

# Broads Local Access Forum

20 May 2026

Agenda item number 12

## Access for All report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

---

### Summary

This report provides an overview of the completed projects and spending of Access for All grant funding from DEFRA for 2025-2026.

---

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Access for All funding is for physical and digital infrastructure improvements to make Protected Landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds, creating ‘places for everyone.’
- 1.2. In 2025, DEFRA allocated £135,478 to the Broads Authority for Access for All capital projects, to be spent by March 2026.

## 2. Projects Overview 2025/26

- 2.1. Projects were highlighted to improve accessibility around the Broads network in a variety of different areas, for a range of active interests. Projects include:
- 2.2. April 2025 – final completion of the 2024/25 project to widen the Acle permissive footpath connecting Acle Bridge to Acle village and laying a new, crushed aggregate surface.
- 2.3. March 2026 – Installation of an accessible paddlecraft launch pontoon in Hoveton. This has features to improve accessibility including an EZ kayak launch module which offers a stable platform for ingress/ egress and additional transfer bench enabling wheelchair users to utilise the platform.
- 2.4. February to April 2026 - Renovation of Acle toilet block to include more accessible areas and features: accessible toilet cubicles in both male and female toilets, baby change units, a shower cubicle in each and larger toilet cubicles with improved colour contrast throughout.
- 2.5. March 2026 – review and installation of Paddle Safety signage to include more accessible design through clearer messaging and matt finish. Links to information about additional places to visit ties in with PaddleUK’s Paddle Points and Broads Authority’s

website via QR codes provide a better connected visitor experience with provision of information.

### 3. Further projects and additional funding

3.1. Additional access funding has been confirmed for 2026/27.

3.2. Projects proposed for 2026/27 include:

- Completion of access improvements to Acle toilet block, including re-landscaping and re-levelling the approach paths to the block.
- Accessible desire line path widening at Hoveton Riverside Park.
- Installation of perch benches at Hoveton Viaduct moorings and path.
- Improved access at Cary's Meadow for paths, gates and paddlecraft launch.
- Further public engagement at events such as Norfolk Show to gain extra input of ideas for accessible project provision around the Broads network.

### 4. Financial implications

4.1. Funding spent in 2025/26 totalled £135,218.

4.2. £135,478 confirmed allocation for 2026/27.

### 5. Summary

5.1. Continuing to plan for a network of accessibility interventions in the Broads enables the Authority to plan and integrate a range of improvements for a multitude of users. The activities funded through this DEFRA grant assist with meeting Integrated Access Strategy objectives.

Author: Tobi Radcliffe

Date of report: 29 April 2026

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: E1