation / Archaeology and landscape heritage
Dawn Hatton	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 433174	stock.dawn@gmail.com	Walking/People with disabilities/Access for all
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	peter.mason51@sky.com	Walking/Tourism and local business
John Murray	33 Prospect Road Lowestoft NR32 3PT	07855 385041	john.campbell.murray@btinternet.com	Walking / People with disabilities / Access for all
Steve Read	The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft NR32 3PL	07720 808715	stevereadcon@btinternet.com	Walking/water borne recreational users
Martin Rendle	62 South Hill Road Norwich NR7 0NG	01603 339133	adventure@norfolkoutdoor.co.uk	Paddle sports/Tourism and local business
Paul Saunders	8 Heathside Road Norwich NR1 1TH	07557 018954	paulandrewsaunders@outlook.com	Open Water Swimming
Michael Scott	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 610734	michaeldorf@hotmail.com	Broads Authority

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

Kylie Moos – Broads Local Access Forum Secretary

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

01603 610734

BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk

Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 01 September 2021

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Present

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Linda Aspland, Richard Atkins, Harry Blathwayt, Christine Cane, Peter Dixon, Tony Gibbons, Tim Harris, Dawn Hatton, John Murray, Steve Read, Michael Scott.

In attendance

Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Andrea Kelly – Environment Policy Adviser, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Lewis Treloar – Waterways and Recreation Officer, Martin Sullivan – Norfolk Local Access Forum.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

There have been two appointments to the Forum since the last meeting. The Broads Authority appointees were confirmed as Harry Blathwayt and Michael Scott. The Chair welcomed both members to the meeting.

Apologies received from Louis Baugh, Katie Baxter, Peter Mason, Paul Saunders.

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

Peter Dixon was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum. There were no other nominations. Members voted unanimously to appoint Peter Dixon to this role.

4. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 9 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Riverbank maintenance at Potter Heigham

Significant improvements to the riverbanks at Potter Heigham were reported after a site visit in May. 80% of the fly tipping which was left in between the bungalows has now been removed.

Dan Hoare contacted the Environment Agency to discuss the maintenance, a Forum member also raised the issue at Potter Heigham Parish Council. It is not clear who removed the litter, but it was agreed that no further actions need to take place at this time.

Staithe report

The Chair has written to the Environment Agency asking for their opinion on the staithe report but has not yet received a response. A follow up phone call will take place with David Horsfall.

Lost Paths in the Broads

This item is still to be discussed at the Norfolk Local Access Forum. It was agreed to raise this item at a future meeting.

Open water swimming

The first meeting has been held with the Broads Authority Head of Rangers, Head of Safety Management, Waterways & Recreation Officer and two representatives from the Forum to discuss current guidance and suggest ways to improve how open water swimming is conducted in the Broads. Initially the meetings will remain small whilst the scope and role of the Broads Authority is being defined, before inviting additional members to a sub-group meeting.

Any trial areas will also need to consider legal liabilities and protection for landowners should an incident occur on the water. The next meeting is due to take place in October.

Lewis Treloar is currently working with a group at Oulton Broad who are looking to section off an area exclusively for the use of open water swimming on designated event times and days. A member cautioned that individuals may still turn up outside of the designated times. A trial needs to consider the random nature of people's choices of when and where to swim.

6. Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Andrea Kelly, Environment Policy Adviser for the Broads Authority provided a presentation on Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) to the Forum. The three-year funded programme will provide financial support to farmers and other land managers. The Broads Authority will be working with Norfolk Coast Partnership for a joined-up approach.

Protected Landscapes

Across England and Wales there are 10 National Parks and 34 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - covering nearly 25% of land in England. They:

- provide a range of habitats for an array of wildlife
- support rural communities – attracting 260 million visitors per year
- play an important role in our health and wellbeing

Objectives

1. Be delivered by farmers, working in partnership with Protected Landscapes and key land management advice partners
2. Address key challenges - help improve, and prevent damage to, the landscape

3. A bottom up approach - projects proposed by farmers, and approved by Local Panels, which will support Protected Landscapes' local priorities
4. Additional investment - it will work alongside, not in competition with, existing schemes and add value where it is most needed

The programme will:

1. Be delivered by farmers, working in partnership with Protected Landscapes and key land management advice partners
2. Run from July 2021 to March 2024
3. Receive applications between 1 July 2021 and 31 January 2022 for funding in the first year of the programme

Who can apply

The programme is open to all farmers and land managers within the Protected Landscapes. It could also support activity on other land, where a project will benefit a Protected Landscape or its body's objectives or partnership initiatives.

Applicants must manage all land in the application and have control of the activities being proposed or have obtained written consent.

Four themes of the Programme

Climate – Including reducing flood risk and more carbon stored/sequestered

Nature – Including greater habitat connectivity and biodiversity

People- including greater public engagement in land management

Place-including conserving historic structures

The project must also support the priorities of the protected landscape body's management plan.

Funding

Applicants can apply for 100% of the costs of the project if no commercial gain can be made otherwise, a proportion of the costs. If the project is the same as a Countryside Stewardship (CS) activity, applicants will be paid the same as the CS rate. If not, they will be offered funding on the estimated costs.

How to apply

Applicants must contact the Protected Landscape to discuss the project before applying. Applications can be submitted from now until 31 January 2022 for the first year of the programme. Multi-year awards are possible, but all projects must end by March 2024.

After the agreement ends

Natural, cultural and access activities after the agreement period ends do not need to be maintained. Capital infrastructure such as fences, gates or restored buildings and machinery assets will need to be maintained 5 years from the completion date.

How applications will be assessed

Applications will be scored on the following:

- 40% for project outcomes - climate, nature, people and place
- 20% for value for money
- 20% for how sustainable the project is or the legacy it will leave
- 20% for how likely it is that the project will be carried out

Applications for over £5,000 will be judged by a local assessment panel. Under £5,000 will be scored by a senior team member.

Progress to date

£148,301 has been committed since the 1st July in the Broads. £79,053 is still available until 31 Jan 2021.

Comments and answers to questions

The Environment Agency have recently provided their conclusions on Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) on the River Ant. One of the proposals is the closure of the Witton and East Ruston public water supplies. The Environment Agency have announced that they do not have the money to carry the same study on the Bure and Thurne. A member asked if this type of study would be eligible for FiPL funding. Andrea Kelly responded that there is money for evidence gathering but the programme is aimed at farmers and landowners instead of public bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England. It was also noted that one of the successful Broads applications agreed funding towards a water storage reservoir in the Ant.

Parish councils, charities and trusts can apply for the funding, but the landowner will need to support the application. Maintenance towards recovering lost paths to the river is an example of a suitable project if the landowner was in agreeance.

Bridleways and equestrian access can also be considered when discussing access and footpaths. Lewis Treloar requested examples of routes that could be widened are sent to him after the meeting.

7. Integrated Access Strategy: Update

Lewis Treloar presented a list of Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) projects which may be eligible for funding through FiPL if the landowner or land manager submits an application.

Strumpshaw permissive routes

A land manager has been in contact with the Broads Authority to discuss additional permissive routes around Strumpshaw. Discussions with the land manager are ongoing.

Gillingham FP14

Maintenance is required on 150m of FP14 in Gillingham which is underwater for most of the year. The Broads Authority, Norfolk Trails and the Environment Agency are working with the landowner to submit an application to restore the path. Once three quotes have been received for the work that needs to be carried out, the application will be submitted.

Herringfleet Hills

Through the Water, Mills and Marshes project additional paths and furniture have been identified for the area. Discussions with the land manager are ongoing.

Halvergate marshes

Through the EXPERIENCE project a number of improvements to footpaths at Halvergate Marshes are due to take place. There is section between Wickhampton to Polkey's Mill which have not been included in the EXPERIENCE project. A discussion with the landowner is required to consider the missing path.

Bungay Staithe

To reinstate the circular walk at Bungay Staithe a new access bridge is required. Match funding will be required due to the large costs of the project. The proposed access bridge would cross into the adjacent landowner's land. This plot of land is currently up for sale, and an application is unlikely to be submitted in the first year.

8. Opening access to EA owned banks: Update

Tony Gibbons provided an update to the Forum on the ownership of riverbanks on the River Thurne between Coldharbour Farm and Womack Water. Through Land Registry and copies of the land deeds, it has been confirmed that the riverbanks are not under the freehold of the Environment Agency and remain the responsibility of the landowner.

Some maintenance of the flood bank was previously maintained by sheep grazing, but this is apparently no longer the case.

Discussions between the Norwich and District Anglers Association (NDAA) and the landowner indicates that this riverbank could still be used for fishing by agreement. An additional agreement for a potential permissive path route for the general public and not just NDAA members would add significant value to public access in this location. NDAA members have their own public liability insurance when fishing from private land. A member of the public would not have the same cover if they were to fish from the riverbank.

Lewis Treloar reported that when locating fishing platforms throughout the Broads, a map of Environment Agency owned banks was obtained. The map shows platforms which have formalised access already in place. None were in the Coldharbour to Womack stretch.

Lewis Treloar agreed to add the creation of a permissive route between Coldharbour farm and Womack to the IAS project list.

9. AOB

Membership

A member noted that a response is due shortly from the government on the Landscapes review by Julian Glover. One of the recommendations is to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors to National Parks and AONBs. It was noted that the current membership of the Forum is not diverse, and increasing ethnic diversity is not mentioned in any member interests.

Lewis Treloar replied that during the advertisement for new Forum members in January 2021, the adverts were promoted to various groups including The Bridge Plus+ (a Norfolk based black/Asian and minority ethnic (BME) organisation), but unfortunately no responses were received. Norfolk Local Access Forum reported a similar response to their recent recruitment of members.

Dan Hoare confirmed two members are appointed to the Forum from the Broads Authority. The remaining members are appointed through a selection process including the Chair of the Forum and administered by Broads Authority officers. A member responded that is not made clear in the constitution that there are two routes for joining the Forum.

A member commented that it is the responsibility of all Forum members to increase the diversity of the membership. The Forum is about access, and access should be available for everyone.

Face to face meetings

Currently Forum meetings cannot take place at the Broads Authority offices due to reduction in meeting room capacity to remain Covid-19 secure. Some members expressed a preference of meeting face to face, and miss the informal discussions before and after the meeting. Meeting halls such Hickling Village hall were suggested for future meetings.

The next meeting is due to take place in the winter, when there is likely to be an increase in Covid-19 and other illnesses. The Forum agreed to hold the next meeting online, and consider face to face meetings in the Spring.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 10.00am

The meeting ended at 11.30am

Signed by

Chairman

Appendix 1 – Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 01 September 2021

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Broads Local Access Forum

01 December 2021

Agenda item number 4

Summary of progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
Open water swimming	09/06/2021	Lewis Treloar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin internal discussions at the BA regarding the policy change of open water swimming. Investigate consistency of 'no swimming' signage in the Broads Agree on "Wild Swimming" locations 	<p>July 2021 - Initial meeting held with Head of Rangers, Head of Safety management and representatives from BLAF to discuss current guidance and suggest ways to improve how we manage swimming safely in the Broads.</p> <p>October 2021 - All parties agree that swimming is taking place and needs to be done safely. Next steps are to erect safety signage at key sites and along river corridors to alert boaters of potential swimmers in that area.</p>	In progress
Lost Paths in the Broads	09/06/2021		Contact NCC and SCC to identify 'Lost Paths'	<p>September 2021</p> <p>Norfolk LAF representative agreed to raise this item at a future meeting.</p>	In progress
Remote meetings	09/06/2021	Dan Hoare	Investigate venue options for face to face meetings	July 2021: Yare House meeting room capacity remains at 15. ICT are investigating the	In progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
				<p>capability of livestreaming with Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>September 2021: The Forum agreed that while the spread of Covid-19 is still a threat, meetings will continue remotely until Spring 2022 at the earliest. Hickling Barn, Ludham Village Hall and Acle Recreation Centre were suggested if Yare House is too small for the next face to face meeting.</p>	
Staithes Report	04/12/2019		Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithes report.	<p>September 2021</p> <p>The Chair has written to the Environment Agency but has yet to receive a response. A follow up phone call will take place with David Horsfall.</p>	In progress

Date of report: 19 November 2021

Broads Local Access Forum

01 December 2021

Agenda item number 8

Integrated Access Strategy Update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

For Information

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

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1. Introduction

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

Table 1

Integrated Access Strategy priorities 2021/2022 – progress update Dec 21

Project	Progress	Partners
Broads Mills trail	Status: On track Trail audit and scoping complete.	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
Wherryman's Way Hardley Flood	Status: On track Dredging of the Chet began early Nov, with material being deposited on the closed footpath. This phase is due to be completed by Feb 22. The outcome of the partnership bid with NCC to fund the new bridges should be announced Dec 22.	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
Wherryman's Way Bramerton to Surlingham	Status: On track The outcome of the partnership bid to stabilise the riverbanks with NCC should be announced Dec 22.	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
Hoveton Riverside park	Status: Delayed No change on the situation other than planned works to replace the existing waste facilities with new ones - Mar 22.	Broads Authority North Norfolk District Council
GIS Recreation maps	Status: On track Slipway and launch point map now live on the Authority's website. Slipways and launching points (broads-authority.gov.uk) Next step is to incorporate moorings, angling platforms, waste facilities.	Broads Authority

Project	Progress	Partners
Discovery Hubs	Status: Partially delayed Salhouse hub with incorporated Dark skies element has now been completed. The Beccles hub has funding agreed and should be delivered in 2022. Funding is still required for the remaining network.	Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust
Geldeston Canoe pontoon	Status: On Track Shrubs cleared and footpath moved back. Contractors scheduled to reprofile the bank by the end of Nov 21. Pontoon ordered with installation expected Jan 22.	Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust The Canoe Foundation River Waveney Trust
Extend the Navigation - Geldeston	Status: On track Work scheduled for Feb 22 for rangers to work with the River Waveney Trust, in removing enough vegetation and fallen trees to open up the “Locks Loop” to canoes and paddleboards.	Broads Authority River Waveney Trust
Tactile Map Whitlingham	Status: On track This is a pilot project to install a series of tactile maps for the visually impaired across the Broads. Designs agreed for Whitlingham and the sign has been ordered. Expected delivery and installation date Feb 22.	Broads Authority Whitlingham Charitable Trust
Restoration of Gillingham FP14	Status: On track BA Ecologists to conduct surveys in May 22. Designs agreed. Next phase for NCC to go out to tender.	Broads Authority Norfolk Trails

Project	Progress	Partners
Wild Swimming safety signs	Status: On track Final locations to be agreed but will be incorporated into phase 2 of the Broads water safety campaign. Delivery expected by Mar 22.	Broads Authority BLAF – Swimming sub group
Access for all paths Whitlingham	Status: On track Funding application to Landfill communities fund by Whitlingham Charitable Trust and the BA. BA to provide match funding. Decision expected Dec 22.	Broads Authority Whitlingham Charitable Trust
Changing places facilities Multiple locations	Status: On track Working with local district councils who are eligible for funding through the Government. Sites identified but not fully agreed include Whitlingham, Ranworth, Loddon, Great Yarmouth and Acle.	Broads Authority North Norfolk District Council South Norfolk/Broadland District Council Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Broads Angle magazine	Status: On track Working with partners from the Broads Angling services group (BASG) to relaunch the Broads Angle magazine. Next financial year 22/23.	Broads Authority BASG
Permissive path Coldharbour to Womack Water	Status: Delayed Initial discussions with landowners were positive, however they were interested in funding through an environmental stewardship scheme so wanted to speak to BA Environment Policy Adviser first.	Broads Authority

Project	Progress	Partners
Permissive Path Horning marshes	Status: Delayed BA asset manager to organise the agreements. Delayed due to the asset going to probate.	Broads Authority
Cycle parking facilities Broads Executive area	Status: On track Audit conducted and several sites identified. Cycle parking provision to be installed at five locations - next financial year 22/23.	Broads Authority

Author: Lewis Treloar

Date of report: 15 November 2021

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