

Broads Local Access Forum

Agenda 04 June 2025

Arrival from 9.30am. Meeting starts at 10.00am

Acle Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, NR13 3RA

Introduction

1. Apologies for absence and welcome
2. Declarations of interest
3. **To receive and confirm the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 5 March 2025** (Pages 4-11)
4. **Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings- to note the schedule** (Pages 12-14)

Items for discussion

5. **Integrated Access Strategy progress monitoring** (Pages 15-22)
Report by Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
6. **Broads Local Access Forum meeting dates** (Pages 23-24)
Report by Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology

Other matters

7. Any other business
8. To note the date of the next meeting – **TBC**

Site Visit

Circular walk along the refurbished Acle to Acle Bridge permissive path.

Broads Local Access Forum membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Richard Atkins	Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF	01508 538083	richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com	Paddle sports/ walking
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	keithbacon@broadland.net	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk	Broads Authority
Christine Cane	The Roundhouse 160 Tuttlles Lane West Wymondham NR18 0JJ	01953 606019	christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk	Equestrian riding and driving
Peter Dixon	The Smea Hickling NR12 0YL	078509 30486	Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com	Broads Authority
Geoff Doggett	68 Pilgrims Way Harleston Norfolk IP20 9QE	01379 853464	geoffdoggett@gmail.com	Waterborne recreation/nature conservation
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com	Angling
Edward Gilder	30 The Hills Reedham Norwich NR13 3AR	0777188 3406	edwardgilder@yahoo.co.uk	Cycling/ archaeology and landscape heritage
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	tim@catfieldhall.com	Nature conservation / archaeology and landscape heritage
Duncan Holmes	127 Lower Street Salhouse Norfolk NR13 6RX	0739356 6749	duncanholmes123@hotmail.com	Waterborne recreation/angling

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Patricia Holtom	TBC	TBC	TBC	Tourism and local business/walking
David Lilley	26 Burnt Hill Way Oulton Broad Lowestoft Suffolk NR33 8PF	0773824 4595	lilleyd@live.co.uk	Angling
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	peter.mason120780@gmail.com	Walking/tourism and local business
Joe Mitchell	High House Farm, Potter Heigham Road, Catfield, Great Yarmouth. Norfolk. NR29 5BU	0776776 4398	joemitchell@afiweb.net	Landowners and managers/ nature conservation
Katie Phillips	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe House Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 610734	outdoorskatiep@gmail.com	Walking/nature conservation
Christopher Yardley	Larkhill Cottage Priory Lane Ingworth NR116PG	01263 479691	Cj.yardley@tiscali.co.uk	Waterborne recreational users/ nature conservation

Kylie Moos – Broads Local Access Forum Secretary

Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

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Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 05 March 2025

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Present

Keith Bacon- in the Chair, Peter Dixon, Geoff Doggett, Edward Gilder.

In attendance

Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Andrew Farrell - Partnership and External Funding Manager, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Drew Middleton - Norfolk County Council, Jo Thompson – Waterways and Recreation Officer.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that today’s meeting would not be quorate due to the number of members present and that any decisions would have to be made at the next meeting. A Forum member thanked officers for producing the papers and arranging the meetings. They added, they would like to see more input from the membership and noted the importance of access in the Broads.

Recruitment for new members will be taking place in April. Current members are encouraged to share the advert once it goes live.

Apologies received from Richard Atkins, Harry Blathwayt, Christine Cane, Tony Gibbons, Tim Harris, David Lilley, Peter Mason, Joe Mitchell, Katie Philips, Christopher Yardley.

2. Declarations of interest

Members indicated they had no further declarations of interest other than those already registered and set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

3. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 20 November 2024

The Chair noted that there was a spelling mistake in agenda item 4. The author of the recent publication of “Broadland: Shaping marsh and fen” should be Alison Yardy not Yardley. The minutes will be updated with the correct spelling.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 were approved as a correct record and agreed by the Chair.

4. Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings

Lost paths

Dan Hoare asked if there is anyone at Norfolk Country Council who can produce a list of sites where paths have been lost to the river as there has not been a response to the Forum’s request. There are some paths such as FP4 at Burgh Castle which the Authority are aware of. Drew Middleton agreed to check which sections are lost or vulnerable with the Trails team and added that the audit of the paths would take place when highway boundaries are

reviewed, and this would need to be included in their work plan. Drew Middleton also agreed to invite the new Trails Officer who is looking at the wider trails network to a future meeting.

If a path disappears to the river and a new walked path is created, Norfolk County Council will need to go through a new dedication process, work will not take place on a walked path. The exception to this is if a path has been walked on for over 20 years, then there is a separate process to apply for a new Public Right of Way.

Staithe report

The original request was for the Environment Agency to provide a response to the staithe report in September 2021. As there has not been a response from the Agency, the report is available online and there is new publication "Broadland: Shaping marsh and fen" which includes a section on staithe, it was agreed to close the item.

5. Broads Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Andrew Farrell, Partnership and External Funding Manager presented the report and draft Broads Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). In April 2024 the Broads Authority received a grant from Active Travel England's National Parks Capability Fund. The funding was provided to each National Park Authority in England to support the development and delivery of capability building activities, including LCWIPs. There have been a number of LCWIPs completed around the Broads area including Norfolk, Norwich and Great Yarmouth but the focus is often on urban travel. The Broads LCWIP considers how the plan works in a rural context. Guidance on rural LCWIPs is not expected to be released until 2026.

The consultation received a good number of responses with over 300 online surveys completed, 111 responses recorded at in-person consultation events and engagement with over 200 people at the Royal Norfolk Show.

One of the issues that was identified was the need for the Broads LCWIP to support active travel for visitors to the Broads rather than supporting local journeys or commuting. The population within the Broads is relatively small at 6,500 compared the 7 million visitors a year to the area.

The maintenance and upkeep of paths was an issue that was raised in the consultation responses. The Broads Authority does not have many permissive paths, so it is important for the Broads LCWIP to address how it will integrate with other LCWIPs and work with the relevant Highways Authority.

Respondents to the consultation want to visit places around the Broads though sustainable means, and parking at honeypot locations is not always sustainable. The Authority has already been discussing the topic with Norfolk County Council and is looking at circular walks from train stations and bus routes. Norfolk Wildlife Trust are also working on their sustainable transport offer to their Hickling site.

Existing information, interpretation and wayfinding requires a review and there is a request for information to be centralised for the area. A Forum member suggested looking at

geocaching as a popular activity to visitors in the Broads. Drew Middleton added, they have tried pushing geocaching with Trails and noted that some areas can be over saturated with caches only needing to be 150 meters apart. There is also the issue of who is maintaining the routes to the caches, if they are overgrown that it could dissuade the user to continue on their route.

Active travel is defined as walking, cycling and wheeling, but there are other forms of travel in the Broads such as horse riding, paddle boarding and canoeing. Active Travel England have been asked if these can be included.

The next steps are to continue working on the main draft of the strategy, network plan and prioritisation of projects. Once published, the live plan will be continually updated and reported via the Integrated Access Strategy project updates.

The Authority already has experience working with the county councils to deliver plans such as the refurbishment of the permissive path at Acle as part of the Access for All project.

A forum member commented that whilst the population of those living in the Broad executive area is only 6,500, the quirks of the boundary which follows the rivers means that the number of people that live within Broads parishes which straddle the boundary is likely to be over 10,000. Andrew Farrell responded, for the purpose of the strategy, the circumference was expanded by 2 miles. The strategy is about the interlinks for the county, for example, the Weavers Way is good within the Broads areas, but more work needs to be done with partners to improve the entire route.

The Three Rivers Way cycle route has been raised previously by Forum members who would like to see the route completed. Andrew Farrell added, this route also came up in a lot in the consultation as well as the need for a safe cycle route from Norwich to Hoveton, but the biggest issue was crossing the Northern Distributor Road. Not all the interventions to improve the routes need to be physical infrastructure, information on safer cycle routes is just as important.

A Forum member recommended contacting University of the Third Age who have groups based in Beccles, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, Wroxham and are always looking for walk leaders. Andrew Farrell responded, as the plan is finalised, there will be an officer joining the project to carry out some engagement work.

A Forum member recommended reducing the introductory content for the plan which can be repetitive and likely to lose some readers. Andrew Farrell responded, a lot of the text that is included at the start of the plan is from guidance from Active Travel England.

Cyclists often ride across, through and around the Broads on long rides and there needs to be a way to link a Broads LCWIP with other plans. A Forum member commented that they were disappointed not to see the Norwich Cycling Campaign included in the consultation which includes 30 cycling clubs in Norwich. Andrew Farrell responded that there are still lots of people that they need to talk to and there will be further engagement with local communities

on the finalised plan. Some of the other LCWIPs are focused on conducting feasibility studies, but the aim of the Broads LCWIP is to gather the evidence and apply for funding.

A Forum member commented that the updated access paths at Acle need to be promoted so that people know that they are available. Andrew Farrell agreed and noted that they have been in contact with Highways England.

A Forum member recommended including maps as a list of appendices to demonstrate the geography and how the Broads links into other areas. Andrew Farrell added that they have been working with a student intern who has been investigating other LCWIPs and highlighting good examples of layouts and design including clear maps which can be easily understood. One of the best examples is currently being reviewed by the communication team to see if a similar design for the Broads LCWIP would meet the Authority's accessibility standards.

The final version of the Broads LCWIP is being presented to the Broads Authority in May 2025. The prioritisation of projects will be a live document, separate to the plan and will be presented to the Forum at a future meeting. It is possible that there will be more money from the Access for All funding, and this prioritisation of projects will help with future partnership projects.

6. Norfolk County Council Trails update

Drew Middleton, Green Infrastructure Team Leader at Norfolk County Council provided an update on footpaths at Bramerton FP5, Hardley Flood and Surlingham.

Bramerton Footpath 5

The original Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding was withdrawn which has caused delays. New CIL funding has now been secured and following an Invitation to Quote for the works, the scoring of contractors is taking place this week. There should be a contractor appointed to finalise the works programme on the riverbank at FP5 by the next Forum meeting. It is estimated that work will start in September to avoid bird nesting season and the peak tourism period, and the path will open in November.

There are no ecological concerns at Bramerton, and the Forum will be notified once the planning application is available for comment.

Hardley Flood

The scope of the project has increased significantly with the deterioration of all four bridges and the riverbank along the route. The site has seen the recolonisation of the site by several Protected Species. This means that further viable solutions along the route are being investigated, and plans are being re costed to reflect the change in conditions to the natural environment. It will not be possible to secure CIL funding for this section.

Surlingham Footpath 1

FP1 and the surrounding footpaths are due to be audited in April 2025. The costs and reinstatement of Bramerton FP5 will be used to see what is possible with Surlingham FP1 before contacting the landowner.

A Forum member asked if the closure on the Weavers Way at Potter Heigham was open again. Dan Hoare responded, the section is closed because the Environment Agency are carrying out flood bank repairs. The closure is noted on the Norfolk County Council website [Weavers' Way path closures and temporary route changes](#).

A Forum member noted the complexities at Hardley flood with the route including four bridges with fast flowing water either side. There are also uncertainties around the future boundaries of the council with the devolution changes.

7. Access for All project update

Jo Thompson provided an update on Access for All funded projects. The funding for 2024/2025 has been spent on refurbishment to the Acle to Acle Bridge permissive path and access improvements at Hoveton Riverside Park. If there is any money left over from the projects at Acle and Hoveton, then the money will be used to purchase tactile maps.

Acle to Acle Bridge permissive path

The Acle to Acle Bridge permissive path is one of few footpaths owned by the Broads Authority. The IDB have been on site to put in the culverts and will be finished by the end of the week. Contractors will be on site next week to finish the path which can be used for cycling and walking.

Hoveton Riverside Park

The Access for All fund has been used to reinstate paths, install benches and wayfinding. Money from the Broads Authority has been used for repiling. A dipping platform and Heras fencing has also been removed as part of the overhaul.

A Forum member suggested that the access that is available at Acle is promoted from the mooring so that more people know to use it.

Regarding the tactile mapping, a Forum member commented that there are only 19,000 braille readers in the country, and that audio is very helpful for people who are visually impaired. Jo Thompson responded and shared an example of one of the maps at Whitlingham. The maps are from the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and include raised lettering as well as braille. Using audio can be a challenge when it is funded through a grant because of the cost for website hosting and ongoing maintenance. There is an audio installation at Thurne, but the maintenance costs are high.

A Forum member suggested contacting a local company based in Cantley who specialise in making accessible recreation equipment. They added, other media could be used such as bird recordings.

A forum member asked if the maps could include a QR code which links back to the Authority's website. Andrew Farrell responded, Hoveton TIC will have QR codes with audio description, and there are two methods to listen to the content, downloading or streaming to the phone. If visitors are being asked to use their smartphone to play the content, then there needs to be consideration to what kind of data people have and if there needs to be Wi-Fi in place. The Authority's website has been set up for hosting static document and not streaming.

8. Broads Local Access Forum meeting dates

The recommendation is to move from four meetings a year to three however, because today's meeting is not quorate the vote will be taken to the next meeting.

9. Any other business

New interpretation panels have been installed at Oulton Broad North railway station. [New Interpretation Panels installed at busy station | Ride the Wherry Lines](#). Content has also been produced for the other Wherry Line stations and is ready for installation. A Forum member noted that there are not enough spaces on trains for bikes. Andrew Farrell agreed that the new fleet has considerably less spaces and this issue was raised at the Cycling in Lowestoft AGM.

Broads Authority volunteers are currently carrying out audits of the [Railway Rambles](#) ready for the guidance to be republished in the next couple of months.

Martin Sullivan and Ken Hawkins have left Norfolk Local Access Forum and will no longer be attending the Broads Local Access Forum.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 11.45am.

Signed by

Chair

Broads Local Access Forum

04 June 2025

Agenda item number 4

Summary of progress 04.06.2025

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
Lost Paths in the Broads	09/06/2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 'Lost Paths' to the river Contact NCC and SCC to identify 'Lost Paths' 	<p>September 2021 Norfolk LAF representative agreed to raise this item at a future meeting.</p> <p>December 2021: Norfolk LAF representative agreed that 'Lost Paths' will be raised at the January 2022 Norfolk Local Access Forum meeting.</p> <p>August 2022: The Chair has written to Norfolk County Council and Suffolk Council and requested a list of all the paths that have been lost to the river.</p> <p>March 2023: The Chair agreed to raise this item at the upcoming NLAF Rights of Way subgroup meeting.</p> <p>June 2023: The Chair agreed to raise this item at the upcoming NLAF Rights of Way subgroup meeting.</p>	In progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
				<p>August 2023: The Chair agreed to raise the request on behalf of the Forum at the next Norfolk Local Access Forum Rights of Way subgroup meeting.</p> <p>November 2023: The Norfolk Local Access Forum supports the request, but the focus needs to be on contacting officers at Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>March 2024: Waterways and Recreation Officer agreed to review the areas where paths are at risk of erosion to the river or vulnerable to flooding, and report back to the Forum.</p> <p>June 2024: Waterways and Recreation Officer agreed to present the report at the next meeting.</p> <p>September 2024: The Waterways and Recreation Officer agreed to invite the Norfolk Trails team to a future meeting.</p> <p>March 2025: A member of the Norfolk Trails team joined the meeting and agreed to check which sections of path are lost or vulnerable in the Broads.</p>	

Date of report: 28 May 2025

Broads Local Access Forum

04 June 2025

Agenda item number 5

Integrated Access Strategy progress monitoring

Report by Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology

Summary

The first-year progress report for the Integrated Access Strategy highlights solid advancements in land-based access through partnership and planning initiatives, while identifying slower progress and outstanding actions in land-to-water connectivity and mooring infrastructure that require renewed focus to meet the strategy's inclusive and sustainable access objectives.

Recommendation

To note the report.

Members are encouraged to identify and champion specific projects or work areas that align with the Integrated Access Strategy objectives and could benefit from targeted partnership support or funding opportunities.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) for the Broads, adopted in April 2024 [Integrated Access Strategy & Action Plan 2024/25 - 2026/7](#), 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. 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 Year 1 tasks, offering insights into achievements, challenges, and areas requiring further action.
- 1.2. During this initial reporting period, advancements have been made in several land-based objectives, especially through the funding to support the development of a Broads Local Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which is expected to be completed by July 2025. The Broads Authority also received capital funding from Defra to deliver "Access for All" projects which has been the main focus of activity for the Authority's Waterways & Recreation Officer in 2024/25. Progress on land-to-water initiatives and mooring-related objectives, however, has been more varied. Some actions, like the use of mobile data for waterway activity prioritisation and steps to improve and clarify open water swimming guidance have been

completed. Yet, other tasks—particularly those related to de-masting infrastructure and DP16 mooring reviews—have seen limited progress. This report uses a traffic light system to evaluate the status of each action, aiming to guide future focus areas and foster informed discussion on how best to advance the IAS goals. The Authority currently has a vacancy for the Waterways & Recreation Officer, and this role needs to be filled to help make further progress on the IAS objectives.

2. Progress Matrix

- 2.1. The Appendices 1-3 show the objectives and the Year 1 tasks from the IAS and 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. Conclusion

- 3.1. The progress made during the first year of implementing the IAS reflects a strong foundation for enhancing equitable and sustainable access throughout the Broads. The development of the Broads Local Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the delivery of Access for All projects supported by Defra funding demonstrate a clear commitment to improving land-based access and promoting inclusive use of the landscape. While several land-to-water objectives have also seen encouraging activity, particularly around data-driven prioritisation, open water safety, and digital mapping—momentum must be maintained to ensure these gains translate into long-term improvements for diverse user groups.
- 3.2. However, it is evident that certain areas, particularly within mooring and de-masting provision, require renewed attention and resourcing. Many of the Year 1 actions in this category have seen little to no progress, highlighting the need for better prioritisation and strategic alignment with broader Broads Plan goals such as maintaining navigational infrastructure (C2) and improving access for people with mobility and sensory needs (E1). Looking ahead, the completion of Year 1 tasks is essential to enabling Year 2 activities to proceed effectively. Strengthening cross-sector collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of access considerations into other strategic plans will be key to accelerating delivery and achieving the vision of a more accessible and connected Broads National Park.

Author: Dan Hoare

Date of report: 19 May 2025

[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 - Land Based Objectives:

No.	Land Based Objectives	Action	Year 1 update
L1	Develop a Communications Plan to ensure equality, diversity, and inclusivity in land access provision around the Broads.	Devise and implement communications plan. Thinking particularly about how to break down social, cultural and age barriers.	Initial meeting held. Scope and timescale for production of the plan to be defined
L2	Review the Broads Authority role in Public Rights of Way (PRoW) maintenance.	Carry out review of PRoW maintenance by the Authority.	NCC PRoW cutting locations is available on the NCC Highways webpages Norfolk Highways and Public Rights of Way . Review of Broads Authority path maintenance deferred to Q3 2025/26
L3	Identify priority sites for new and improved access provision.	With partners identify priority sites.	Consultation during the Broads LCWIP development has been completed.
		Consult with stakeholders about what site improvements could take place.	Report expected to be completed in Q2 2025/26 Paths at Hoveton Riverside Park and to the permissive path to Acle Bridge from Acle village have been resurfaced, widened upgraded to remove width restrictions.
L4	Consult with users regarding priority locations for the development and promotion of access hubs and facility improvements.	Consultation on location of access hubs / development of hubs / definition of hubs.	Scope of Broads LCWIP has been revised so this detail on specific projects has been curtailed.

L5	Work with local authorities and transport providers, to promote use and enhancement of the travel around the Broads.	Contact local authorities and transport providers to seek opportunities to work in partnership.	Broads Recreation & Tourism Strategy 2024-29 produced. See Objective 2 therein. Work is progressing through the Suffolk and Norfolk Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for the Broads to be featured in a future railway marketing campaign
L6	Carry out feasibility study of installing electric charging points for cars and cycles at Broads Authority sites.	Review local electricity grid capacity at Broads Authority sites with parking facilities.	Cycle Pod e-bike charging points installed at Carlton Marshes. Two more sites planned by June 2025. BMW “Recharge in Nature” sponsorship has been used to install electric vehicle chargers at NWT Pleasureboat Inn.
L7	Look at what Open Access land is available for increased access opportunities.	Review Broads Authority’s role and duties with regards to Open Access land.	Review required. Initial consultations suggested land in the Broads meets the required access standards. Some access limitations exist due to isolated land parcels and presence of protected species.
L8	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.	Discuss strategies with NLAF and BLAF.	Requires completion of the Broads LCWIP report. Reciprocal reports between BLAF and NLAF on delivery progress to be arranged in Q4 2025/26 by NCC and Broads Authority officers.

Appendix 2 - Land to Water Objectives:

No.	Land to Water Objectives	Action	Year 1 update
LW1	Develop a Communications plan for land-to-water access on the Broads.	Devise and implement communications plan. Thinking particularly about how to break down social, cultural and age barriers.	Initial meeting held. Scope and timescale for production of the plan to be defined

LW2	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.	Utilise Active Exchange data system.	Data set on Active Exchange analysed and reported
		Use data to create a prioritisation matrix.	Ranked list of Broads waterways management units, based on relative mobile phone activity has been completed
LW3	Continue to work at multi-use hubs with access to water identified around the Broads.	Identify hubs with access to water.	LCWIP activity and reporting to be completed
		Work with local stakeholders for improvements.	Stakeholders identified through LCWIP and Paddle UK
LW4	Update and disseminate open water swimming advice and guidance.	With help from Rangers monitor swimming activity.	System set up for Rangers to record spatial information about outdoor swimming activity
		Work with partners and local water safety forum to communicate safety messaging.	Following discussions with River Waveney Trust and other swimming groups about safety protocols and messaging the Broads Authority webpage was updated
		Report to BLAF	Updated webpage is here Outdoor swimming
LW5	Develop a web-based zoomable/scrollable map of access facilities in the Broads.	Improve map provisions and usability for Broads users.	Static information available here Moorings ; Interactive maps for slipways and canoe launch points is here Slipways and launching points . Annual review of the information is due. Interactive map for 24 hour moorings is in development
LW6	Carry out a review with stakeholders to understand the issues and barriers to sailing in the Broads.	Work with sailing clubs to carry out a review.	No progress
LW7	Promote and enhance opportunities for launch of small vessels and paddlecraft where vehicle access or parking is possible.	Identify sites with the help of Rangers and local stakeholders.	Co-operation with Paddle UK established to ensure consistent information is available between their online information and the Broads Authority. Interactive maps for slipways and canoe launch points is here Slipways and launching points . Parking information to be added by end Q4 2025/26.

		Maintain existing access points.	Broads Authority managed canoe platform at Hoveton Riverside Park temporarily closed but will be replaced by March 2026.
LW8	Maintain and promote the Broads Authority managed angling pads/ platforms.	Maintain existing platforms.	Broads Authority managed angling platforms are checked and inspected regularly.
		Work with Broads Authority Communications team to promote.	Locations are mapped in Broadcaster and on website Angling . Annual review of the information is due.
		Work with local stakeholders to promote.	No progress
LW9	Promote and enhance opportunities for paddlecraft routes/trails.	Using study of craft transportation sites identify where craft can be launched. What are the facilities at these sites?	Co-operation with Paddle UK established to ensure consistent information is available Paddling Trails Inspiring UK canoe trails, kayak trails and SUP trails . Annual review of the information is due.
LW10	Review of access provision at Mutford Lock and adjacent Authority owned land.	Carry out feasibility study of access improvements at Mutford lock.	No progress. Not prioritised in 2025/26
LW11	Review access to slipways across the Broads to ensure long-term usage.	Action for Yr 2+	Action for Q3 2025/26
LW12	Review the accessibility arrangements for public boat trips.	Action for Yr 2+	Action for Q3 2025/26

Appendix 3 - Mooring and Demasting Provision Objectives:

No.	Mooring and Demasting Objectives	Action	Year 1 update
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M1	Report annually on total mooring length managed by the Broads Authority compared to agreed baseline.	Agree a baseline that reflects capacity where needed and report.	Review of all mooring boundaries and ground-truthing completed. Information recorded on GIS; Final updating on Broads Authority website required; Reporting alongside Objective M3 is required.
M2	Review policy regarding DP16 moorings. Improve communications to public regarding DP16 moorings.	Review maps of DP16 moorings thinking about usage and accessibility.	No progress
M3	Identify locations for new short-stay moorings in gaps identified by gap analysis.	Cost up what it would take to fill all the gaps in gap analysis.	No progress
		Agree a process for new mooring locations.	Decisions currently made on a case by case basis
M4	Review de-masting provision in the Broads and develop a prioritisation methodology to guide future investment in new provision.	Review de-masting provision.	No progress
		Identify points needing improvement.	No progress
M5	Review ancillary services provision at 24-hour moorings.	Review of water and electric hook ups at Broads Authority moorings.	No progress
M6	Identify the highest priority modification for accessibility at 24-hour moorings.	Consult on where access issues are having a negative impact on user enjoyment.	No progress. No immediate or significant issues have been raised directly.
M7	Review lease fees and assess on a case by case basis.	Review lease fees.	Asset Officer works in accordance with existing policy
M8	Feasibility study of different mooring design options and consult.	Feasibility study and consultation.	Report presented to Navigation Committee on alternative mooring design options https://www.broads-

			authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/525360/Future-proofing-Broads-Authority-public-moorings.pdf . Project to replace steel quay heading with pontoons Deep Dyke, Deep Go Dyke and Whiteslea 24 hour moorings planned for Q1 2026/27
M9	Work on a zoomable/ scrollable map of Broads Authority Waterways facilities which include moorings.	Improve map provisions, include moorings.	In development.
M10	Review every 3 years double alongside and stern-on mooring provision in appropriate locations.	Action for Yr 2+	To be carried out by Ranger Team in 2025/26
M11	Identify if there are popular moorings which need to become staffed.	Action for Yr 2+	Reedham, Ranworth Staithe, Norwich Yacht Station and Great Yarmouth Yacht Station are the current moorings staffed by Quay Rangers

Broads Local Access Forum

04 June 2025

Agenda item number 6

Broads Local Access Forum meeting dates

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

A proposal to change the frequency of BLAF meetings from four to two. This is as a response to Defra's cut in National Park Grant effective in 2025/26 and on-going.

Recommendation

BLAF moves to having two meetings a year, one of which will be the AGM.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is proposed that the Forum moves from having four meetings a year to having two meetings a year. The next meeting will be the AGM in November. In 2026/27, a meeting in May/June 2026 would put the BLAF meetings into an approximate six-monthly cycle.
- 1.2. Recruitment will take place annually in March/April, as it has for the past few years, so that new members experience a meeting of the Forum before they attend an AGM.

2. Constitution and Governance

- 2.1. Section 2.4 of the constitution states that "the Forum will meet at least twice a year and aim to meet four times in the year." Decreasing to two meetings per year will mean that the Forum is still within the constitution. It is also compliant with [The Local Access Forums \(England\) Regulations 2007](#).
- 2.2. Reduction in meetings will be effective from the originally planned September 2025 meeting, which has been cancelled.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. Moving to two meetings a year will have some positive financial implications as it will save Broads Authority Officer time and expenses for hall hire and travel.

4. Risk implications

- 4.1. There is the risk that topics will not have the same traction when the Forum meets two times a year, although there is the option to have additional meetings should a

pressing issue become apparent, or to have member-led break-out group meetings or site visits, outside of the formal BLAF meeting schedule.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. If the meetings change from four to two the Forum will still be within the parameters of the constitution and would save time and officer expense. The option to add additional meetings if deemed necessary would remain.

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