

# Broads Local Access Forum

04 June 2025

Agenda item number 5

## Integrated Access Strategy progress monitoring

Report by Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology

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### Summary

The first-year progress report for the Integrated Access Strategy highlights solid advancements in land-based access through partnership and planning initiatives, while identifying slower progress and outstanding actions in land-to-water connectivity and mooring infrastructure that require renewed focus to meet the strategy's inclusive and sustainable access objectives.

### Recommendation

To note the report.

Members are encouraged to identify and champion specific projects or work areas that align with the Integrated Access Strategy objectives and could benefit from targeted partnership support or funding opportunities.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) for the Broads, adopted in April 2024 [Integrated Access Strategy & Action Plan 2024/25 - 2026/7](#), 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. 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 Year 1 tasks, offering insights into achievements, challenges, and areas requiring further action.
- 1.2. During this initial reporting period, advancements have been made in several land-based objectives, especially through the funding to support the development of a Broads Local Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which is expected to be completed by July 2025. The Broads Authority also received capital funding from Defra to deliver "Access for All" projects which has been the main focus of activity for the Authority's Waterways & Recreation Officer in 2024/25. Progress on land-to-water initiatives and mooring-related objectives, however, has been more varied. Some actions, like the use of mobile data for waterway activity prioritisation and steps to improve and clarify open water swimming guidance have been

completed. Yet, other tasks—particularly those related to de-masting infrastructure and DP16 mooring reviews—have seen limited progress. This report uses a traffic light system to evaluate the status of each action, aiming to guide future focus areas and foster informed discussion on how best to advance the IAS goals. The Authority currently has a vacancy for the Waterways & Recreation Officer, and this role needs to be filled to help make further progress on the IAS objectives.

## 2. Progress Matrix

- 2.1. The Appendices 1-3 show the objectives and the Year 1 tasks from the IAS and 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. Conclusion

- 3.1. The progress made during the first year of implementing the IAS reflects a strong foundation for enhancing equitable and sustainable access throughout the Broads. The development of the Broads Local Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the delivery of Access for All projects supported by Defra funding demonstrate a clear commitment to improving land-based access and promoting inclusive use of the landscape. While several land-to-water objectives have also seen encouraging activity, particularly around data-driven prioritisation, open water safety, and digital mapping—momentum must be maintained to ensure these gains translate into long-term improvements for diverse user groups.
- 3.2. However, it is evident that certain areas, particularly within mooring and de-masting provision, require renewed attention and resourcing. Many of the Year 1 actions in this category have seen little to no progress, highlighting the need for better prioritisation and strategic alignment with broader Broads Plan goals such as maintaining navigational infrastructure (C2) and improving access for people with mobility and sensory needs (E1). Looking ahead, the completion of Year 1 tasks is essential to enabling Year 2 activities to proceed effectively. Strengthening cross-sector collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of access considerations into other strategic plans will be key to accelerating delivery and achieving the vision of a more accessible and connected Broads National Park.

Author: Dan Hoare

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[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 - Land Based Objectives:

No.	Land Based Objectives	Action	Year 1 update
L1	<b>Develop a Communications Plan to ensure equality, diversity, and inclusivity in land access provision around the Broads.</b>	Devise and implement communications plan. Thinking particularly about how to break down social, cultural and age barriers.	Initial meeting held. Scope and timescale for production of the plan to be defined
L2	<b>Review the Broads Authority role in Public Rights of Way (PRoW) maintenance.</b>	Carry out review of PRoW maintenance by the Authority.	NCC PRoW cutting locations is available on the NCC Highways webpages <a href="#">Norfolk Highways and Public Rights of Way</a> .  Review of Broads Authority path maintenance deferred to Q3 2025/26
L3	<b>Identify priority sites for new and improved access provision.</b>	With partners identify priority sites.	Consultation during the Broads LCWIP development has been completed.
		Consult with stakeholders about what site improvements could take place.	Report expected to be completed in Q2 2025/26  Paths at Hoveton Riverside Park and to the permissive path to Acle Bridge from Acle village have been resurfaced, widened upgraded to remove width restrictions.
L4	<b>Consult with users regarding priority locations for the development and promotion of access hubs and facility improvements.</b>	Consultation on location of access hubs / development of hubs / definition of hubs.	Scope of Broads LCWIP has been revised so this detail on specific projects has been curtailed.

<b>L5</b>	<b>Work with local authorities and transport providers, to promote use and enhancement of the travel around the Broads.</b>	Contact local authorities and transport providers to seek opportunities to work in partnership.	<a href="#">Broads Recreation &amp; Tourism Strategy 2024-29</a> produced. See Objective 2 therein.  Work is progressing through the Suffolk and Norfolk Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for the Broads to be featured in a future railway marketing campaign
<b>L6</b>	<b>Carry out feasibility study of installing electric charging points for cars and cycles at Broads Authority sites.</b>	Review local electricity grid capacity at Broads Authority sites with parking facilities.	Cycle Pod e-bike charging points installed at Carlton Marshes. Two more sites planned by June 2025.  BMW “Recharge in Nature” sponsorship has been used to install electric vehicle chargers at NWT Pleasureboat Inn.
<b>L7</b>	<b>Look at what Open Access land is available for increased access opportunities.</b>	Review Broads Authority’s role and duties with regards to Open Access land.	Review required. Initial consultations suggested land in the Broads meets the required access standards. Some access limitations exist due to isolated land parcels and presence of protected species.
<b>L8</b>	<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>	Discuss strategies with NLAF and BLAF.	Requires completion of the Broads LCWIP report.  Reciprocal reports between BLAF and NLAF on delivery progress to be arranged in Q4 2025/26 by NCC and Broads Authority officers.

## Appendix 2 - Land to Water Objectives:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Land to Water Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Year 1 update</b>
<b>LW1</b>	<b>Develop a Communications plan for land-to-water access on the Broads.</b>	Devise and implement communications plan. Thinking particularly about how to break down social, cultural and age barriers.	Initial meeting held. Scope and timescale for production of the plan to be defined

LW2	<b>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.</b>	Utilise Active Exchange data system.	Data set on Active Exchange analysed and reported
		Use data to create a prioritisation matrix.	Ranked list of Broads waterways management units, based on relative mobile phone activity has been completed
LW3	<b>Continue to work at multi-use hubs with access to water identified around the Broads.</b>	Identify hubs with access to water.	LCWIP activity and reporting to be completed
		Work with local stakeholders for improvements.	Stakeholders identified through LCWIP and Paddle UK
LW4	<b>Update and disseminate open water swimming advice and guidance.</b>	With help from Rangers monitor swimming activity.	System set up for Rangers to record spatial information about outdoor swimming activity
		Work with partners and local water safety forum to communicate safety messaging.	Following discussions with River Waveney Trust and other swimming groups about safety protocols and messaging the Broads Authority webpage was updated
		Report to BLAF	Updated webpage is here <a href="#">Outdoor swimming</a>
LW5	<b>Develop a web-based zoomable/scrollable map of access facilities in the Broads.</b>	Improve map provisions and usability for Broads users.	Static information available here <a href="#">Moorings</a> ; Interactive maps for slipways and canoe launch points is here <a href="#">Slipways and launching points</a> . Annual review of the information is due. Interactive map for 24 hour moorings is in development
LW6	<b>Carry out a review with stakeholders to understand the issues and barriers to sailing in the Broads.</b>	Work with sailing clubs to carry out a review.	No progress
LW7	<b>Promote and enhance opportunities for launch of small vessels and paddlecraft where vehicle access or parking is possible.</b>	Identify sites with the help of Rangers and local stakeholders.	Co-operation with Paddle UK established to ensure consistent information is available between their online information and the Broads Authority.  Interactive maps for slipways and canoe launch points is here <a href="#">Slipways and launching points</a> . Parking information to be added by end Q4 2025/26.

		Maintain existing access points.	Broads Authority managed canoe platform at Hoveton Riverside Park temporarily closed but will be replaced by March 2026.
LW8	<b>Maintain and promote the Broads Authority managed angling pads/ platforms.</b>	Maintain existing platforms.	Broads Authority managed angling platforms are checked and inspected regularly.
		Work with Broads Authority Communications team to promote.	Locations are mapped in Broadcaster and on website <a href="#">Angling</a> . Annual review of the information is due.
		Work with local stakeholders to promote.	No progress
LW9	<b>Promote and enhance opportunities for paddlecraft routes/trails.</b>	Using study of craft transportation sites identify where craft can be launched. What are the facilities at these sites?	Co-operation with Paddle UK established to ensure consistent information is available <a href="#">Paddling Trails   Inspiring UK canoe trails, kayak trails and SUP trails</a> . Annual review of the information is due.
LW10	<b>Review of access provision at Mutford Lock and adjacent Authority owned land.</b>	Carry out feasibility study of access improvements at Mutford lock.	No progress. Not prioritised in 2025/26
LW11	<b>Review access to slipways across the Broads to ensure long-term usage.</b>	Action for Yr 2+	Action for Q3 2025/26
LW12	<b>Review the accessibility arrangements for public boat trips.</b>	Action for Yr 2+	Action for Q3 2025/26

### Appendix 3 - Mooring and Demasting Provision Objectives:

No.	Mooring and Demasting Objectives	Action	Year 1 update
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<b>M1</b>	<b>Report annually on total mooring length managed by the Broads Authority compared to agreed baseline.</b>	Agree a baseline that reflects capacity where needed and report.	Review of all mooring boundaries and ground-truthing completed. Information recorded on GIS; Final updating on Broads Authority website required; Reporting alongside Objective M3 is required.
<b>M2</b>	<b>Review policy regarding DP16 moorings. Improve communications to public regarding DP16 moorings.</b>	Review maps of DP16 moorings thinking about usage and accessibility.	No progress
<b>M3</b>	<b>Identify locations for new short-stay moorings in gaps identified by gap analysis.</b>	Cost up what it would take to fill all the gaps in gap analysis.	No progress
		Agree a process for new mooring locations.	Decisions currently made on a case by case basis
<b>M4</b>	<b>Review de-masting provision in the Broads and develop a prioritisation methodology to guide future investment in new provision.</b>	Review de-masting provision.	No progress
		Identify points needing improvement.	No progress
<b>M5</b>	<b>Review ancillary services provision at 24-hour moorings.</b>	Review of water and electric hook ups at Broads Authority moorings.	No progress
<b>M6</b>	<b>Identify the highest priority modification for accessibility at 24-hour moorings.</b>	Consult on where access issues are having a negative impact on user enjoyment.	No progress. No immediate or significant issues have been raised directly.
<b>M7</b>	<b>Review lease fees and assess on a case by case basis.</b>	Review lease fees.	Asset Officer works in accordance with existing policy
<b>M8</b>	<b>Feasibility study of different mooring design options and consult.</b>	Feasibility study and consultation.	Report presented to Navigation Committee on alternative mooring design options <a href="https://www.broads-">https://www.broads-</a>

			<a href="https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/525360/Future-proofing-Broads-Authority-public-moorings.pdf">authority.gov.uk/ data/assets/pdf file/0021/525360 /Future-proofing-Broads-Authority-public-moorings.pdf</a> .  Project to replace steel quay heading with pontoons Deep Dyke, Deep Go Dyke and Whiteslea 24 hour moorings planned for Q1 2026/27
<b>M9</b>	<b>Work on a zoomable/ scrollable map of Broads Authority Waterways facilities which include moorings.</b>	Improve map provisions, include moorings.	In development.
<b>M10</b>	<b>Review every 3 years double alongside and stern-on mooring provision in appropriate locations.</b>	Action for Yr 2+	To be carried out by Ranger Team in 2025/26
<b>M11</b>	<b>Identify if there are popular moorings which need to become staffed.</b>	Action for Yr 2+	Reedham, Ranworth Staithe, Norwich Yacht Station and Great Yarmouth Yacht Station are the current moorings staffed by Quay Rangers