

The Broads

*"A breathing space for the
cure of souls"*

Ted Ellis





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Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Edited by Lesley Marsden
Designed by Norwich City Council

December 2016



The Broads

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Contents

Introduction	6
Section 1- Evolution and history	7
Section 2 - Landscape types	45
Section 3 - Landscape character areas	81
Section 4 - References, bibliography and acknowledgements	228

Section 1 Evolution and History

1.1 Introduction - evolution and history of the Broads landscape	8
1.2 How the Broads landscape has been shaped over many thousands of years	10
1.3 The Human Dimension	26

Section 2 Landscape Types

2.1 The Landscape Types of the Broads	45
1. Tidal estuary	46
2. Rivers, ronds and floodbanks	48
3. Coastal dunes	51
4. Estuarine marshland	54
5. Peat "Fen" areas	59
6. Upper river valley "marshlands"	62
7. Broads	64
8. Carr Woodland	67
9. Heathland	69
10. Settled Broads	70
11. Settlement fringe	74
12. Industrial and post industrial – disturbed or made up ground	76
13. Uplands	78



Section 3 Landscape Character Areas

3.1 The Landscape Character Areas of the Broads	81		
1. Waveney - Outney Common and Bath Hills Area	82	15. Yare - Cantley to Reedham	148
2. Waveney - East of A143 Bungay/Ditchingham to Shipmeadow/Geldeston	86	16. Yare - Norton Marshes to Haddiscoe Dismantled Railway	152
3. Waveney Barsham, Gillingham and Beccles Marshes	90	17. Chet Valley	156
4. Waveney - Aldeby to Burgh St Peter	94	18. Haddiscoe Island	160
5. Waveney - Worlingham Wall to Boundary Dyke, Barnby	98	19. Halvergate Marshes	164
6. Waveney - Boundary Dyke, Barnby to The Fleet, Oulton	102	20. Yare - Breydon Water	170
7. Waveney - Burgh St Peter to Haddiscoe Dismantled Railway	108	21. Yare - Burgh Castle Marshes	174
8. Waveney - Blundeston/Flixton to Herringfleet Marshes	112	22. Bure Valley - upstream of Wroxham Railway Bridge	178
9. Waveney - St Olaves to Burgh Castle	116	23. Bure Valley - downstream Wroxham to Fleet Dyke, South Walsham	184
10. Yare - Whitlingham Lane and Country Park	122	24. Bure - South Walsham to Acle Marshes and Fens	190
11. Yare - Cary's Meadow to Postwick Grove/Whitlingham Marsh	126	25. Fleggburgh to Bure Loop Arable Marshlands	196
12. Yare Valley - Kirby/Postwick to Rockland/Strumpsham River Yare	132	26. Muck Fleet Valley - The Trinity Broads	200
13. Yare - Claxton to Hardley Marshes	138	27. Ant Valley - Upsteam Wayford Bridge	204
14. Yare - Buckenham and Cantley Marshes	144	28. Ant Valley - Wayford Bridge to Turf Fen	208
		29. Ant/Bure - Ludham, Horning and Neatishead Marshes	214
		30. Upper Thurne Open Marsh, Broads and Fen	218
		31. Thurne and Bure East Marshes	224

Section 4 References, Bibliography & Acknowledgements

4.1 References & bibliography	228
4.2 Acknowledgements	231

Introduction

The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads are a nationally unique mosaic of gentle landform, habitats, lakes and rivers. Much of the area forms the flood plains of the main rivers of the Bure, Yare and Waveney with their associated tributaries. Those people who live, work and visit the Broads will know that the area exhibits markedly different landscape characteristics throughout the 303 square kilometres that the area covers.

This document is in two parts. The first section summarises those physical processes which have shaped and moulded the landscape for humans to ultimately manipulate and exploit to create the landscape we see today.

The second part analyses the current Broads landscape, setting out the key landscape features and elements throughout the area which gives an area its unique sense of place. This analysis has used a process called Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). LCA is simply an accepted method of identifying and describing variation in **character of the landscape**. 31 individual character areas have been identified in the Broads through this process.

The document also describes a series of **landscape types** of which there are 13 within the Broads. Landscape types are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are **generic** in nature in that they may occur in different areas, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern.

In undertaking the assessment process we have sought to reflect the relationship between people and place, and the part it plays in forming the setting to our everyday lives. The Broads landscape, as with any other landscape, is a product of the interaction of the natural and cultural components of our environment, and how they are understood and experienced by people.

The process of LCA follows a well-established process developed over many years. By setting down a robust, auditable and transparent baseline LCA not only helps us to understand our landscapes, it also assists in informing judgements and decisions concerning the management of change.

The original landscape character assessment was completed in 2006, was subsequently added to in 2012 and updated and edited in 2016 as part of a second stage Heritage Lottery bid.

Many individuals have made contributions to this document. Full details of the individual credits, sources of information and useful websites can be found in Section 4.



Image - Broads Authority

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Websites and publications

General

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<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

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Broadland Memories

<http://www.broadlandmemories.co.uk/>

Broads Authority Conservation Area

Appraisals (built environment)

<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/Other-planning-issues/conservation-areas>

Broads Authority Conservation publications

<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publications-and-reports/conservation-publications-and-reports>

Broads Authority Journey Through the Broads

<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/about-the-broads/journey>

East Anglian Film archives

<http://www.eafa.org.uk/>

Enjoy the Broads

<http://www.enjoythebroads.com/area>

Historic England

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Geology/Soils

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The Geological Society of Norfolk

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Wildlife and Conservation

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Drainage Mills

Norfolk Mills

www.norfolk Mills.co.uk

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Infrastructure

Canal Routes

www.canalroutes.net/Waveney-River.html

Art/Literature

Literary Norfolk

<http://www.literarynorfolk.co.uk/>

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Acknowledgements

The Water, Mills and Marshes: the Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations for their contribution to the contents of this publication.

Text

Alison Yardy - Acting Senior Historic Environment Officer (Records) Norfolk County Council

Tim Holt-Wilson – Geologist

Professor Tom Williamson – University of East Anglia

Lesley Marsden – Landscape Architect Norwich City Council

Norfolk Archaeological Trust

Land Use Consultants

Layout and Artwork

Karen Sayer – Broads Authority

David Bygrave - Norwich City Council

Sally Barratt – Norwich City Council

Photographs

A special thanks to all those photographers (marked with an asterisk *) who have posted their images to the website: [Geograph http://www.geograph.org.uk/](http://www.geograph.org.uk/)

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 Adrian Hodge*
 Adrian S Pye*
 Alison Allen*
 Alison Yardy
 Ashley Dace*
 Ben Hogg
 Bob Crook*
 Brendan Joyce
 Broads Authority
 Broadland Memories
 Broadland Flood Alleviation Scheme
 Chris McAuley*
 Christine Johnstone*
 Christine Matthews*
 Christobal Palma
 Colin Park*
 Craig Tuck*
 Dave H*
 David Medcalf*
 Don Cload*
 Evelyn Simak*
 Gareth Hughes*
 Glen Denny*
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 Jackie Dent
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 John Salmon*
 Julian Claxton

Katy Walters*
 Keith Evans*
 Kevin Lloyd*
 Lesley Marsden
 Linda Bailey*
 Maigheach Gheal*
 Matthew Chadwick*
 Mike Flaherty
 Mike Page
 N Chadwick*
 Nick Smith*
 Nigel Thompson*
 Norfolk Archaeological Trust
 Norfolk Wildlife Trust
 Norwich Fringe Project
 Peter Tarleton*
 Peter Trimming*
 P.H.Emerson
 Phil Champion*
 Pierre Terre*
 Renata Edge*
 Richard Humphrey*
 Richard Osbourne*
 Rob Driscoll
 Rob Walker*
 Rod Allday*
 Rodney Burton*
 Roger Jones*
 Shorebase
 Simon Finlay
 Stacey Harris*
 Stephanie Anderson
 Stephen Mckay*
 Steve Daniels*
 Suffolk Wildlife Trust
 Suse*
 Tim Heaton*
 Tom Barrett
 Waveney Rush Company
 Whitlingham Charitable Trust



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