

Agenda 31 August 2022

9.30am

Claxton Village Hall, The Street, Claxton, Norwich, NR14 7AS

Introduction

- 1. Appointment of Chair
- 2. Appointment of Vice Chair
- 3. Apologies for absence and welcome
- 4. Declarations of interest
- 5. To receive and confirm the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 9 March 2022 (Pages 6-13)
- 6. Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetingsto note the schedule (Pages 14-15)

Items for discussion

7. Wherryman's Way

Verbal update by Norfolk County Council

8. Norfolk Walking and Cycling Strategy

Verbal update by Norfolk County Council

9. Three Rivers Way

Verbal update by Norfolk County Council

10. Generation Green

Presentation by Generation Green Project Officer

11. Integrated Access Strategy: Update (Pages 16-20)

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Reports for information

12. Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2021/22 (Pages 21- 27)

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Other matters

| 1 | 3. | Δην | other | husin | മാ |
|---|----|------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Т | э. | Ally | ouiei | DUSIII | C 33 |

| 14. | To note the date | of the next meeting. | - Wednesday 3 | 30 November 20 | 22 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@iclou d.com | Waterborne recreational users / Paddle sports |
| Richard Atkins | Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF | 01508 538083 | richard.p.atkins@bti nternet.com | Paddle sports/ Walking |
| Keith Bacon | Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF | 01692 581314 | keithbacon@keme.c o.uk keithbacon@broadla nd.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.u k | Paddle Sports/ Tourism and local business |
| Harry Blathwayt | 20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD | 01692 678644 | Harry.blathwayt@n orth-norfolk.gov.uk | Broads Authority |
| Christine Cane | The Roundhouse 160 Tuttles Lane West Wymondham NR18 OJJ | 01953 606019 | bhs.southnorfolk@g mail.com | Equestrian riding and driving |
| Peter Dixon | The Smea Hickling NR12 OYL | 078509 30486 | Peterjbdixon@hotm ail.com | Waterborne recreational users |
| Tony Gibbons | 19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS | 01603 400973 | tonygibbons.ndaa@ gmail.com | Angling |

| Member | Address | Phone number | Email | Interest |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Tim Harris | Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB | 01692 580220 | tim@catfieldhall.co m | Nature conservation / Archaeology and landscape heritage |
| 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.murra y@btinternet.com | Walking / People with disabilities / Access for all |
| Steve Read | The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft NR32 3PL | 07720 808715 | stevereadcon@btint ernet.com | Walking/water borne recreational users |
| Martin Rendle | 62 South Hill Road Norwich NR7 ONG | 01603 339133 | adventure@norfolko utdoor.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@hotma il.com | Broads Authority |
| Richard Webb | 9 Bek Close Norwich NR4 7NT | 01603 505362 | dickwebb@talktalk. net | Walking/sailing |
| Christopher Yardley | Thorpe Cloud Creake 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



Minutes of the meeting held on 09 March 2022

Contents

| 1. | Apologies for absence and welcome | 2 |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 2. | Declarations of interest | 2 |
| 3. | Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 1 December 2021 | 2 |
| 4. | Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings | 2 |
| | Staithes Report | 2 |
| 5. | Water, Mills and Marshes update | 2 |
| 6. | Unregistered Rights of Way | 3 |
| 7. | Forum membership | 6 |
| 8. | Any other business | 6 |
| 9. | Date of next meeting | 7 |
| Δnnc | endix 1 – Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 09 March 2022 | Q |

6

Present

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Richard Atkins, Katie Baxter, Christine Cane, Tim Harris, Peter Mason, Christopher Yardley.

In attendance

Ken Hawkins- Norfolk Local Access Forum, Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Andrew Farrell- Water Mills and Marshes Programme Manager, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer.

Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Linda Aspland, Louis Baugh, Harry Blathwayt, Peter Dixon, Tony Gibbons, John Murray, Steve Read, Michael Scott.

2. Declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 1 December 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

Staithes Report

The Chair has met with David Horsfall at the Environment Agency who has accepted the communication on the report, but will not provide a formal written response.

5. Water, Mills and Marshes update

Andrew Farrell, Programme Manager for Water, Mills and Marshes presented the report which provided an update on countryside access related projects within Water, Mills and Marshes including the Broads Mills Trail project and the Improving Access Projects; Angles Way Feeder Paths and Waveney Marsh Observatories.

Water, Mills and Marshes is a Broads Authority led and Heritage Lottery funded Landscape Partnership Scheme in the Broads National Park, with a focus on connecting people and communities to the heritage in this landscape. One key aim of the project is to document and repair iconic drainage mills. The project also seeks to improve physical access within the area and to increase information and interpretation about the unique landscape and heritage to a wider audience with the creation and improvement of a network of routes using both new and existing rights of way within the national park. This will be delivered through the Broads

Broads Local Access Forum minutes, 09 March 2022, Kylie Moos

Mills Trail Project and the improving access projects; Angles Way Feeder Paths and Waveney Marsh Observatories.

Comments and answers to questions

People counters have been used on the marshes to build baseline data. The counters highlight that the main use of the trails is for people on foot. An increase of bridleway routes would also increase the number of cycling routes.

A member welcomed the additional bridleways and asked if there any suitable locations for riders to leave their trailer or horse box to access the trails. Andrew Farrell responded, at the top of Weavers Way near Mutton's Mill, there is a small area which is suitable for a couple of vehicles but consideration must be given to the landowners at this location to not impede any of the normal operations when they move cattle around.

There is an opportunity to apply for funding through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme to improve field gates. This is dependant on uptake by landowners. The type of field gates suggested are accessible kissing gates. A member noted that handles would benefit horse riders who would otherwise have to mount and dismount at each gate.

The Water, Mills and Marshes programme receives funding for over 40 different projects. Another project was the book *Water, Mills and Marshes: Life and Work on the Broads 1920-2020*. The book is a collection of stories, based on recorded interviews with local people.

The Mills Trail communication plan will be launched later in the year once funding is made available from the EXPERIENCE project and installations can begin. Communications will focus on the off season, encouraging people to explore trails between October and March.

Agreements with National Parks UK are also in place to support the promotion.

There are several mills in the north of the Broads which are not included in any projects. This is because the funding agreement from the Heritage Lottery funded Landscape Partnership Scheme permitted a contiguous 200 square kilometres area, most of which is in the southern Broads. When the Broads Authority applied for the funding the area was also required to be in close proximity to urban areas such as Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Beccles. Andrew Farrell confirmed that future applications are no longer restricted by this constraint.

6. Unregistered Rights of Way

Ken Hawkins provided a presentation on unregistered Rights of Ways, why they may have occurred and the process to record them on the Definitive Map.

Highways

- legally speaking, 'once a highway, always a highway'
- public rights of way are highways
- as such, they can only cease being rights of way if removed by an appropriate legal process
- past legislation established the recording of rights of way on a Definitive Map and the accompanying Definitive Statement

- the appearance of a way on the Definitive Map is conclusive evidence of its existence
 as a public right of way; absence from the Map is not evidence that there is no right of
 way
- there are formal processes to determine whether an unrecorded way is or is not a public right of way

The process

- to establish an unrecorded way as a right of way there is a legal process, usually through a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)
- note that this process cannot be used to create a right of way, only to ensure that an existing right of way is recorded on the Definitive Map
- a claimant has to produce evidence in support of the claim, and submit it to Norfolk County Council (NCC)
- that evidence can be historical (maps and records) and/or evidence of use over 20 years
- if NCC decides that there is evidence of a valid claim, it makes a DMMO: it does not have to support that DMMO
- those opposing the claim can make objections
- if a claim is opposed, it will be decided on the balance of probabilities, either by written representations or at a public inquiry

What is 2026 all about?

- 1 January 2026 is a cut off date set in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000
- after that date, unrecorded ways which were in existence in 1949 would be extinguished
- this process applied to claims for recognition based on historical evidence, not on evidence of use
- after passing the CROW Act, provision was made to fund the research needed to complete the definitive map and statement before 2026
- that funding morphed into a project, Discovering Lost Ways, by the then Countryside Agency (subsequently Natural England), but was quickly abandoned as not working

Alternative steps

- in 2008, a Stakeholder Working Group was set up, representing all relevant interests
- after some time, and with plenty of compromise on all sides, the Group produced a set of proposals for a simplified means of making claims
- the Group was insistent that the measure proposed be treated as a single package, reflecting the fact that many compromises had been reached
- the proposals were enacted in the Deregulation Act of 2015
- in spite of many promises, they were never implemented (up to this date)

Subsequent action

- increasingly as time went on, key users of rights of way (most notably British Horse Society, Open Spaces Society and The Ramblers) commenced work to identify and claim paths through the DMMO process
- this process had always been available, but research suggested there were many thousands of unrecorded rights of way
- a book *Rights of way: restoring the record* was produced, with the authors running seminars to inform volunteers of how to go about the process
- later, The Ramblers produced a map based on information from volunteers of potential claimable ways; work to refine this to enable valid claims to be made is still ongoing
- meanwhile, 2026 crept/raced nearer

Current steps

- Wales decided to abolish the deadline
- pressure in England increased as 2026 drew nearer without any government action
- the favoured request was to delay the deadline by 5 years: this could be done through Regulations, not requiring primary legislation
- Defra announced on 16 February 2022 that it had decided not to implement the 2026 cut-off
- detailed implications are still being worked out, and it seems that there will be some degree of partial implementation, which is what the Stakeholder Group did not want
- the proposal is not to repeal the 2000 Act provisions, just not bring them into force so they could be reactivated at any time

NCC plans (before the 16 February announcement)

- a recent communication from NCC indicated that there were now approaching 200 applications in progress compared with historic numbers in the 20s or 30s
- the expressed intention was to begin prioritising some of the older applications based on user evidence in case users have moved away in the interim period

Comments and answers to questions

Anyone who is considering making or supporting a claim is recommended to contact Ian Mitchell from Norfolk Ramblers in the first instance to discuss if there is an overlap or duplication with other cases.

All claims should be supported with as much evidence as possible when submitted. If a claim is rejected it can only be reopened once based on new significant evidence.

At this stage it is unclear why Defra have repealed the 2026 deadline for unregistered Rights of Ways.

Once a Right of Way has been established it will be added to the Definitive Map and obligations from the Highways Authority apply immediately.

A member asked if Other Routes with Public Access could be registered. These routes are marked with green dots on an OS map. Ken Hawkins agreed to find out the answer and report back to the Forum.

The relevant county council is obliged to investigate to the claims and can inform the claimants of any new information, but maintains an overall neutral stance on unregistered Rights of Ways.

7. Forum membership

Dan Hoare, Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology introduced the report which provided an update on the current membership of the Forum and set out the timetable for recruitment and appointments in 2022/23. The next round of recruitment is due to take place in May/June once the new Waterways & Recreation Officer has started.

Members whose membership is ending soon will be contacted and given the option to reapply and continue on the Forum.

The next round of recruitment will include a concerted effort to diversify the membership of the Forum and this will be reflected in the advert. Several members welcomed this approach and would still like to see applicants with experience apply and not be discouraged because of their age.

A member noted that the Forum should also be looking at ways to encourage minority groups to access the Broads as well as being included in the membership of the Forum. Dan Hoare and Kylie Moos are attending training this month by New Routes to look at barriers for participation in countryside activities and engagement with minority groups.

The recruitment will also activity engage with people and/or organisations which can represent disabled people. Currently there is not any representation of this user group in the forum.

8. Any other business

The Broad Authority receives consultation documents from outside bodies asking for feedback. Dan Hoare asked if members would like to be informed of any neighbourhood plans which are out for consultation and if they would like the opportunity to respond individually. The Waterways and Recreation Officer will also review neighbourhood plans and comment on any access issues. Members requested that they are emailed details of consultation once the Waterways and Recreation Officer has reviewed the document and highlighted areas relating to access.

The new Waterways and Recreation Officer is due to start by mid-April. Richard Atkins requested a phone call with the new officer once they are in place to discuss CIL funding for Wherrymans Way access improvements.

Members agreed to hold the next meeting face to face. The Broads Authority head office at Yare House is due to open to the public from the 1st April however, the maximum capacity has

not been yet been confirmed. Kylie Moos will enquire about holding the meeting at Hickling Barn until the capacity at Yare House has been confirmed.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 10.00am, location to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 11.20am

Signed by

Chair

Appendix 1 – Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 09 March 2022

| Member | Agenda/minute | Nature of interest |
|--------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



31 August 2022 Agenda item number 6

Summary of progress

| Title | Meeting date | Lead officer | Summary of actions | Progress so far | Status |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Open water swimming | 09/06/2021 | Waterways and Recreation Officer | 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 | 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. 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. December 2021: A member of the Broads Authority open water swimming sub group will be invited to provide an update at the next Broads Local Access Forum meeting. | In progress |

| Title | Meeting date | Lead officer | Summary of actions | Progress so far | Status |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Lost Paths in the Broads | 09/06/2021 | | Identify 'Lost Paths' to the river Contact NCC and SCC to identify 'Lost Paths' | September 2021 Norfolk LAF representative agreed to raise this item at a future meeting. December 2021: Norfolk LAF representative agreed that 'Lost Paths' will be raised at the January 2022 Norfolk Local Access Forum meeting. August 2022: The Chair has written to Norfolk County Council and Suffolk Council and requested a list of all of the paths that have been lost to the river. | In progress |
| Staithes Report | 04/12/2019 | | Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithes report. | September 2021 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. | In progress |

Date of report: 17 August 2022



31 August 2022 Agenda item number 11

Integrated Access Strategy Update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

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

Recommendation

For information

Contents

1. Introduction 1

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.
- 1.4. The Table includes a column showing which of the seven objectives of the IAS each project meets. The seven objectives are:
 - 1. To improve links between land and water and to the water's edge
 - 2. To improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points.
 - 3. To improve access for all in the Broads.
 - 4. To encourage sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking, cycling and non-powered boating, and improve links between public transport provision, visitor destination points and

Broads Local Access Forum, 31 August 2022, agenda item number 11

1

access routes.

- 5. To deliver the River Wensum Strategy through the River Wensum Strategy Partnership.
- 6. To encourage provision of access routes that relieve visitor pressure on internationally designated sites, avoid disturbance of protected species and help to accommodate growth.
- 7. To provide appropriate information on access to recreational opportunities and interpretation about recreational sites.

Table 1Integrated Access Strategy priorities 2021/2022 – progress update August 2022

| Project | Progress | Objective | Partners |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Broads Mills trail | Status: On track Signage and interpretation currently being ordered. | 2,7 | Broads Authority Norfolk County Council |
| Wherryman's Way Hardley Flood | Status: On track Dredging of the Chet completed and material deposited on the closed footpath. Joint bid with NCC for funding from Community Infrastructure Levy successful and bridge replacement to begin Summer 2023. | 1,2 | Broads Authority Norfolk County Council |
| Wherryman's Way Bramerton to Surlingham | Status: On track Joint bid with NCC for funding from Community Infrastructure Levy successful. Feasibility work now underway. | 1,2 | Broads Authority Norfolk County Council |
| Hoveton Riverside park | Status: Delayed New waste facilities are in place. Feasibility work now underway for piling replacement. | 1,2,3,7 | Broads Authority North Norfolk District Council |
| GIS Recreation maps | Status: Delayed Slipway and launch point map now live on the Authority's website. <u>Slipways and launching points</u> (<u>broads-authority.gov.uk</u>) Next step is to incorporate moorings, angling platforms, waste facilities. | 7 | Broads Authority |
| Discovery Hubs | Status: Partially delayed Awaiting additional funding for hubs at Salhouse, Gt.Yarmouth and Beccles. | 4, 7 | Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust |
| New signage on Wherryman's Way | Status: Completed Signage in place | 1,7 | |

| Project | Progress | Objective | Partners |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rockland Staithe to Rockland Broad | Status: Completed New footpath surface completed | 1,3 | |
| River Wensum Strategy | Status: On track Delivery Plan updated Dec 2021. Plan can be viewed here <u>River</u> <u>Wensum Strategy Norwich City</u> <u>Council</u> to see progress on the suite of projects. | 1,2,5 | Norwich City Council, Broads Authority |
| Geldeston Canoe pontoon | Status: Completed Pontoon now in place and being well used. Small changes to be made to signage to encourage correct storage of canoes/paddleboards. | 1,2,4,6 | Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust The Canoe Foundation River Waveney Trust |
| Extend the Navigation - Geldeston | Status: Delayed Work scheduled for Feb 22 currently delayed. | 1,2 | River Waveney Trust, Broads Authority |
| Tactile Map Whitlingham | Status: On track Map has been delivered. Waiting for area around the Barn to be resurfaced. | 3,7 | Broads Authority Whitlingham Charitable Trust |
| Restoration of Gillingham FP14 | Status: On track BA Ecologists to conduct second water vole survey in Sept 22. Design for footpath will be decided following results of survey. | 1,2,6 | Broads Authority Norfolk Trails |
| Wild Swimming advice and guidance | Status: Partially delayed No signs up yet – website guidance only <u>Outdoor swimming (broads-authority.gov.uk)</u> | 1,7 | 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 successful. Currently at planning application stage. | 1,2,3 | Broads Authority Whitlingham Charitable Trust |

| Project | Progress | Objective | Partners |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Changing places facilities Multiple locations | Status: On track Working with local district councils who are eligible for funding through the Government. Whitlingham, Lowestoft and Stalham are agreed locations. | 2,3 | Broads Authority North Norfolk District Council South Norfolk/Broadland District Council Great Yarmouth Borough Council |
| 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. | 1,2 | Broads Authority |
| Permissive Path Horning marshes | Status: Delayed BA asset manager to organise the agreements. Delayed due to the asset going to probate. | 1,2 | Broads Authority |
| Cycle parking facilities Broads Executive area | Status: Delayed Audit conducted and several sites identified. | 2,4 | Broads Authority |

Author: Andrew Walters

Date of report: 15 August 2022

Broads Plan objectives: 6.1,6.2,6.3,6.4

5



31 August 2022 Agenda item number 12

Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2022

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Purpose

This report presents the Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report for 2021/22 on the development and improvement of public access within the Broads.

Recommended decision

To note the Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2021/22.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2021/22 is at Appendix 1.
- 1.2. The Forum held four public meetings in the year to consider and agree its advice to the Broads Authority on access matters and potential improvements. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all meetings were held remotely and live streamed on the Authority's website

Author: Andrew Walters

Date of report: 13 July 2022

Background papers: Appendix 1

Broads Plan strategic actions: 6.1, 6.2

Appendix 1 – Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2021/22



Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2021/22

June 2022

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

Contents

| Statutory purpose | 3 |
|------------------------------------------------|---|
| The Forum's Vision | 3 |
| What has happened during the year? | 3 |
| The Forum at work | 3 |
| Challenges faced by the Forum | 3 |
| Advising the Broads Authority and other bodies | 4 |
| Access reports and presentations | 4 |
| Working in partnership | 5 |
| Observers and advisors to the Forum | 5 |
| Who makes up the Broads Local Access Forum? | 5 |
| Chair and Vice Chair | 5 |
| Memhers and representation | 5 |

Statutory purpose

The Broads Local Access Forum is an independent advisory body established by the Broads Authority in 2003, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Act states that the purpose of the Forum is to be a statutory advisory body to provide guidance and advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations on the improvement of public access within the Broads, and to contribute to opportunities for open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. In providing advice, the Forum will have regard to:

- The needs of land management
- The conservation of the natural beauty of the area
- The management and maintenance of recreational access whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture, the interests of landowners and managers, navigation and countryside management projects within the Broads.

The Forum's Vision

The Broads is an unrivalled wetland of natural diversity, heritage and special character. It is a place where people come to explore, enjoy and find spiritual refreshment. Access to the Broads should be clear and easy to use, respectful of wildlife and land management, meet users' needs and promote responsible and harmonious behaviour. The Broads Local Access Forum will champion access improvements and management, represent a wide range of interests and contribute to sustainability for the environment, communities and the economy.

What has happened during the year?

The Forum at work

The Forum delivered its purpose in a number of ways between April 2021 and March 2022:

- (i) Four public (virtual) meetings held to agree its advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations.
- (ii) Representation and guidance to the Norfolk Local Access Forum.
- (iii) Provision of suggestions and advice on a number of projects being delivered.
- (iv) Presentations by members, giving their opinions and suggested ideas on behalf of their relevant interest groups. By doing so, they have helped to bridge the gap between Broads Authority staff and the relevant user groups.

Challenges faced by the Forum

The Forum has faced some major challenges over the last year, particularly as Covid-19 has meant that face-to-face meetings and site visits have not been possible.

There is a continuing need to increase the diversity of representation on the Forum and work will continue to recruit and hear more diverse voices.

Advising the Broads Authority and other bodies

The Forum has given advice to a number of bodies over the year:

 Norfolk County Council, general Public Rights of Way (PROW) improvements and recommendations.

The Forum has also advised the Broads Authority on:

- The Integrated Access Strategy prioritisation plan
- Open Water Swimming development in the Broads
- The issues around paths 'Lost to the river'
- The current status of unregistered rights of way.
- A number of individual projects for access improvements

Access reports and presentations

The Forum received the following access reports and presentations:

- Paul Saunders (BLAF member) presented open water swimming to the Forum. The
 presentation included how swimming can be undertaken on the Broads in a safe and
 enjoyable way, as well as highlighting the risks and giving information on how to
 mitigate those risks
- Richard Atkins (BLAF member) presented a report highlighting two footpaths within the Broads National Park currently regarded by Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways as being "lost to the river" <u>Lost-Paths-in-the-Broads.pdf</u> (<u>broads-authority.gov.uk</u>)
- Andrea Kelly, Environment Policy Adviser for the Broads Authority provided a
 presentation on Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) to the Forum. The threeyear 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
- Integrated Access Strategy update presented Waterways and Recreation Officer
 Integrated Access Strategy update (broads-authority.gov.uk)
- Carbon Reduction in the Broads Harry Mach, Carbon Reduction Officer at the Broads Authority presented an overview of carbon reduction measures taking place within the Broads, and to update the Forum on key data that has been gathered.
- MONUMENT Project Matt Hayward, Lead Projects Managers for Norfolk County Council (NCC) Environment team presented the MONUMENT project to the Forum. The MONUMENT project aim is to support informal carers of people living with dementia by providing professional and structural support to these carers and tailormade technological solutions.

- Andrew Farrell, Programme Manager for Water, Mills and Marshes Project
 presented the report which provided an update on countryside access related
 projects within Water, Mills and Marshes including the Broads Mills Trail project and
 the Improving Access Projects; Angles Way Feeder Paths and Waveney Marsh
 Observatories.
- Ken Hawkins (Norfolk LAF) provided a presentation on unregistered Rights of Ways,
 why they may have occurred and the process to record them on the Definitive Map.

Working in partnership

The Forum worked with the following partner organisations:

- Norfolk County Council
- Norfolk LAF
- Environment Agency
- Norfolk Trails

Observers and advisors to the Forum

- Matt Hayward, Norfolk County Council
- Ken Hawkins, Norfolk Local Access Forum
- Martin Sullivan, Norfolk Local Access Forum
- Marie-Pierre Tighe, Broads Authority
- Dan Hoare, Broads Authority
- Lewis Treloar, Broads Authority
- Kylie Moos, Broads Authority

Who makes up the Broads Local Access Forum?

Chair and Vice Chair

In June 2021, the Forum re-appointed Keith Bacon as Chair. Peter Dixon was appointed Vice Chair of the Forum in September 2021.

Members and representation

Chairman: Keith Bacon - Catfield

Representing archaeology and landscape heritage

Vice Chair: Peter Dixon - Hickling

Representing waterborne recreational users

Linda Aspland – Wroxham

Representing waterborne recreational users and paddle sports

Richard Atkins - Surlingham

Representing paddle sports and walking

Louis Baugh - Neatishead

Representing landowners and managers

Katie Baxter - Wroxham

Representing paddle sports, tourism and local business

Harry Blathwayt – Ludham

Broads Authority member

Christine Cane - Wymondham

Representing equestrian riding and driving

Tony Gibbons – Norwich

Representing angling

Tim Harris – Catfield

Representing nature conservation, archaeology and landscape heritage

Peter Mason - Catfield

Representing walking, tourism and local business

John Murray – Lowestoft

Representing walking, people with disabilities and access for all

Stephen Read - Oulton Broad

Representing walking and waterborne recreational users

Martin Rendle - Norwich

Representing paddle sports, tourism and local business

Paul Saunders - Norwich

Representing open water swimming

Michael Scott

Broads Authority member

Richard Webb – Norwich

Representing walking and sailing

Christopher Yardley – Burnham Thorpe

Representing waterborne recreational users and nature conservation