

Broads Local Access Forum

09 March 2022

Agenda item number 5

Water, Mills and Marshes update

Report by Ella Meecham – Water Mills and Marshes Project Officer

Summary

This report provides an update on countryside access related projects within Water, Mills and Marshes including the Broads Mills Trail project and the Improving Access Projects; Angles Way Feeder Paths and Waveney Marsh Observatories.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Water, Mills and Marshes (WMM) is a Broads Authority led and Heritage Lottery funded Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) in the Broads National Park, with a focus on connecting people and communities to the heritage in this landscape. One key aim of the project is to document and repair iconic drainage mills. The project also seeks to improve physical access within the area and to increase information and interpretation about the unique landscape and heritage to a wider audience with the creation and improvement of a network of routes using both new and existing rights of way within the national park. This will be delivered through the Broads Mills Trail Project and the improving access projects; Angles Way Feeder Paths and Waveney Marsh Observatories.

2. Broads Mills Trail

2.1. Project Overview:

The Broads Mills Trails project aims to create a network of routes across the Halvergate marshes – where possible at bridleway status – connecting arrival points with features that illustrate the heritage of the drained marshes.

The project aims to deliver:

- Coordinated signage allowing easy use of the routes by a range of people.
- Rationalisation and improvements to route ‘furniture’ to allow safe passage.
- Creation of legal agreements for use of links that facilitate the network.

Project Update:

- Funding obtained through Norfolk County Council Experience project to increase off season tourism. Currently undergoing a baselining phase including public

consultation through social media surveys and data collection through strategically placed people counters on the walk. Preparation for the delivery phase with installation of signage and furniture improvements this summer. Also looking at the possibility of improvements to field gates through FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) funding sources.

- In process to divert Freethorpe BR3 due to recurring incidences with cattle. Safety concerns with increased footfall. Proposal to change crossfield path to a safer route along the edge of the field avoiding cattle.
- Working to correct misalignment issue on Halvergate BR9 working with NCC Highways PROW team and Norfolk Trails to re-establish overgrown footpath.

3. Improving Access projects: Angles Way Feeder Paths and Waveney Marsh Observatories

3.1. Angles Way Feeder Paths

- This project will deliver improved access to and from the Angles Way and the river and marshland between Worlingham and Bungay at specific points. This will enable individuals and small groups to engage visually with the marsh landscape.
- Installation of signage on the Beccles to Geldeston Loop with appropriate repairs to rights of way where needed.

3.2. Waveney Marsh Observatories

- To build low level observation platforms to enable individuals and small groups to engage visually with the marsh landscape. This project will enable local residents and visitors to spend time engaging with and understanding the landscape. The project is linked to the proposed Angles Way Feeder Paths Project which will bring people to the observatories.
- All access observation platform to be built at Suffolk Wildlife Trust Carlton Marshes overlooking Peto's Marsh. Delivery in collaboration with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and work due to commence spring/summer 2022 subject to conditions on site (currently delayed due to flooding at the site).

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[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 5.1,6.1,8.2,9.1, 9.3