

Lake Review Project
Report by Senior Ecologist

Summary: The Broads Authority takes account of scientific evidence in decision making. To support this, the Authority, working with Natural England has commissioned a comprehensive 40 years review of lake ecological data. Once the work is complete a full report of the Lake Review Project will be provided to Broads Forum and Broads Authority. This report outlines progress of the Lake Review Project for Broads Forum members to note.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A Lake Review is being managed by the Senior Ecologist and funded by Broads Authority and Natural England and undertaken by Stirling University, University College London, Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, ECON Ecological Consultancy and Dr Geoff Phillips. The project aims to provide an overview of lake restoration and management in the Broads based on monitoring and work over the last 40 years, and to identify the most useful management approaches, constraints on their effectiveness and the most promising avenues for future management.
- 1.2 Dossiers for each of the main broads will include details on current status, palaeolimnology (past ecological record), water and sediment chemistry, water plants, fish and water birds. The Broads Authority Review of Management (2013) and Lake Restoration Strategy (2008) will be used to comment on options for further management. Enhanced reviews for Hickling, Hoveton Great Broad and Decoy will draw upon additional published research for these or comparable sites, results of recently commissioned sediment sampling, and using evidence from the overall analysis to fill data gaps for these sites.

2 Next Steps

- 2.1 The second step of the project is the overall analysis of ecological, environmental and management interactions. This work will highlight the relative benefits of different types or scenarios of management and will identify sites where particular types of management are likely to prove most effective.

- 2.2 Reviews will support future lake restoration projects, which includes a proposed HLF & LIFE project for Hoveton Great Broad led by Natural England in partnership with the landowner and Environment Agency and consideration of options for Hickling Broad.
- 2.3 The Senior Ecologist will provide a full report to the Broads Forum following the completion of the Lake Review Project in the summer.

Background papers: None

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Broads Plan Objectives: BD3, BD4

Appendices: None