

Annual report 2021-22

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Yare House
62-64 Thorpe Road
Norwich NR1 1RY
01603 610734
broads-authority.gov.uk

Chief Executive: John Packman

Welcome back

The start of the main visitor season around Easter is always a key period in the Broads National Park's calendar, when we and local residents welcome visitors old and new. But in April 2021 welcoming visitors had even greater meaning, as facilities were able to start opening again, and many businesses had another extremely busy season, following the growth in UK holidays.

We were delighted to continue to welcome many visitors new to the Broads and amongst them two groups in particular – the young people who came to the Broads through our Generation Green project, and members of New Routes Integration, one of Norwich's organisations working with refugees.

Amongst people who already know the Broads and the Broads Authority, it was also a great pleasure to welcome back our dedicated volunteers, who were able to get back to volunteering in the spring as well.

Many projects made good progress, and a major one amongst those conserving and enhancing the environment, the CANAPE project, is heading towards its close, but not without leaving foundations for the project that will take its work forward, the Broads Peat partnership.

So whether your interest is in finding out about what the Broads can offer you now, finding out about what you can do for the Broads, or understanding more about the position of the Broads in the wider environment, we hope you will find this report of interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Dickson
Chairman, Broads Authority



Keep in touch

- For details about our projects please go to broads-authority.gov.uk or see our contact details on page 2.
- For regular updates on our work you can read Broads Briefing, our monthly online newsletter. To subscribe, go to [Monthly newsletter \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk).

- If you'd like regular news about places to visit and things to do, you can also sign up for our Visit the Broads National Park newsletter by going to visitthebroads.co.uk/newsletter.

Get involved

- If you'd like to contribute your ideas, go to [Broads Engage \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk).
- If you'd like to find out about volunteering go to [Volunteering \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk).

Conserving and enhancing the environment

Conserving and enhancing the Broads environment, both land and water, forms one part of the Broads Authority's remit. Here's a selection of project news from over the last year highlighting just some of our work in these areas.

Looking far and wide

The Government published its Landscapes Review: National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty early in autumn 2019, but the intervening period was obviously not an easy time for consultation or implementation, though what was immediately apparent, more than ever, was the importance of natural landscapes to the well-being of us all.

The review contained five sections on Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty, Landscapes for Everyone, Living in Landscapes, More Special Places and New Ways of Working, including far-reaching proposals, many of which could have a big impact on visitors. Here are just three of them: a night under the stars in a national landscape for every child, new long-term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors, and landscapes that cater for and improve the nation's health and well-being.

Broads Authority members agreed a response to the Government's consultation on the review and the Authority looks forward to working with the many partners concerned towards further implementation of its recommendations over the coming years. You can read the response in the Broads Authority meeting papers for March 2022.

broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/committees/broads-authority

gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review

Seeing into the future

The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) is an important partnership, led by the Environment Agency and including the Broads Authority, which is working towards future flood risk management, to cope with our changing climate and rising sea level.

An online survey ran from January to May 2021, focusing on features of the Broads area, flood risk and climate change, vision and adaptation, decision making and funding, with a final section about respondents.

The survey results highlight and endorse the desire and need for a strategic initiative such as the BFI. All of the concerns expressed are ones that the BFI recognises in its existing studies and baseline research. To have a consensus and to gain an endorsement of the general focus of the BFI from the public provides an early affirmation and a helpful direction for future activities.

A further survey for young people ran during July 2021. A real emphasis on the natural environment comes through from the responses received. A shared enjoyment of the wildlife, the waterways, views and landscape of the Broads area are features that are clear priorities to the respondents.

You can read the full results of both surveys and find out more about the work of the BFI at

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative

Farming in Protected Landscapes

In July 2021 the Government introduced this funding programme to assist farmers and land managers in carrying out projects that care for the natural environment, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide public access opportunities or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

In the Broads applications for funding are made through the Broads Authority, and 15 projects were approved and under way by the end of the first phase of the programme in March 2022. Three of the projects relate to the reed and sedge industry. Outcomes include expanding commercial sedge beds at Hickling and Horsey; sharing use of new machinery amongst a group of cutters; and sharing knowledge gained with other cutters, with the aim of contributing to the growth of this important local industry and its associated skills. The programme runs until March 2024.

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after

Catching up

The Broads Authority and Norfolk Rivers Trust co-host the Broadland Catchment Partnership to help coordinate water and land management. The partnership involves local people, organisations and businesses in developing and carrying out actions. Partners make the most of existing funding, seek more innovative sources and highlight incentives to encourage best practice across all sectors.

In the last year the partnership has funded a new member of staff to support the Wensum Catchment Partnership, a sub-catchment group that is working to facilitate river habitat improvement and diffuse pollution reduction. The partnership is working closely with the Upper Wensum Cluster Farm Group (Wensum Farmers), who have established an innovative water quality testing programme to measure their reduction in leaching and run-off. The programme is continuing.

The Waveney Catchment Partnership has been working with volunteers, agronomists and farmers to improve land management, river and riverbank habitats, and hay meadows, working closely with Water & Woodlands Farm Cluster, a group that has received funding through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme for a project working with farmers to reduce fertiliser application and monitor run-off. The project has secured further FiPL funding to continue. This partnership also funded an event in the Waveney valley, led by the River Waveney Trust, highlighting the role that natural flood management can play in reducing flood risk (initial planning took place in 2021, with the actual event held in April 2022).

broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk

Staying neutral

Alongside all other local planning authorities in Norfolk, the Broads Authority received a letter in mid-March 2022 from Natural England, concerning nutrient pollution in the protected habitats of the Broads Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site, and the requirement for 'nutrient neutrality'. The letter advised that new development within the catchment of these habitats comprising any overnight accommodation had the potential to cause nutrient pollution. Any development not involving overnight accommodation, but which may have non-sewerage water quality implications, is also included. Other areas of the UK are in a similar situation.

The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 require local planning authorities to ensure that new development does not cause adverse impacts to the integrity of protected habitats, such as the Broads, prior to granting planning permission. Therefore, until this matter is resolved the Authority is unable to grant planning permission for developments affected.

We continue to work closely with neighbouring authorities and Natural England to better understand the implications of this requirement and to identify possible options for mitigation to ensure sustainable development can proceed.

Keeping Belaugh special

Conservation areas are all about preserving the best from the past and enabling it to fit comfortably into the present and future. New developments, improvements, demolition and tree work should be appropriate and aim to reinforce special character, so designation as a conservation area is a key way of preserving and enhancing the historic buildings and natural environment of Broads villages. The need for change must be balanced with the need to care for the historic environment, and any works that could detract from the area need to be considered carefully.

Most of the requirements for conservation area status already apply within the Broads National Park, but parts of many villages fall just outside the Broads Authority boundary, so conservation area status can also be very helpful in creating cohesion within communities.

The Belaugh conservation area appraisal was adopted by the Broads Authority in autumn 2021. As usual with these appraisals, a number of recommendations were made, in this case focusing on environmental enhancements, such as maintaining existing trees and promoting new planting where appropriate to secure the continuing tree cover and associated character of this conservation area.

CANAPE nears completion

Twenty twenty-two is the final year of Creating A New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems, a project funded by the partners involved and the European Regional Development Fund North Sea Region. The Broads Authority has led

the partnership of 14 organisations in the UK, Denmark, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands since 2017. The project has restored peatlands and developed wet farming, bringing economic benefits.

In the Broads, work took place at Hickling Broad on the River Thurne, building on previous restoration projects. Almost 31,000 cubic metres of sediment was dredged from the navigation channel and used to recreate a hectare of lost reed swamp at Chara Bay. Deepening the channel improves clearance for boat propellers, reducing suspended sediment, and making the water clearer and better for aquatic life.

The reed acts as a filter, improving water quality by absorbing excess nutrients, which have a negative impact on much wildlife. We hope the reed will provide shelter for water plants such as stoneworts and holly-leaved naiad. In the UK, some of these plants are so rare that they only grow in the Upper Thurne area. The improvements are lowering the release of carbon dioxide and the new land is storing carbon as it develops into a fen, with reed and other plants.

Wetlands have often been drained to grow crops such as wheat or to raise cattle, so reversing this drainage is often the starting point for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Wet farming uses peat to grow plants that are adapted to wet conditions. It's traditional in the Broads, where reed has been grown for hundreds of years for thatch. But we need other products as well. We investigated using reed for compost, fibreboard and biomass energy, and we also used waste wood from scrub clearance (which also benefits wildlife) to produce biochar (a soil improver) and charcoal.

In 2021 the project constructed a pilot wet farm demonstration site on the Horsey Estate, growing reed and reedmace, which can be used for thatch and building insulation. This is a vital

part of the project, encouraging farmers to pursue this kind of farming. These crops take water and clean it, before returning it to Waxham Cut, and lock up carbon in the ground beneath. We are using this site to work with farmers to find new crops and encourage re-wetting land, which reduces carbon emissions significantly and instantly lessens damaging effects on the climate.

In time, re-wetted peatlands could absorb more carbon dioxide than they release. We hope everyone can work together to decide how and where water levels under peat soil can be raised, without subjecting peatlands to flooding.

The CANAPE project held a final conference, Sustainable Peatlands: A Win for All, in October 2021 at Leeuwarden in the Netherlands, but the work at Horsey and throughout the Broads goes on.

northsearegion.eu/canape

Broads Peat partnership

This partnership has been established to continue the work initiated by CANAPE, in particular to develop peatland restoration projects, which attract private funding, through the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme. The partnership is led by the Broads Authority and includes Palladium (which designs sustainable business models), Natural England, the Broads Internal Drainage Board, the Environment Agency, Norfolk FWAG, wildlife organisations, and 19 farmers and land managers. The whole project relies on designing and gaining permission for water level raising, and making this viable for farmers and land managers.

Peat forms from compressed dead plants in wet areas, such as fens. It lies beneath 30% of the Broads National Park, storing about 40 million tonnes of carbon. Draining peatland releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Peatlands store twice as much carbon as forests, helping to combat the effects of climate change.

Two staff have been seconded from two partner organisations to help coordinate and manage our Broads Peat project. An engagement officer has also been appointed, particularly to focus on involving young farmers, as well as construction and fashion students interested in using novel wetland products, such as BioPuff®, a plant-based fibrefill material. The funding runs from December 2021 until March 2023.

gov.uk/guidance/nature-for-climate-peatland-grant-scheme

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/projects

A year with Water, Mills & Marshes (WMM)

It's been another varied, challenging and rewarding year for all involved with this Broads Authority programme, which includes many partners and concludes in 2023. Here's news of just some of the projects.

Restoration work started at High's Mill in spring 2021 and has now been completed. Before work started there was very little structure inside the mill. Now it has two new floors, ladders, doors and windows. It has been repainted with a tar substitute on the tower and white linseed paint on the timber. North Mill restoration work has also been completed and work is progressing well at Mutton's Mill, started in autumn 2021. Work includes restoring the brick tower, cap and fan stage, as well as fabricating and installing an additional pair of sails. Most of the restoration work is carried out by WMM apprentices and following the period of this report, in early summer 2022, the Heritage Carpentry apprentice was awarded Construction Apprentice of the Year by City College Norwich.

Increasing access opportunities is an important aim of WMM – a winter highlight was the installation of one of the RNIB's tactile maps at Whitlingham Country Park. A tactile map allows visually impaired people to navigate with

confidence around a site. Members of Vision Norfolk were involved in trialling the map.

Fascinating features in the historic landscape of the Broads have been uncovered, including barrows, field systems, earthworks and other archaeological remains. Volunteers for the Aerial Perspectives theme of the Broads Hidden Heritage project, coordinated by Norfolk County Council, have been carrying out this research from early spring 2022. Any new archaeological information is being added to the relevant county Historic Environment Record, so that it is available for future researchers, and to help ensure that these important sites are considered in future management decisions.

Planning work, including signing, was carried out for a new walking trail around Halvergate Marshes. The trail opened in summer 2022. Walkers can start the Halvergate Mills Trail from Berney Arms Station, the moorings at Berney Arms or the villages of Halvergate and Wickhampton. The trail immerses visitors in the marsh landscape, its waterways, wildlife and characteristic mills.

Planning for the WMM closing event, the Broads Life Festival, took place during 2021-22, with the very successful event offering a huge array of water and nature activities, plus live performances, focused on a family audience, taking place in early summer 2022.

watermillsandmarshes.org.uk

Being good neighbours

Neighbourhood plans establish policies for the development and use of land, such as where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like. They focus on developing what's good from the present and planning for the future, making the most of communities and helping them to thrive.

Four neighbourhood plans were adopted during the period of this report, for the town of Beccles, and the villages of Filby, Rollesby and Winterton-on-Sea.

Priority actions to support the Beccles plan focus on transport and movement, heritage, the town centre, and health and well-being. The Beccles plan aligns closely with the Waveney Local Plan, which seeks to improve quality of life; encourage a stronger economy; provide housing of the right type to meet needs; increase opportunity for active lifestyles; protect the Broads and the natural environment; and reduce the contribution of the district to climate change.

Filby's plan seeks to build on the strengths of the village, notably its rural character and strong sense of community. It will enhance the natural environment for wildlife and people, protect key historic assets, help to tackle climate change and facilitate opportunities for people to get together. The plan aims to ensure that any further housing development is appropriate in type and design.

The Rollesby plan aims for a cohesive and thriving community, with improved facilities and services to support daily life in the village, easily and safely accessible by foot and bike. It aims for a more balanced population with housing for younger people and families as well as older residents. The natural environment will be protected and enhanced, especially the biodiversity of the Trinity Broads.

The coastal situation of the village of Winterton is very apparent in its plan. The coast is recognised nationally and internationally as an important site for wildlife with the Winterton-Horsey Dunes Special Area of Conservation, Site of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve. Coastal erosion here is a serious concern of residents.

All three plans closely reflect the significance of the villages' settings within the Broads National Park.

Volunteers return

After stops and starts due to the pandemic, volunteering was able to start again fully in spring 2021, and it was great to welcome back volunteers. They have made a major contribution to projects included in this report as well as many others. Without the Broads Authority team of volunteers, many projects just wouldn't be possible.

The Authority has also introduced two ways to volunteer in a more casual way for people

who can't offer a long-term commitment to volunteering. Volunteer action days offer a chance to learn about what is involved in looking after the fragile Broads landscapes and ecosystems, and helping others to make the most of them. Action days took place in the autumn at Reedham Marshes, part of our How Hill National Nature Reserve, and at Decoy Carr, a woodland near Acle. You can also try the microvolunteering opportunities on our website. You only need a couple of minutes for some, others take a few hours or a day. It's up to you how much time you put in.

Whatever Broads volunteering you are able to do, we are extremely grateful.

Understanding and enjoying the Broads

Promoting understanding and enjoyment of the Broads, both land and water, and protecting the interests of navigation, form the other two parts of the Broads Authority's remit. Here's a selection of project news from over the last year highlighting just some of our work in these areas.

Stay safe

The Broads Authority has continued to develop safety provision within the Broads during the past year. The Port Marine Safety Code requires harbour authorities to base their policies, plans and procedures on a Formal Safety Assessment, and to maintain a Safety Management System to control the identified risks to a level as low as reasonably practicable. You can find the latest information at

broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/navigating-the-broads/safety/port-marine-safety-code/safety-monitoring

Helping boaters to understand the potential dangers and mitigate the risks is a key way to improve safety on the Broads waterways. For the 2021 visitor season the Authority produced a series boating safety videos and a further one, Dealing with Accidents, was added in spring 2022. You can view all the videos on our website at

broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/navigating-the-broads/boating-essentials

Getting safety messages to visitors in more informal ways is also important. Beer mats and keyrings were produced in spring 2022, to be distributed through the visitor season. Both items focus on alcohol consumption and boating, with the main message 'Don't go overboard!'; there are safety tips on the back of the mats and links to safety information on our website.

Generation Green

This national project has progressed extremely well, coordinated by YHA and involving national parks and outdoor organisations. It has provided opportunities to connect young people to nature and to encourage care for the natural environment, as part of the Government's green recovery.

In the Broads, two new staff worked with the Broads Authority Education Officer and a wide range of partner organisations to deliver an inspiring array of activities to diverse groups of young people aged 11 to 26, mainly from underprivileged communities, with the emphasis on youth groups aged 13 to 17. Key goals were connecting with nature, experiencing the countryside, learning to use tools, and understanding the past and future of the Broads.

Partnership working to provide activities was a key part of the project. Local partners included the Country Trust, the Norfolk Coast Partnership, the National Trust, YHA, Barton Turf Adventure Centre, the Horstead Centre and Rooted in Nature.

Five volunteers were recruited to join the Authority's team of education volunteers to support the project, and one of our Kickstart Scheme apprentices, working on ecology, assisted with groups as part of his experience.

Activities included dyke dipping, geocaching and using binoculars (for the first time for many participants) in order to learn about

the distinctive wildlife of the Broads. Groups also helped with practical work such as reptile surveys at How Hill. Through conservation work, clearing alder and willow scrub at Barton Turf, groups came into direct contact with plants of the marsh landscape and cleared over 100m of scrub for hedges and pathways. Working with tools developed practical skills as they helped to conserve the landscape they were in, while using a peat corer helped them understand the origins of the Broads and the importance of peat in carbon storage.

A tour of Horsey Windpump explained much about the landscape, followed by a walk over farmed marshland, for a group where many had very little experience of the countryside. This was also an opportunity to learn about the Countryside Code and why it's important. Close proximity to the coast meant that they could see and understand sea level rise and climate change, while views of the windpump and wind turbines introduced ideas about future employment – part of the aim of the project is to inspire young people to consider jobs in the green economy.

Groups also learnt about staithes (mooring places) and the boating history of the Broads, including visiting Hathor, part of the Wherry Yacht Charter fleet. Canoeing around the fringes of Barton Broad opened up another different world to many of the participants.

In all over 400 young people had taken part in our region by completion of the project in March 2022, mainly from Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Lowestoft and London, from diverse organisations including schools, youth groups, Scouts, YMCA and faith groups.

For many, the activities were different from anything that they ever had done before. There were challenges but happy outcomes for all involved, including enabling a young person using a wheelchair to go stargazing in the North Norfolk countryside.

yha.org.uk/generationgreen

New Routes Integration

Over the last few years, the Broads Authority has been working with this Norwich-based group, which supports refugees, asylum seekers and isolated migrants, particularly through the Water, Mills & Marshes programme. Now another new route has been developed, through Generation Green's work with New Routes and other organisations.

Through these partnerships new relationships are being forged with the black and Asian minority ethnic community, particularly through youth group leaders. One project that stands out from the programme was a visit for a group of young women, mainly Bangladeshi, who had never been out in the Broads before.

New Routes has also been able to offer very helpful training to Authority staff including those working in education, communications and the ranger service, in how to better engage with some of the groups of people new to Norwich, what their needs are and how to work with these communities.

newroutes.org.uk

Visit the Broads

Each year a huge range of visitor information is provided in many different ways. Here are just a few of the Broads Authority's visitor information projects from this year.

In March, a new installation opened to the public, Pillars of the Broads, situated outside the Forum in Norwich city centre. It introduces city visitors and residents to the Broads, helps them to explore part of the Broads that flows right into the city, the River Wensum, and encourages and shows them how to explore the Broads further afield. Young people from Caister Junior School contributed to the project, which will be in place until October 2022.

theforumnorwich.co.uk

Visit the Broads, the destination management organisation for the Broads, is of course closely involved with provision of information to visitors, often working in partnership with the Authority. New for the 2022 season, Visit the Broads produced a series of seven itineraries by land and water to provide an additional section within our Broadcaster visitor magazine.

New functionality was added to the joint Broads Authority and Visit the Broads website, so that external event organisers can now add their events to the site at [visitthebroads.co.uk/whats-on](https://www.visitthebroads.co.uk/whats-on). After all the recent restrictions with events, it's good to see so many events on offer to visitors, from large and small businesses, public sector bodies, the voluntary sector and individuals organising events such as village fairs and open gardens.

Thanks to National Parks Partnerships, the Broads has a new walking guide this year, Park Rangers – Favourite Walks, published by Collins, price £6.99 and available from the Broads information centres at Hoveton, Ranworth and How Hill, as well as online from the publishers. The guide is part of a series for all the parks. The 20 walks offer short strolls, long hikes and walks somewhere in between, and will take you to all the seven river valleys of the Broads. Broads Authority volunteers made a major contribution to this project, checking routes and providing very detailed practical feedback and interesting information on features of the walks.

[nationalparks.uk](https://www.nationalparks.uk)

Reedham for walkers

Part of one of the walks in the guide, a riverside section of the Wherryman's Way at Reedham, reopened during summer 2021. This 'permissive path' originally opened around 20 years ago but it had fallen into disrepair. Through collaboration between Reedham Parish Council, the landowner and the Broads Authority, an agreement was

reached to enable the path to reopen. Work required included two new sets of steps, fencing, a bridge and a boardwalk, paid for with kind donations raised by Reedham villagers, and grants from Love the Broads and Broadland District Council, plus parish council funds. Path repairs were organised by Reedham Parish Council with guidance from the Authority. The reopened path connects Reedham Ferry with the village of Reedham, allowing local people and visitors access to the river and local wildlife. For details of the Wherryman's Way please see Norfolk Trails on [norfolk.gov.uk](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk)

Safe havens

The Broads Authority 24-hour free moorings at Burgh Castle have reopened for spring 2022 after a period of absence, following agreement over a new lease. (Electric charging points will be installed at the site later in 2022.) At the same time new 24-hour free moorings opened near Berney Arms, known as Berney Mill 2. Both sites are important locations for awaiting the right tidal conditions to cross Breydon Water, but also provide opportunities for waterborne visitors to explore the Halvergate Marshes area around Berney Arms Mill and the remains of the Roman fort at Burgh Castle.

Old friends, new names

Staff at the Broads Authority's information centres and yacht stations play a vital role in helping visitors and local people to understand and enjoy the Broads, and to care for the Broads. Staff at the Authority's yacht stations in particular are also key to ensuring the safety of all on the Broads waterways. In recognition of the requirements of these roles, including a high degree of independence, from the start of the 2022 visitor season their job titles changed to Visitor Services Officers at the information centres and Quay Rangers at the yacht stations.

Electrifying the Broads

Electrifying the Broads, a partnership project led by RenEnergy and including three other organisations, the Broads Authority, Norfolk Broads Direct and Hydrogen East, was established to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study, with the aim of specifying a demonstrable way towards decarbonising hire cruisers on the Broads.

The study confirmed that it is possible to operate an all-electric battery powered cruiser on the Broads. For the time being this seems the most effective method of decarbonisation as hydrogen technology and other alternatives are not available in Norfolk and Suffolk, and any project requiring the transport of hydrogen over about 100 miles becomes very expensive very quickly. The recommendation is that the primary focus should be on the hire cruiser fleet. These boats do the majority of travelling on the Broads and therefore have the biggest return on investment in terms of cutting carbon by retrofitting electric engines.

The feasibility study for Electrifying the Broads was funded by the Department for Transport's Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition and completed in March 2022. We are waiting for the Department for Transport to announce the next tranche of funding in order to take the project forward.

You can read the feasibility study at

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/what-we-are-doing

Love the Broads

There is so much to see and do in the beautiful and diverse landscape of the Broads National Park. But this beautiful place needs everyone's help to safeguard its future. The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust aims to do just that by welcoming donations from visitors, local people and businesses through its fund-raising

scheme, Love the Broads. Over the last 10 years Love the Broads has given nearly £60,000 in grants to 47 projects that benefit the landscape and wildlife of the Broads, and help school groups and other visitors to enjoy and understand the Broads. You can find out about the projects and supporting Love the Broads at lovethebroads.org.uk

Green Space Dark Skies

The Broads Authority was delighted that the Broads was selected to be a Green Space Dark Skies location, together with other national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty, as part of the Unboxed festival, taking place from March to October 2022 to celebrate creativity across the UK. The Green Space Dark Skies project was led by outdoor arts experts Walk the Plank. Plans and preparations for the Broads event took place during 2021 and spring 2022, with the truly spectacular event taking place on Barton Broad in June 2022.

Members of the public applied to be 'illuminators' and illuminators were also recruited from community groups and local charities. Many participants, including disabled people and homeless people, had never been on the water before and would normally find it difficult to access open spaces.

A host of illuminated sailing and paddle boats took to the water from dusk until dark, accompanied by newly composed live music, to create a unique view of the Broads, a light artwork, with some of the lights harking back to the days of lanterns and candlelight. Wherries dating from Edwardian times were among the illuminated boats, so the event and resulting imagery are a great combination of old and new technology. Other illuminated boats included 1930s yachts from the Hunter's Yard fleet, Norfolk Punts and kayaks, with staff from the Authority's ranger team keeping the navigation clear and acting as a ferry service.

Before the event the illuminators were also able to try pond dipping, with our Education Officer and some of our volunteers. Participants left the event with big smiles, lasting memories and a new connection with the Broads – illuminated in more ways than one. You can view the film of the event and find out more about the project on the Green Space Dark Skies website.

greenspacedarkskies.uk

Revenue accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

A summary of the Broads Authority's consolidated income and expenditure for 2021/22 is set out below.

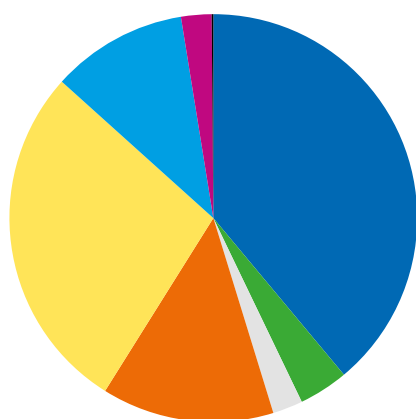
National Park Grant is awarded to the Authority in recognition of the Authority's status equivalent to that of a national park. It is spent on matters relating to conservation, planning, recreation and information and design. The level of National Park Grant has remained static since 2019/20.

Navigation activity is self-financing from tolls paid by users of the Broads waterways.

Although the Broads Authority Act 2009 removed the statutory requirement to maintain separate general and navigation revenue accounts, there is still a requirement to prepare

a report at the end of each financial year describing the navigation income received by the Authority and the navigation expenditure incurred during the year. A copy of this report is available on the Authority's website.

The Authority is required to prepare a full and detailed Statement of Accounts in accordance with guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These accounts are scrutinised by the Authority's External Auditors and are made available for public inspection. The audit has been completed for 2021/22 and the approved Statement of Accounts can be viewed on the Authority's website or can be obtained from the Director of Finance, Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY.

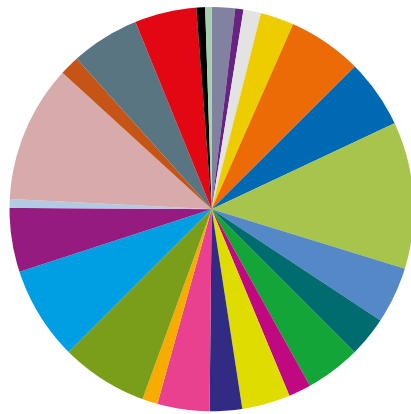


Income

	£'000
● National Park Grant (Defra)	3,414.1
● National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant - Water, Mills & Marshes Delivery phase	344.2
● ERDF* Grant - CANAPE	209.0
● Tolls from hire craft	1,197.8
● Tolls from private craft	2,433.9
● Other National Park income	946.1
● Other Navigation income	211.7
● Interest	11.5
TOTAL INCOME	8,768.3

*European Regional Development Fund

Expenditure



	£'000
Asset management	166.7
Biodiversity strategy	58.1
ERDF* - CANAPE	125.1
Collection of tolls	239.0
Communications (including education, events, design and interpretation, tourism and UK Communications Team)	528.8
Development management	488.5
Dredging	1,047.5
Equipment, vehicles and vessels	403.1
Fen and tree management	287.9
Finance (including insurance)	393.8
Governance	160.2
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Water, Mills & Marshes Delivery phase	344.2
Human resources	230.6
ICT	371.4
Legal services	109.8
Management and other costs	620.3
Practical maintenance	666.9
Premises and property management	455.7
Projects	62.8
Ranger services	979.8
Safety	140.5
Strategy (including strategy and projects, Broads Plan, cultural heritage, climate change and test & trials)	488.8
Visitor services (including boat trips and yacht stations)	440.9
Volunteers	62.3
Waterways strategy	45.6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>8,918.3</u>
Contribution from reserves	150.0

*European Regional Development Fund