

Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 9

Integrated Access Strategy Annual Report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

This report provides the annual progress (2025/26) against the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) Action Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The [Integrated Access Strategy](#) (IAS) for the Broads was adopted in April 2024 (and 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 is considered. 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 2025/26 tasks, with insights into achievements, challenges and areas requiring further action.
- 1.2. Through capital grant funding available in 2025/26 from DEFRA and Active Travel England, progress has been made to enable improvements to access including some land-to-water initiatives. The Waterways and Recreation Officer role was vacant between April to November 2025, but since then, there has been good progress against IAS objectives.

2. Progress Matrix

- 2.1. The Appendices 1-3 show the strategic aims and the 2025/26 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. Summary

- 3.1. 2025/26 progress follows the pattern of 2024/25. More comprehensive completion of land based objectives, with land-water and mooring & demasting showing some progress through strengthened cross-sector collaboration. This includes partnerships

with PaddleUK, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, and local landowners. The focus over the past two years on land based objectives highlights a need in 2026/27 to increase effort and resource to keep pace with planned land-water and moorings & demasting objectives.

- 3.2. Progress has been delayed in several areas due to the Waterways and Recreation Officer post being vacant for seven months.
- 3.3. Additional Access grant funding from Defra in 2026/27 and ATE National Park Capability Fund (Phase Two project) will enable project delivery to achieve outcomes, advancing the vision of a more accessible and connected Broads National Park.

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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 – [IAS Land 2025/26 Progress update](#)

Appendix 2 – [IAS Land to Water 2025/26 Progress update](#)

Appendix 3 – [IAS Mooring and Demasting 2025/26 Progress update](#)

Objective number	Land Based Access Objectives	Action	Year 2 update
L 1	Develop a Communications Plan to ensure equality, diversity, and inclusivity in land access provision around the Broads.	Implement communications plan.	Discussions taken place with Rob Leigh to start working towards creating a plan. Also producing guidance for accessibility in signage.
L 2	Review the Broads Authority role in Public Rights of Way (PRoW) maintenance.	Consult with stakeholders.	Discussions with NCC regarding current (2026) cutting responsibilities alongside EA cutting.
L 3	Identify priority sites for new and improved access provision.	Project plan and seek funding.	Implementation of access projects Acle, Worlingham, HRP using Access for All funding
L 4	Consult with users regarding priority locations for the development and promotion of access hubs and facility improvements.	Promote facilities. Project plan for improvements. Seek funding.	Discovery Hubs established Salhouse, Beccles, Great Yarmouth - publicised online Proposed engagement with users via QR codes and MS Forms Additional access funding for 2026/27 following 2025/26 funding. BLAF consulted.
		Promote facilities.	Broadcaster and social media. RL working with Greater Anglia.

L 5	<p>Work with local authorities and transport providers, to promote use and enhancement of the travel around the Broads.</p>	<p>Project plan for improvements.</p> <p>Seek funding.</p>	<p>Additional planning and feasibility for ATE Phase 2.</p> <p>ATE funding for improved Active Travel aims.</p>
L 6	<p>Carry out feasibility study of installing electric charging points for cars and cycles at Broads Authority sites.</p>	<p>Seek external funding and partners who could aid with increasing access to electric charging points for vehicles and boats.</p>	<p>Bike charge pods (Connecting Places Catapult Rural Transport Accelerator Programme) installed at Salhouse, Reedham Ferry, Carlton Marshes. BMW car charge Hickling Pleasureboat Inn, new boat pillars at NYS.</p>
L 7	<p>Look at what Open Access land is available for increased access opportunities.</p>	<p>Review access provision and barriers to greater usage of Open Access land.</p>	<p>Working with NE to increase awareness of barriers and social inclusion. Training schedule using ATE funding to increase staff awareness of barriers and solutions in the rural environment.</p>
L 8	<p>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.</p>	<p>Identify how the strategies can be used within the Broads.</p>	<p>Working with NCC and SCC to produce schemes for design under ATE Phase 2</p>

Objective Number	Land-to-Water Access Objectives	Action	Year 2 update
LW 1	Develop a Communications plan for land-to-water access on the Broads.	Implement communications plan.	Discussions taken place with Rob Leigh to start working towards creating a plan. Also producing guidance for accessibility in signage.
LW 2	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.	Implement prioritisation matrix.	Activexchange data used to create usage ratings for sections of rivers in Broads network.
LW 3	Continue to work at multi-use hubs with access to water identified around the Broads.	Promote multi-use hubs with access to water.	Discovery hubs promoted online. Using feedback forms and QR codes on access points for paddlecraft, enable feedback on usage and suggestions for other requirements
LW 4	Update and disseminate open water swimming advice and guidance.	Continue monitoring and working with partners on safety communications. Consider safety at hot spots. Report to BLAF.	Working with Ranger team and Drowning Prevention Group Identifying hot spot areas and increasing safety signage provision For discussion
LW 5	Develop a web-based zoomable/ scrollable map of access facilities in the Broads.	Annual review and update.	Conversations taken place on adding layers to moorings maps and slipways/ launch points.
LW 6	Carry out a review with stakeholders to understand the issues and barriers to sailing in the Broads.	See what improvements can be made to break down barriers.	Contact to be made with sailing groups, yacht clubs in 2026
LW 7	Promote and enhance opportunities for launch of small vessels and paddlecraft where vehicle access or parking is possible.	Use study to seek partners, external funding and improve facilities at sites.	Regular catch ups with PaddleUK PaddlePoints officer, linking in with PaddlePoints mapping. Feedback form via QR code being installed on launch points. Paddle Trust an option for additional paddle craft linked funding.

		Maintain existing access points	Hoveton Riverside Park launch pontoon delivered, additional sites being identified.
LW 8	Maintain and promote the Broads Authority managed angling pads/ platforms.	Maintain existing platforms. Work with comms team to promote. Work with local stakeholders to promote.	Refurbishment of Worlingham angling platforms x 2 (Access for All), input and suggestions from staff and MoP for additional angling access improvements Website updated. Discussions to plot information on interactive map as per moorings. Update to BLAF
LW 9	Promote and enhance opportunities for paddlecraft routes/trails.	Work with stakeholders on routes and facilities within the Broads.	Continued updates with PaddleUK. Close working with local paddle groups. Creating network of access launch points needing improvement
LW 10	Review of access provision at Mutford Lock and adjacent Authority owned land.	Develop a business case, project plan. Seek partners and funding for any access developments which have become apparent from survey.	No progress No progress
LW 11	Review access to slipways across the Broads to ensure long-term usage.	Review of locations, ownership, general condition and barriers to wider usage.	Review 2026
LW 12	Review the accessibility arrangements for public boat trips.	Carry out review; seek partners and funding; seek accessibility enhancements.	Review 2026

Objective Number	Mooring and Demasting Provision Objectives	Action	Year 2 update
M 1	Report annually on total mooring length managed by the Broads Authority compared to agreed baseline.	Baseline to be agreed	Information exists as part of interactive map base https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/facilities/moorings
M 2	Review policy regarding DP16 moorings. Improve communications to public regarding DP16 moorings.	Review	Now known as DM33 moorings. Update to Broadcaster centre pages map to reflect availability of moorings. Update to website to list available moorings. March 2026, audit of moorings carried out with Planning Enforcement Officer - actions raised regarding contacting landowners. Comms to update moorings list webpage.
M 3	Identify locations for new short-stay moorings in gaps identified by gap analysis.	Discuss process with Director of Delivery	Meeting requested.
M 4	Review de-masting provision in the Broads and develop a prioritisation methodology to guide future investment in new provision.	Methodology to be developed. Update list of Demasting moorings.	Review commenced and list created
M 5	Review ancillary services provision at 24-hour moorings.		Electric hook ups being upgraded. Check with AS on whether a review of ancillary services was also carried out.
M 6	Identify the highest priority modification for accessibility at 24-hour moorings.	Devise process for consultation of users	
M 7	Review lease fees and assess on a case by case basis.	Review - arrange meeting with Danny to determine	Meeting with Asset Officer scheduled. Lease fees review carried out annually by contractors.
M 8	Feasibility study of different mooring design options and consult.	Feasibility study	Future proofing Broads Authority public moorings
M 9	Work on a zoomable/ scrollable map of Broads Authority Waterways facilities which include moorings.	Develop	BA 24hr moorings live on interactive map. Map development proposals 2026 - include all moorings available, not just 24 hour moorings.
M 10	Review every 3 years double alongside and stern-on mooring provision in appropriate locations.	Review	Stern on mooring review in 2023-4? Check results for comparison - TBC
M 11	Identify if there are popular moorings which need to become staffed.	Review	Ranworth now staffed successfully. Review in Yr 3 further options for staffing moorings.