

Broads Authority

20 January 2023

Agenda item number 14

Member report on outside bodies– Upper Thurne Working Group (UTWG)

Report by Dr Stephen Bolt, BA appointee to the UTWG

Purpose

Members appointed by the Authority to outside bodies are invited to submit a written report from time to time on the work and activities of the organisations and working groups they sit on.

Broads Plan context

Themes A – responding to climate change and flood risk;

B – improving landscapes for biodiversity and agriculture;

D – protecting landscape character and the historic environment; and

F – promoting understanding and enjoyment.

The Upper Thurne Working Group is a consultative body set up to facilitate the management of this important wildlife haven in the north-east of the Broads by protecting the wildlife and natural resources in the area in an integrated and sustainable way, while balancing the interests of visitors, the local community and boaters.

Recommended decision

Note the report.

1. Brief notes of the workshop

- 1.1. The workshop, held at Hickling Barn, was well attended with approximately 30 delegates. The delegates were placed on five separate tables for the exercises. The workshop was facilitated and opening slides outlining the Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) and the objectives of the workshop were presented by the Environment Agency and Tim O’Riordan, formally of the University of East Anglia.
- 1.2. Details of the BFI can be found on the [Broads Authority website](#).
- 1.3. The purpose of the workshop was to assist the UTWG executive by:
 - a. Prioritising the 13 BFI objectives with respect to the Upper Thurne catchment. This was a table group discussion followed by individual delegates indicating their

priorities. The highest scoring objective was the BFI objective to conserve and enhance Natural Capital.

- b. Delegates were then asked to suggest flood risk management options in the upper Thurne catchment by placing coloured dots and explanatory notes on a table map following table discussions. Broken down into hard, soft, adaptation and water resource options.
 - c. Delegates were then asked to answer written questions regarding the vision for the group and complete a feedback form.
- 1.4. All the information was collected and will be presented at the next UTWG executive and the next main UTWG meeting. It is envisaged that there is likely to be a follow up workshop in the future.
- 1.5. The outcomes of the workshop are intended to be advisory only to assist the UTWG executive in taking the BFI forward from an Upper Thurne perspective.

Author: Dr Stephen Bolt, Secretary of State appointee to the Broads Authority

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: Themes A, B, D & F