

Broads Authority

26 July 2019

Agenda item number 13

Broads Integrated Access Strategy and 3-year action plans - for adoption

Report by Director of Operations

Summary

The Broads Integrated Access Strategy and 3-year action plans have been updated following consultation with members, Navigation Committee and stakeholders.

Recommendation

To adopt the Broads Integrated Access Strategy and Action Plans 2019-2021.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The long-term aim for access in the Broads Plan is that 'Physical access on land and between land and water is managed sensitively to maximise the social, educational and health benefits of open space to all, while ensuring the resource itself is not degraded. Where possible, improvements have been made to the network, connectivity and use of access routes, linked to visitor destination points and sustainable transport.'
- 1.2. The Authority adopted its first Integrated Access Strategy in 2013. The strategy has been reviewed through consultation with stakeholders including the Broads Local Access Forum and interest groups at the Broads Engage stakeholder workshop in November 2018. The draft revised strategy was considered by the Broads Authority on 17 May 2019 and by the Navigation Committee on 13 June 2019.

2. Strategy and 3-year action plans

- 2.1 The objectives in the revised strategy are:
 - 1) To improve links between land and water and to the water's edge
 - 2) To improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points
 - 3) To improve access for all in the Broads

- 4) To encourage sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking, cycling and non-powered boating, and improve links between public transport provision, visitor destination points and access routes
 - 5) To deliver the River Wensum Strategy through the River Wensum Strategy Partnership
 - 6) To encourage provision of access routes that relieve visitor pressure on internationally designated sites, avoid disturbance of protected species and help to accommodate growth
 - 7) To provide appropriate information on access and interpretation about recreational sites
- 2.1. Outline 3-year action plans for moorings and land-based access are in Appendices 2 and 3. More detailed action plans will be developed on an annual basis to take account of change, project and funding opportunities and ongoing consultation.
 - 2.2. The Authority is currently recruiting for a Waterways and Recreation Officer to lead the implementation of the Integrated Access Strategy, working with stakeholders and Authority staff to develop project proposals and implement work programmes.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. The Broads Authority is not able to lead on all the potential access improvements identified in the action plan, and strong collaboration and partnership working between agencies, land owners, local communities and other key stakeholders is essential. In particular, the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan and Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan will provide key opportunities for joint working with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

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Date of report: 17 July 2019

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 6.1

Appendix 1 – [Draft Integrated Access Strategy for the Broads](#)

Appendix 2 – IAS Moorings Action Plan 2019-2021

Appendix 3 – IAS Land-based Access Action Plan 2019-2021

Appendix 4 – [Report to Broads Authority on 17 May 2019](#)

Appendix 2

Integrated Access Strategy - moorings action plan 2019-21

This action plan was informed by stakeholder input from the Broads Engage Workshop in November 2018, discussions at Broads Authority/NSBA/BHBF liaison meetings and the recommendations of a Broads Authority officer working group.

Priority areas for mooring provision in the next 3 years are identified as:

1. Waveney between St Olaves and Breydon Water - 24-hour moorings/safety moorings
2. Breydon Water/ Breydon Bridge - Review of safety moorings at bridges required
3. Middle Bure – South Walsham/Upton Marshes/Thurne Mouth and Oby Marshes - 24-hour mooring
4. Waveney between Burgh St Peter and Blundeston Marshes - 24-hour mooring
5. Upper Thurne between Hickling and Martham - 24-hour mooring
6. Ludham Bridge - Demasting moorings
7. Norwich in area of riverside - short stay mooring for access to shops and demasting moorings at Trowse Railway Bridge

No	Location	Mooring type/proposal	Year	Justification
1	Lower Waveney/Burgh Castle	Investigate possibility of providing a 24-hour mooring on the lower Waveney/Burgh Castle on piled edge if a suitable site can be identified. Also consider viability of pontoon moorings.	2019/20	High number of requests from boaters, NSBA, BHBF. Also raised at Broads Engage access workshop. BA has stated the site is a priority. Scores highly in IAS terms as a site here would provide access for boaters to the Angles Way.
2	Breydon Water	Review layby pontoon mooring provision in lower Breydon at Breydon Bridge.	2019/20	Request for additional pontoon or dolphin safety moorings x 2 in area of Breydon Bridge by NSBA through liaison meeting. Also raised at Broads Engage access workshop.
3	Ludham Bridge	Investigate possibility of providing demasting moorings with EA/other landowners	2019/20	High number of requests from boaters, NSBA, BHBF. Also raised at Broads Engage access workshop.

No	Location	Mooring type/proposal	Year	Justification
4	Norwich	Work with Norwich City Council and Norwich City Football Club to provide moorings required under Section 106 agreement immediately upstream of Trowse Railway Bridge	2019/20	High number of requests from boaters. Identified in adopted River Wensum Strategy. Norwich City Football Club required to provide moorings under Section 106 agreement with Norwich City Council/Norfolk County Council
5	Middle Bure - Upton/South Walsham Marshes/Oby	Investigate possibility of providing a 24-hour mooring on piled edge if a suitable site can be found.	2020	High number of requests from boaters, NSBA/BHBF. Also raised at Broads Engage access workshop. Scores highly in IAS terms as the true right bank provides access to the Weavers Way and the true left bank provides access to the NWT Upton Marshes Reserve.
6	Waveney upstream of Somerleyton	Trial provision of dolphin type mooring with no land access.	2020	Suggested at Broads Engage Access workshop as a means of providing additional moorings at low cost.
7	Norwich	Short Stay visitor mooring	2020/21	High number of requests from boaters. Also raised at Broads Engage access workshop. Identified in adopted River Wensum Strategy.
8	Peto's Marsh	Provide pontoon moorings at Peto's Marsh Carlton Colville (Oulton Dyke and Carlton Marshes River Waveney).	2021	Required under MoU between Broads Authority and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Also scores highly in IAS terms as the moorings will provide access to the SWT reserve/gateway to the Broads.

Appendix 3

Integrated Access Strategy – Land-based access action plan 2019-2021

Table 1

General access proposals

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
1	Broads	Identify key access hubs for provision of improved access facilities/infrastructure and establishment and promotion of circular routes	BA, NCC, SCC, Parish Councils, EA, Wildlife Trusts	Promotion of hubs suggestion raised at Broads Engage workshop and advocated by BLAF	2019
2	Broads	Audit access network to identify routes where barriers can be removed or minor works carried out to improve access for all.	BA, NCC, SCC, EA, Parish Councils	National Parks England reports on the length of access routes in parks that are barrier free "Miles without Stiles". Significant numbers of stiles and gates in the Broads are not required for stock control and are unauthorised structures.	2020/21
3	Broads	Identify and map priority routes for carrying out improvement works (surfacing, infrastructure, signage) to improve access for all. Prioritise routes from hubs.	BA, NCC, SCC, Parish Councils, EA, Wildlife Trusts	Prioritised by BLAF (George Saunders) and at Broads Engage workshop. NCC have also identified partnership working with BA in this area to be a priority.	2020
4	Broads	Develop partnership projects to carry out works required on routes identified in proposal 3.	BA, NCC, SCC, Parish Councils, EA, Wildlife Trusts	As above	2021

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
5	Broads	Identify potential new routes alongside rivers or providing views of rivers and Broads.	BA, NCC, SCC, Parish Councils, EA, Wildlife Trusts	Prioritised by BLAF and in Broads Plan/Broads Local Plan. Also raised at Broads Engage workshop.	2021
6	Broads	Identify gaps in network connectivity caused by loss of permissive paths after removal of access payments through HLS.	BA, NCC, SCC, Parish Councils, EA, Wildlife Trusts, Landowners	Raised at Broads Engage workshop and prioritised by BLAF. Also recognised as a priority in the NAIP.	2021
7	Broads	Audit access network to identify potential routes that would relieve visitor pressure on sensitive sites.	BA, NCC, SCC, Wildlife Trusts, NE, EA	Prioritised by BLAF/NCC	2020/21
8	Broads	Identify priority Bridleway creations/shared use routes for establishing circular horse-riding routes/routes that would allow riders to avoid dangerous road riding.	BA, NCC, SCC, PC's, BHS, Landowners		2020
9	Broads	Identify priority route creations for linking moorings to PRow/access network	BA, NCC, SCC, PC's	Prioritised by BLAF raised at Broads Engage workshop	2021
10	Broads	Encourage establishment of ferries/water taxi/river bus		Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop	ongoing

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
11	Broads	Investigate viability of all routes and projects suggested through Broads Engage workshop	BA, County Councils, District Councils, Parish Councils, Wildlife Trusts, EA, NE	BA undertook to do this during Broads Engage process.	2021
12	Broads	Encourage provision of key green infrastructure routes and SANGS to accommodate growth through GNIP including Broadland Way/Green Loop.	BA, NCC, SCC, District Councils	BA member of GNGB. Prioritised by BLAF	Ongoing

Table 2
River Ant and Thurne

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
1	Clayrack Marshes	Phase 1 'Access For All' path from How Hill Staithe to Skeleton Mill - resurfacing path in granite. Phase 2 Skeleton Mill to Boardman's Mill - also a priority but surfacing has not yet deteriorated to the extent that it needs replacing.	N/A	Previous trial mesh path intended to provide easy access failed. Popular site for people with mobility problems and Nancy Oldfield Trip Boat. Raised at Broads Engage workshop and identified as priority site to provide improved surfacing.	2019

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
2	Clayrack Marshes (Path established 2018. Waiting for transfer of bridge from EA before it can be opened.)	Open permissive Path from Boardman's Mill to Sharp Street once bridge works completed by EA. Install new signage. Install people counter to gather evidence of use levels.	N/A	Signage required to establish walking route from Sharp Street to Ludham Bridge. People counter needed to obtain evidence base showing likely levels of use if path extended to Irstead Holmes.	2019
3	Public Footpath, Ludham	Negotiate removal or replacement of gates which are in poor condition	BA, NCC	High priority path on promoted walk from How Hill to St Benet's Abbey.	2019
4	Catfield (Swim Coots) and Hickling Broad	Work with NWT to provide new access providing views of Hickling Broad	BA, NWT, NCC, Landowners	Raised by BLAF at meeting attended by NWT and at Broads Engage workshop.	2019/20
5	Potter Heigham	Negotiate public path creation to fill gap in public footpath true right bank River Thurne between Horsefen Bank and High's Mill.	BA, EA, NCC	Identified by BLAF as priority route creation.	2021
6	Barton	Seek to negotiate public right of way linking Fen Lane Barton to Moy's Mill. Consider signage advising walkers about sensitive birds in Fen.	BA, NCC, Landowner	Identified by BLAF as a priority route creation. Will also provide alternative circular walk to relieve numbers of walkers entering Barton Fen Open Access Land.	2020

Table 3

River Bure

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
1	Hoveton	Work with Parish Council/ Broads Charitable Trust/Roys to develop enhancement project for Hoveton Riverside Park	BA, PC, BCT, Roys	Raised at Broads Engage workshop. Identified by Broads Charitable Trust as potential funding project.	2021
2	Hoveton	Seek to create public right of way from Hoveton Viaduct Mooring to Station	BA, NCC, Landowners	Raised at Broad Engage workshop.	2019/20
3	Acle	Seek to improve access from Acle village to Acle Bridge and route connectivity in the Acle/Upton/Fishley/Damgate area to develop circular walk	BA, NCC, Parish Council	Raised at Broads Engage workshop. Identified by BLAF	2021
4	Horning/Potter Heigham	Work with NCC to seek funding for Phases 2 and 3 of the 3 Rivers Way	BA, NCC/3RW Assoc/Sustrans	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop. Priotitised by NCC in NAIP and in Cycling and Walking Action Plan	2021

Table 4

Rivers Yare and Chet

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
1	Hardley Flood	Work with NCC to carry out hydraulic modelling and feasibility study for reinstating Wherryman's Way on Hardley Flood bank of River Chet	BA, NCC, SNDC	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage. BA already working with NCC on feasibility.	2019/20
2	Halvergate/Freet horpe/Reedham	Work through Water, Mills and Marshes LPS to create bridleway links to form Mills Trail	BA, NCC, Parish Councils	Prioritised by BLAF. Identified project in Water, Mills and Marshes LPS. Raised at Broads Engage workshop	2019/20
3	Reedham	Encourage PC to re-establish prmissive path on Wherrymans Way	BA, NCC, Parish Council	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop	2019/20
4	Langley	Work with NCC to explore possibility of riverbank route for Wherryman's Way (Beauchamp Arms-Langley Dyke)	BA, NCC, Landowners	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop	2021
5	Bramerton to Surlingham	Work with NCC to improve Wherrymans Way from Bramerton Common to Surlingham Ferry	BA, NCC	Prioritised by BLAF. Route realignment required.	2020

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
6	Whitlingham	Work with Whitliham Charitable Trust to improve public canoe access to River Yare	BA, WCT	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage event.	2020/21
7	Whitlingham	Work with BASG/Whitlingham Charitable Trust to explore possibility of increasing angling access	BA, BASG, WCT	Prioritised in Broads Angling Strategy	2019/20

Table 5
River Waveney

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
1	Ellingham	Provide canoe launch on true right bank downstream of weir	BA, RWT, EA, Landowners	Prioritised by BLAF/Raised at Broads Engage workshop	2019/20
2	Geldeston Lock	Canoe launch location to be determined	BA, RWT, EA, Landowners	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop.	2020
3	Geldeston	Legally establish public right of way on old railway line.	BA, EA	Commitment from EA at time of flood defence compartment works.	2021
4	Beccles	Work with Beccles Town Council to improve easy access and signage on Beccles Marsh Trail	Beccles Town Council	Raised at Broad Engage workshop.	2021
5	Herringfleet	Negotiate permissive path from mooring to Smock Mill.	BA, Landowner	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop.	2019/20

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
6	Burgh Castle/Belton	Seek to establish access to Black Mill and Caldecott Mill through Water Mills and Marshes LPS	BA, NCC, Landowners	Raised at Broad Engage workshop. Identified as project in Water, Mills and Marshes LPS.	2019/20
7	Belton	Work with NCC to develop use of disused railway line to improve access to Belton Common Open Access land and links to Waveney Forest.	BA, NCC, Landowners	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop.	2021
8	Oulton Broad/Carlton Marshes	Work with SCC and SWT to create shared use route from Oulton Broad to Burgh St Peter Ferry crossing.	BA, SCC, SWT	Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop. Preliminary discussions BA/SCC/SWT have already taken place.	2021

Table 6
River Wensum

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
1	New Mills	Build canoe launches upstream and downstream of New Mills	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	BLAF/British Canoeing /Local Canoe Clubs/EA	2019
2	Marlpit Paddock	Encourage and facilitate provision of Canoe launch at Hellesdon through RWSP.	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Identified in adopted River Wensum Strategy action plan	2019/20

Ref	Location	Proposed access enhancement	Key partners	Justification	Target timescale
3	Duke's Palace Bridge/Blackfriars' Bridge Norwich	Missing link on riverside walk. Priority project in River Wensum Strategy.	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Identified in adopted River Wensum Strategy action plan and GNIP	2019
4	Norwich	Work through RWSP to formalise status of riverside walk through Norwich and improve access for all.	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Identified in adopted River Wensum Strategy Action Plan	2021
5	Norwich	Identify and promote formal angling areas in River Wensum Strategy project area.	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Identified in Broads Angling strategy supported by RWSP	2021