



Biodiversity Duty Statement

About this document

The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened ‘biodiversity duty’ which requires all public authorities in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

They must:

1. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity by 1 January 2024.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration as soon as possible after 1 January 2024
3. Act to deliver the policies and achieve these objectives and report on them by 1 January 2026.

Section 1: Our policies, objectives and actions

Work area	Relevance to EIP requirements	Action to 2029
Statutory Protected Landscape Management Plan	<p>The Broads Plan is the statutory, overarching management plan for the Broads executive area. It coordinates and integrates other strategies, plans and policies where relevant to the BA’s statutory purposes. The BNRS Delivery Plan sets out actions to achieve the objectives under Themes 1 and 2 in the <u>Broads Plan 2022-27</u>.</p> <p>Natural England is updating the management plan guidance for PLs in England to incorporate EIP requirements.</p>	Review Broads Plan by 2027 and embed PLTOF targets.

Work area	Relevance to EIP requirements	Action to 2029
Annual business planning	The <u>Annual Business Plan</u> sets out agreed BA action from the Broads Plan, BA guiding strategies and elsewhere, including planned biodiversity delivery. The Plan incorporates a 3-year financial strategy.	Continue to include biodiversity delivery within Annual Business Plan and embed PLTOF targets.
Biodiversity and Peatland Restoration	The <u>Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29</u> (and Action Plan) led by the BA and the Broads Biodiversity Partnership focuses on action to restore, maintain and enhance the area’s natural habitats, water and wildlife. The <u>Broads Peat Partnership</u> is working to restore degraded peatlands across the Broads National Park, including its river valleys and surrounding wetlands.	Adopt, implement and review Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29. Complete and apply for external funding to deliver peat restoration projects.
Catchment and Farming	The Broadland Catchment Partnership co-hosted by the BA focuses on action to manage land and water of the catchment to protect wetland habitats from pollution and maintain water resources. The <u>Farming in Protected Landscapes</u> Programme funds farmers and land managers to carry out projects that support the natural environment, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide public access opportunities or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.	Adopt and implement Broadland Rivers Catchment Plan 2025. Deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme 2026-29.

Work area	Relevance to EIP requirements	Action to 2029
Development management	<p>The <u>Local Plan for the Broads</u> was adopted in 2019 and is now under review. The next Plan to be adopted in 2026 will incorporate EIP requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>The <u>Preferred Options version</u> includes the following strategic policies meeting the BA's first purpose: SP1: sustainable development; SP2: Strategic flood risk policy; SP3: Climate change; SP4: Soils; SP6: Biodiversity; SP7: Landscape character; SP8: Getting to and around the Broads; SP9: Recreational access around the Broads; and SP12: Sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Policies are informed by Species Conservation and Protected Site Strategies and GIRAMS to ensure no adverse effects are caused to Habitats Sites (also called European sites). Planning applications are determined in accordance with wildlife related legislation and policy.</p> <p>Policy monitoring/reporting mechanisms are set out in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Confirm BNG for development in the Broads following provision of regulations and guidance.</p> <p>Submit Local Plan for examination by June 2025.</p>
Topic-based guidance	<p>Relevant guides informing the BA's work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sustainable design</u> • <u>Biodiversity enhancement</u> • <u>Impact of new development on peat soil</u> • <u>River bank stabilisation</u> • <u>Integrating development into the Broads landscape</u> • <u>Dark sky standards</u> • <u>Biodiversity Net Gain Interim Planning Guidance Note for Suffolk</u> 	<p>As required, review existing guides and create new guides.</p>
Integrated physical access	<p>The <u>Broads Integrated Access Strategy</u> sets out actions to maintain and improve physical access on and between land and water in the Broads. The design and implementation of projects seek to protect biodiversity and deliver habitat improvements.</p>	<p>Adopt and implement Broads Integrated Access Strategy 2024-29.</p>

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Waterways management for navigation	The <u>Waterways Management Strategy</u> provides a framework for the environmentally sustainable maintenance of the 200km of inland navigable waterways in the Broads, including water plant cutting, riverside tree management, byelaw compliance (including speeding) and dredging.	Implement Waterways Management Strategy 2022-26; review and update in 2026.
Tourism and recreation	The <u>Broads Sustainable Tourism Strategy</u> (adopted 2016) includes action to enhance, manage and promote environmentally sustainable tourism and recreation. The strategy is under review in 2024.	Adopt and implement Broads Recreation and Tourism Strategy 2024-29.
Environmental education	The <u>Education Strategy for the Broads 2023-28</u> includes actions to raise public awareness of the area’s biodiversity and encourage environmentally responsible behaviour. The <u>Broads Curriculum</u> and ‘ <u>Water, Mills and Marshes</u> ’ project provide educational resources. BA Education officers, Ecologists and Rangers give advice on how to conserve and enhance biodiversity to interest groups including farmers, young people, disadvantaged communities, visitors and other Broads users. BA information centres, <u>Broadcaster</u> and other publications, and social media promote biodiversity action to the public and advice on environmentally friendly visiting.	Implement Education Strategy for the Broads 2023-28.
Volunteering	The <u>Volunteer Strategy (2022-2027)</u> outlines how volunteers help the BA’s work in the Broads. It also has objectives to develop and refine the volunteering offer and support volunteers.	Implement Volunteer Strategy (2022-2027)
Local Nature Recovery Strategies	The BA is supporting the creation of the Norfolk and Suffolk LNRS through provision of evidence and advice. It will ensure the Broads targets are ambitious and progress against them is monitored.	Support Responsible Bodies in delivering the LNRS for Norfolk and Suffolk (2024).

Work area	Relevance to EIP requirements	Action to 2029
Responsible Recreation	The Programme protects the Broads' internationally important wetlands from increasing recreational pressure. It combines infrastructure improvements, such as electric boat charging and decontamination facilities, with education, visitor information and ranger-led engagement to reduce impacts, encourage responsible behaviour, and balance recreation with conservation.	Delivery the Responsible Recreation Programme from 2026-29.
Protected sites and species strategies	The <u>Broads Nature Recovery Prospectus</u> sets out what could theoretically be achieved for habitats and species, including enhancements for SSSI, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserve, County Wildlife Sites, Section 41 priority habitat and/or species outlined in Broads Plan and Broads Biodiversity and Water Strategy.	Develop bid for external funding to deliver projects (ongoing).
Biosecurity	Relevant BA staff are given biosecurity procedure training and support. The BA controls invasive species where possible and provides funding for mink management and floating pennywort control.	Continue to provide biosecurity training to staff.
Office estate	The BA's <u>Environmental Standard Operating Procedures</u> outline the likely impacts of each activity and how to minimise them. They guide staff and contractors on the most sensitive working practices, methods and timings to protect the environmental and ecological qualities of the Broads. The BA has recycling facilities in its main offices to reduce waste transport and landfill. It recycles rainwater at one facility.	Install solar power at BA Dockyard (2024). Take measures to reduce carbon footprint of BA head office by 50% by 2024. By end 2025, scope how BA offices/facilities, incl. lighting and water efficiency measures, could be better managed for biodiversity.

Work area	Relevance to EIP requirements	Action to 2029
Land owned by BA and under management agreement, including waterways under navigation	<p>Management Plans are in place to ensure biodiversity enhancements at all 20 owned and management agreement sites. <u>Environmental Standard Operating Procedures</u> are in place at all sites for contractors and staff undertaking routine operations.</p> <p>Protected sites are adequately managed. Fen and water plants in the broads and rivers are monitored annually – see <u>water conservation reports</u>.</p> <p>The <u>Asset Management Strategy (2024)</u> sets out the practices and procedures to ensure the BA’s land, property, and other assets are managed and maintained as effectively as possible to contribute to the delivery of its, as set out in the <u>Broads Plan 2022-27</u> and other key strategic documents.</p>	Scope approach on how biodiversity enhancements are included (also for moorings) and recorded by end of 2025.
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	The BA has pledged to work towards making all its operations carbon neutral by 2030, and carbon zero by 2040. It is also contributing to the English NPA ambition towards net zero in the National Parks, including promoting green tourism. For more information see <u>Climate change action in the Broads</u> .	Work with NPAs to establish common standards for joint ambition towards net zero and apply to Broads. Commission further research on sector CO2 emissions and promote public awareness and action.
Flood risk management	The BA is a partner in the <u>Broadland Futures Initiative</u> , whose main goal is to agree a plan for future flood risk management that adapts to the changing climate and rising sea level.	Continue working towards to <u>BFI objectives</u> .
Catchment scale action	The <u>Broadland Catchment Partnership</u> tackles issues around water quality, water shortage, flooding and wildlife habitat across the river catchment feeding into the Broads.	In 2024, revise the Broadland Catchment Partnership Plan and coordinate training on water resources for partners.

Work area	Relevance to EIP requirements	Action to 2029
Procurement	The BA's <u>Procurement Strategy</u> includes a commitment to purchasing sustainably sourced materials and supplies to reduce carbon emissions and the demand on natural resources.	Review Procurement Strategy in 2027.

Section 2: How you have considered other strategies

The Authority has developed a Broads Nature Recovery Strategy to feed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Norfolk and Suffolk. The Authority is a Supporting Authority for both of these LNRS's and sit on the steering group and themed working groups.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Plan's identifies priorities for habitats and species that will contribute to delivering our Management Plan outcomes of:

- A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery
- A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape

And our 25/26 business plan priorities

- Respond to future flood risk in the Broads that better copes with climate change and sea level rise
- Continue to provide home to thriving wildlife that can adapt to the changing climate
- Implement the five Ps1 of the Race to Zero Programme to halve emissions by 2030
- Bring significant external funding to deliver Broads Plan objectives
- More people enjoying more activities in the Broads safely
- Support farmers and land managers in carrying out projects which benefit the Broads

Much of the Authorities work is directed towards the delivery of these outcomes and objectives as the First Purpose of the National Park.

Protected Sites Strategies, once developed, will be a crucial tool for delivering the nature recovery ambitions set out in our Management Plan, as well as the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Plans. The Authority is proactive in engaging with Natural England and Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board colleagues about approaches and actions for water management (Broadland Futures Initiative) and protected sites within the National Park and can play a crucial role in coordinating partners and local stakeholders with the development and review of these strategies.

Where Species Conservation Strategies have been drawn up which are relevant to the National Park, these will be fully considered within the National Park's Management Plan and Local Nature Recovery Plan review cycles, with appropriate actions incorporated. The Authority is working alongside Responsible Authorities to review and update Local Nature Recovery Strategies to incorporate Species Conservation Strategies where applicable.

Section 3: Your future actions

As the First Purpose of the National Park, undertaking activity to enhance biodiversity and bio abundance is an intrinsic remit for the Authority. The Authority will prepare an annual Business Plan outlining the range of projects and programmes that will contribute to the delivery of our Management Plan objectives and report progress on this annually. Future projects and programmes will be directed and prioritised in accordance with the priorities of the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Biodiversity Net Gain information

The Authority will comply with all new legislation and regulations regarding the roll out and implementation of BNG from 2024.

Biodiversity gains resulting, or expected to result, from approved biodiversity gain plans

Date	Approved biodiversity gain plans	Expected biodiversity gains
24/10/2024	BA/2024/0221/FUL	15% - Habitat – Modified Grassland 47% - Hedgerow creation http://basps/sites/planning/2024/Documents/Development%20Control/BA20240221FUL/24724small_sites_metric_statutory_biodiversity_metric_calculation_tool_24.07.24%20ivy%20house%20farm.xlsm
23/10/2025	BA/2025/0261/APPCON	106% - Modified Grassland % Unknown as new Hedgerow creation of 0.67 units http://basps/sites/planning/2025/Documents/Development%20Control/BA20250261APPCON/biodiversity_gain_plan.pdf
01/10/2025	BA/2025/0160/APPCON	10% BNG Credits purchased from Langley Abbey http://basps/sites/planning/2025/Documents/Development%20Control/BA20250160APPCON/BA20240187FUL_Biodiversity%20gain%20plan_Redacted.pdf
17/06/2025	BA/2025/0126/APPCON	11% BNG Credits purchased from Langley Abbey http://basps/sites/planning/2025/Documents/Development%20Control/BA20250126APPCON/copy%20of%20statutory%20biodiversity%20metric%20calculation_plot%2046%20riverside%20martham.xlsx

As of 29 January 2026: BA still providing pre-application advice on BNG and exemptions. Two BNG gain plan discharge applications in progress. Several more application in progress, but still not a large percentage of application will require formal BNG metric.

Ref	Detailed actions	Lead / partners	Timescale	Desired benefits	Progress
1.1	Assess the potential for the Local Plan for the Broads to require a BNG of more than 10% and put policy in place when Local Plan is adopted.	BA, Viability Consultants	Decision by Dec 2024. Policy consultation early 2025. Local Plan submission June 2025. Examination by end 2026.	Benefits for biodiversity are maximised while also considering viability.	Complete. <u>More than 10% Biodiversity Net Gain for the Local Plan for the Broads - Topic Paper</u> Will test at the Local Plan examination. Submission Q3 2025.
1.2	Assess the opportunity for the BA becoming a Responsible Body for BNG.	BA	2024-2026	Supporting BNG habitat creation for larger projects that may overlap and/or neighbour the Broads	Delayed.
1.3	Monitor 30-year agreements for all BNG Gain plans.	BA	Ongoing	Ensuring biodiversity gain is achieved and continued compliance with legal requirements.	2 sites on monitoring program

Optional information

Section 4: Info about your authority

Further information is included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).

Section 5: Your top achievements

Further information is included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).

Section 6: How your policies and actions have helped

Further information is included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).

Section 7: How you've raised awareness and educated the community

Further information is included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).

Section 8: Monitoring and evaluating your actions

Further information is included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).

Section 9: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

Further information is included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).