

Annual report

2024-25

October 2025

Broads Authority
Yare House
62-64 Thorpe Road
Norwich NR1 1RY

01603 610734

broads-authority.gov.uk

Chief Executive: John Packman

Contents

Challenges and solutions	3
Keep in touch	4
Get involved	4
Conserving and enhancing the Broads environment	5
Race against time	5
Emergency and recovery	6
Growing solutions	7
Keeping the Broads special	8
From waterside chalets to listed buildings	9
Volunteer and staff recognition	10
Understanding and enjoying the Broads	12
Safety first	12
Regeneration	13
Refurbishments and increased access	13
New moorings ahoy!	14
The only lock in the Broads	14
Starting young	15
Showtime	16
Landscape Connections	17
Revenue accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025	18

Challenges and solutions

We, like others, face many challenges – both familiar and new. But there are solutions, again a combination of building on previous experience but embarking on new ways of working too.

In July 2024 I was privileged to be elected Chairman of the Broads Authority by its members, following the end of Bill Dickson’s tenure during which so much was achieved. I think it’s fair to say that I started at a challenging time for the Authority, in the national and global context, which both bring their immediate local concerns, whether it’s making the utmost of available funding or finding innovative ways to tackle the threats of climate change and flooding.

The Broads Authority has two budgets, one funded through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for its National Park functions, and one funded through boat tolls for its navigation function. Both budgets have been under pressure in recent years and this continues.

At the end of the financial year 2024-25, Defra announced a cut of approximately 8% for the year 2025-26 to the budgets of all English National Parks. At the same time the Authority has continued to be confronted with the unwelcome need to increase boat tolls to meet the increasing cost of its navigation obligations. A 5.9% increase in boat tolls was agreed for 2025-26, on the basis that services would be slightly reduced. The necessary increase in boat tolls for 2023-24, which had been queried by the Broads Hire Boat Federation, was confirmed appropriate by the Department for Transport in spring 2025.

Some challenges such as the financial ones can seem familiar, while others take us further into new areas of global concern. However, the brief introductions here to some of our projects show that there are solutions, if not easy ones. Some are familiar and have been part of the Authority’s work programme for many years, while some involve technological innovation. The Authority has always worked in partnership and our forthcoming Landscape Connections bid really does show the potential for more to be achieved by working together. Projects are outlined in two sections in this report, but many of them span all areas of our responsibilities, another important strength.

Whether your interest is in finding out about what the Broads can offer you now, finding out about what you can do for the Broads, or understanding more about the position of the Broads in the wider environment, we hope that you will find this report of interest.

We also hope you have the chance to enjoy a visit to the Broads soon and we look forward to keeping in touch with you.

Harry Blathwayt

Chair, Broads Authority

Keep in touch

- For details about our projects please go to broads-authority.gov.uk or see our contact details on page 1.
- For regular updates on our work you can read Broads Briefing, our online newsletter. To subscribe, go to broads-authority.gov.uk/news/monthly-newsletter
- If you'd like regular news about places to visit and things to do, you can also sign up for our Visit the Broads National Park newsletter by going to VisitTheBroads.co.uk/newsletter

Get involved

- If you'd like to contribute your ideas, go to broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/broads-engage
- If you'd like to find out about volunteering go to broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/how-you-can-help/volunteering

Conserving and enhancing the Broads environment

Conserving and enhancing the Broads environment, both land and water, forms one part of the Broads Authority's remit. Here's a selection of project news from over the last year highlighting some of our work in these areas.

Race against time

The UK's National Parks became the first parks in the world to join the Race to Zero initiative, in July 2024, committing to drive action to halve carbon emissions within their landscapes by 2030 and become significant net carbon sinks by 2050.

National Parks will work with partners to transform an area of land almost four times the size of London into a haven for nature, through nature-friendly management across all 15 parks, as well as drive significant increases in the use of sustainable travel, renewable energy and sustainably produced food.

UK National Parks are committed to becoming beacons for a sustainable future, using their partnerships and convening powers to help meet the UK's climate change commitments while also supporting thriving rural communities, helping to restore lost biodiversity and improving food security.

A report published in July 2024 by Small World Consulting details the current carbon footprint of the UK's 15 National Parks and lays out an evidenced path to make the National Parks into net carbon sinks, going from collectively emitting around 11.5 million tonnes of harmful greenhouse gases per year, primarily from energy consumption, visitor travel and agriculture in 2022, to collectively soaking up around 3.5 million tonnes instead by 2050.

By supporting this path, the UK's National Parks will actively drive towards net zero landscapes by around 2040, meeting the central ambition of the Race to Zero initiative (global net zero emissions by 2050) a decade early, and becoming significant sources of carbon capture after that point.

The Broads Authority's work towards achieving net zero spans its entire operations, from decarbonising its works programme, to helping local farmers to reduce carbon emissions from peat soils and working with local authority partners. While working towards net zero, we are also working to actively manage the impacts of climate change within the Broads area through the Broadland Futures Initiative partnership.

In 2019, the Authority pledged to make its own operations carbon neutral by 2030 and to aim for a zero-carbon target by 2040. By the end of the financial year 2023-24, it had achieved a reduction in its Scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint of 60% compared to 2019. It is well on the way to achieving its goal of reducing its carbon emissions from all three scopes

by half by the year 2030. We work on many partnership projects with farmers, landowners, local and district councils, the tourism industry and the wider public to reduce carbon emissions.

For full details on all the National Parks read the Small World Consulting report on our website.

broads-authority.gov.uk/news/broads-and-uk-national-parks-join-world-race-to-zero

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative

Emergency and recovery

In November 2024 the Broads Authority declared a biodiversity emergency. A quarter of the UK's rarest species live in the Broads, many of international importance, and we need to keep recovery moving forward, in the face of challenges from climate change, flooding and population growth. The good news is – nature can recover, given the right conditions. Forty years ago, poor water quality in the Broads meant we were at a tipping point. Thankfully, public, private and voluntary organisations all contributed in their own way and as a result, some of the wildlife in the Broads is thriving. However, over the same period many species have been lost and many more are under threat from climate change.

The Authority resolved to:

- Declare its recognition of the global biodiversity emergency and the local impact this could have on Broads communities;
- Engage with a diverse range of partners: local authorities, environmental NGOs, farmers, the private sector and local communities, to drive collective action;
- Adopt the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy and seek to implement the 2024-2029 delivery plan towards biodiversity recovery in the Broads;
- Inspire behavioural change, through educational activities, by informing visitors and local communities to take active roles in conservation efforts;
- Support the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies in Norfolk and Suffolk; and
- Develop initiatives in partnership which achieve large-scale benefits, including:

Fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange;

Expanding networks to enable habitat restoration and connection;

Enhancing the Broads Authority estate to support native species;

Supporting nature-based solutions; and

Connecting with initiatives beyond the Broads to inspire conservation efforts elsewhere.

The Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29 is part of the Government's Nature Recovery Network, and combines with Norfolk and Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategies to prioritise and map action. It also describes what could be achieved by 2040.

The key to enhancing biodiversity in a changing climate is better management of water in the Broads and its catchment area – so that the land retains water in the floodplains during winter (without increasing flooding) to then be more available for nature in the summer months.

The strategy will be delivered through a series of key actions under four focuses:

- Water quality and quantity
- Habitats (wet grassland, fen, fen meadow, reedbed, woodland)
- Species
- Monitoring and research

You can read the Broads strategy and see its local and national context on our website at

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/biodiversity-and-nature-recovery

Growing solutions

The Broads Authority's paludiculture (or wet farming) partner projects continue to develop as a way to grow ourselves out of some of the global environmental threats. You can read about the background to FibreBroads and earlier peat projects on the Authority's website at

broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/projects

Our team working on peatland restoration and paludiculture have shared news of their work at conferences and webinars, reaching over 400 people first-hand. The Broads peat projects are funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and are supported by Natural England, the Association of Drainage Authorities, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water. Our partners in these projects are Cranfield University, Broadland Water Abstractors Group, the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Norwich University of the Arts, Hudson Architects and Wetland Projects.

With 24 peat cameras now installed in the Broads, we are tracking sub-millimetre peat movements to monitor areas for peat-water levels and surface shrinkage measurement. Our state-of-the-art water table modelling tools provide unparalleled assessments for lowland peatlands across the UK, and have been used to train 200 land managers and farmers. The modelling tools help farmers to make informed decisions that support both the race to zero

and nature recovery. For the first time, land managers can explore the potential effectiveness of different management practices aimed at raising water tables, enabling better-informed decision-making.

At Horsey we have successfully grown healthy wetland crops (reed and reedmace) and are filtering ochre from the water entering Horsey Mere. These crops have been harvested and we will be producing innovative construction materials, such as insulation or pressed board, in collaboration with our partners at Natural Building Systems near Ipswich.

Short films have been produced to present the work at the Horsey and Langley Abbey Estates, and at Chestnut Farm, and added to our YouTube channel.

The films explain the background to how scientists and farmers are working with us in the Broads National Park to tackle climate change by rewetting peat soils. The sustainable farming practices and innovative monitoring tools are shown in action at the three sites, where they are helping to raise water tables, reduce carbon emissions and restore vital ecosystems.

You can learn how peat cameras, water table models and wetland crops are being used to monitor peat health and explore new eco-friendly materials. This project aims to inspire a future of farming that is resilient to climate change, stores carbon and enables nature recovery in one of the UK's most important wetlands.

You can watch the films at youtube.com/watch?v=pPn17SAqb9I

Keeping the Broads special

The Broads Authority is the local planning authority for the Broads National Park, dealing with everything related to the Broads landscape, from the potential impacts of flooding affecting development proposals, to ensuring that home alterations are in keeping with the local environment.

The Broads Authority Design Guide and Code Supplementary Planning Document is an important new document, providing guidance on design at all levels. It is a government requirement for all local planning authorities to have a Design Guide and Code. Our document was adopted by the Authority at its meeting in March 2025. The Design Guide and Code is intended to reflect the local character of the Broads and local aspirations for development within the area. National guidance states that codes should be prescriptive in nature and state requirements that must be met.

The purpose of a Design Guide and Code is to provide clarity of design expectations at an early stage in the development process and to ensure that good design is considered at all scales, from development sites to individual properties. A Design Guide and Code reflects local character and design preferences and involves engagement with the community. The Authority undertook three rounds of public consultation and made visits to groups such as the Nancy Oldfield Trust, and also the Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) for Broadland District

Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council, to gain the views of young people. The Design Guide and Code focuses on the six most prevalent building types in the Broads: waterside chalets, waterside homes, boatyards, historic clusters of buildings, rural homes and farmsteads.

We have also participated in YABs as part of public consultation in relation to the overall planning policy document, the Local Plan for the Broads. In the Broads we have a great example of how early interest gained through participating in YABs can make a big difference to the individuals and organisations involved. Our Assistant Planning Officer was part of a YAB back in his teenage years. Now he's participating in YABs as a member of Broads Authority staff, together with other planning and education staff.

At a more local level neighbourhood plans provide further guidance, establishing policies for the development and use of land, such as where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like. They focus on developing what's good from the present and planning for the future, making the most of communities and helping them to thrive.

During the period of this report neighbourhood plans were adopted by the Broads Authority as follows:

- Chet (covering Loddon and Chedgrave), January 2025
- Trowse-with-Newton, January 2025
- Reedham, November 2024
- Thorpe St Andrew, July 2024
- Belton-with-Browston, Burgh Castle and Fritton-with-St Olaves, May 2024

Read more about these items at broads-authority.gov.uk/planning

From waterside chalets to listed buildings

The Broads has some buildings whose wider significance has only become apparent in recent years. There are many listed buildings, protected for their special architectural or historic interest, but there are many more buildings that contribute to local character through their appearance or historical associations. The Broads Authority records these in a Local List of Heritage Assets.

In autumn 2024 the Authority was delighted that a number of buildings on the local list were given listed building status by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on the advice of Historic England. The newly-listed buildings are among those often known as waterside chalets, and even their name suggests that their longevity and significance, beyond the personal, was not foreseen. They were mostly built in the first decades of the 20th century, as part of the growing development of the Broads for tourism and leisure. If you know the Broads you may well know them. They are often very distinctive, with

whimsical design elements, adding to their appeal. Here are some of those that have been listed.

Dutch Tutch began life as a helter-skelter at the end of the Britannia Pier in Great Yarmouth. In 1909 the pier caught fire and the remains of the helter-skelter were transported to Potter Heigham. In 1910 the lower section was used to create a holiday cottage, while the top of the structure was used as an outbuilding.

Tower View was erected at Potter Heigham in the early 20th century. It was created using prefabricated materials produced by Boulton & Paul Limited, a Norwich-based company, which also created the huts for Scott's Antarctic expedition.

The Holt and its boathouse, Potter Heigham were also built in the early 20th century, for Mr W Boning, who had a furnishing business in Great Yarmouth. Much of the furniture still present in the Holt was originally from his shop. The Holt is probably also a Boulton & Paul prefabricated structure.

Staithecote at Wroxham was built in 1911 as a boathouse and was extended with residential accommodation above by 1913. The chalet is timber-framed with weatherboarded walls to the boathouse and a roof thatched with Norfolk reed, in the tradition of cottage orné (a rustic building of picturesque design).

Finally, and perhaps most significant of all, there's The Eel Sett near Potter Heigham. It's on the Weavers' Way, beside Candle Dyke, which leads to Hickling Broad. An eel sett was where eel catchers would put out their nets at night to catch eels, with a little hut for accommodation. The sett at Candle Dyke is thought to be the last in England. It dates from the early 20th century and was in commercial use until it was purchased by a trust in 1992.

You can read more at broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/other-planning-issues

Volunteer and staff recognition

If anyone demonstrates the power of individuals and volunteers in contributing to nature recovery, it's Kath Warner, who in June 2024 received the Saving Species Award, which is sponsored by the RSPB, at the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards. Kath was nominated by the Broads Authority. The award was in recognition of her exceptional dedication, over 1,375 hours, to surveying wildlife species in the Broads National Park, working with the Authority's ecology staff, and using her knowledge and skills to support new survey volunteers.

Kath started with us as a volunteer in February 1994, as a scrub-basher (clearing invasive plants). She began volunteer work with the ecology team in 2011 and her survey work started in the following year. Over the years she's seen our volunteer service evolve and grow. There are now about 120 active volunteers, working in all services – with rangers, with planning, education and visitor services staff, and working on conservation management and equipment maintenance.

Clearly not all volunteers are able contribute as many hours as Kath, but all contributions are very welcome. Volunteer action weeks took place at How Hill in September and October 2024. These offer 'taster' sessions for individual volunteers and also for groups from local organisations exploring corporate volunteering. Many thanks to all our volunteers for the fantastic support they give, enabling us to carry out projects that wouldn't be possible without them.

Another group we are extremely grateful to is our apprentices. A new group joined us in autumn 2024, three to work with our operations technicians and one to work with our rangers. Some previous apprentices have gone on to employment with the Broads Authority, including Emily Leonard, our Waterways Projects Officer. In February 2025 she was highly commended in the Green Impact Award category of the 2025 Apprenticeships Norfolk Awards. Her assessor said: "Everything Emily does demonstrates a keen awareness of the environment she works in." She brings "an enthusiasm and can-do approach to her work that is rare and wonderful."

broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/who-we-are

Understanding and enjoying the Broads

Promoting understanding and enjoyment of the Broads, both land and water, and protecting the interests of navigation, form the other two parts of the Broads Authority's remit. Here's a selection of project news from over the last year highlighting some of our work in these areas.

Safety first

The Port Marine Safety Code requires harbour authorities to base their policies, plans and procedures on a Formal Safety Assessment, and to maintain a Safety Management System to control the identified risks to a level as low as reasonably practicable. You can find the latest information at

broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/navigating-the-broads/safety/port-marine-safety-code/safety-monitoring

The Broads Authority continues to promote boat safety information and to find innovative ways to engage with the public on safety concerns.

Several ranger safety days were organised for August 2024. These are an opportunity for the public to meet the Authority's rangers, quay rangers and partners to find out about water safety and in particular the importance of wearing life jackets. Participants can also practise using throw lines, purchase carbon monoxide detectors, find out how to cross Breydon Water safely and ask any boating safety questions. The events took place at our 24-hour moorings at St Benet's Abbey and at our yacht stations at Reedham and Great Yarmouth.

Rangers also planned a new programme of their trips for the public on Breydon Water on board our Spirit of Breydon launch, for summer 2025, building on the experience of first running the trips in 2024. The trips highlight the potential dangers when crossing Breydon, familiarise visitors with it and go through all the procedures and practicalities for crossing it safely.

New safety advice was produced for Great Yarmouth Yacht Station in the form of cards to give to visitors. These alert visitors to the potential dangers at Great Yarmouth, with fast-flowing water, and stress the importance of wearing life jackets there, based on actual recent incidents when people weren't wearing life jackets.

We have also incorporated a new national water safety message – Don't Drink and Drown – into the boating information in our Broadcaster visitor magazine. Don't Drink and Drown is the Royal Life Saving Society UK's national campaign focused on reducing the number of substance-related drownings across the UK and Ireland.

broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/navigating-the-broads/boating-essentials

Regeneration

2024 marked the 75th anniversary of the start of UK National Parks, with the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and in summer 2024 the Broads Authority launched the Broads Recreation and Tourism Strategy 2024-29. It assesses the current situation and looks ahead, setting out actions to enhance, manage and promote recreation and sustainable tourism in the Broads, and looks at further development of sustainable tourism, attracting wider audiences and destination management. The actions will all contribute to the Authority's long-term aims in the Broads Plan, the key management plan for the Broads. The five-year action plan focuses on greening and valuing the Broads National Park, and making it a landscape for all.

- Greening the Broads will contribute in relation to reducing flood risk and climate change.
- Valuing the National Park will involve promoting its identity, encouraging environmentally responsible visitor behaviour, and creating and promoting appropriate activities with associated income generation.
- Making the Broads more welcoming to wider audiences (a landscape for all) will include providing more varied and better opportunities for those who have had little previous enjoyment of all that the Broads has to offer. A landscape for all will benefit physical and mental health; promote volunteering, training and learning; and provide information and interpretation, including events.

Encouraging environmentally responsible visiting, including responsible boating, will be addressed further through the Broads Authority's visitor magazine.

You can read the strategy at broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/strategy

Refurbishments and increased access

During the period of this report Broads Authority projects have contributed to increased access. There are examples here of projects that are increasing access for wheelchair users, walkers and cyclists.

The majority of the Hoveton Riverside Park refurbishment project was completed in time for the start of the 2025 visitor season, including replacing the perimeter sheet piling. Path improvements have been completed, so that paths are wider and more level, making them suitable for those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) provided funding through its Access for All programme, which is for physical and digital infrastructure improvements to make protected landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities, and from all socio-economic backgrounds.

At Acle refurbishment of the footpath between Acle and Acle Bridge was also completed in spring 2025, again with Access for All funding from Defra. The track is now 1.5m wide and provides much better access than previously.

From June to October 2024 the Authority carried out a public consultation as part of plans to develop a Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan for the Broads National Park, an initiative funded by the Department for Transport's Active Travel England National Parks Capability Fund. The objective of the consultation was to gather views from the community on potential improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure both to and within the Broads.

Consultations highlighted the need for better maintenance of existing routes, including vegetation management and surface improvements. Visitors would also like improved sustainable transport and better waymarking. Route audits are underway, focusing on railway and walking route connections, and we are developing a scheme of improvements for future funding opportunities. We are also exploring other forms of active travel such as horse riding and paddling.

activetravelengland.gov.uk

broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/strategy

New moorings ahoy!

New agreements with two landowners meant that the Broads Authority was also able to increase access to land and water by providing two new 24-hour free moorings for visitors, which opened for the start of the boating season in 2025.

The new moorings are at Aldeby Hall on the River Waveney between Beccles and Oulton Broad, and at Hardley Mill near Loddon on the River Yare (and also on the Wherryman's Way long-distance route). Both moorings are set in a peaceful, rural environment. At Hardley Mill there's an electric charging point and those mooring (as well as the general public) can visit the drainage mill, restored by Hardley Windmill Trust.

The usual programme of winter maintenance was also carried out at all the Authority's other moorings.

broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/facilities/moorings

hardleywindmilluk.org

The only lock in the Broads

First, some history: Mutford Lock was originally constructed in 1828 as part of a scheme to provide Lowestoft with a direct route to Norwich, avoiding the high tolls charged by Great Yarmouth at the time. The scheme included opening Lake Lothing to the North Sea to provide a harbour. The lock connected Lake Lothing with Oulton Broad, providing controlled navigational access on to the broad. Due to different tides in Lake Lothing and Oulton Broad,

the lock structure has an unusual bi-directional design. It has two pairs of opposing gates at each end to allow for high water levels on either side of the lock. The New Cut, connecting the River Waveney at St Olaves with the River Yare at Reedham (for onward travel to Norwich), opened in 1833. The route was not very successful commercially but has since become an asset for visitors, with the lock providing access for private boats between the North Sea at Lowestoft and the Broads.

Over the years almost every part of the lock has been repaired or replaced, with the gates last lifted out when they were replaced in the early 1990s. In the early part of 2025 one of the sluices on the gates (which control water flow) was repaired by the Broads Authority and a team of specialist contractors including a crane company, a dive team, a repair team and electricians. A team of Canal and River Trust lock specialists provided their guidance and expertise to help assist the project and the lock reopened in March 2025.

The works were extremely complex, with the size and weight of the structures. Each gate is 6m long by 4m wide, weighing approximately 7 tonnes each. A dive team secured the lifting strops to the gate underwater and it was then lifted out by a 150-tonne crane.

Divers inspected the lock wall, an area normally inaccessible as it is covered by the wooden gates. A resistograph (a device that measures the resistance of wood to detect decay, cracks, and cavities) was then used to analyse the condition of the timber and assess what repairs were needed. The gate was repaired and worn mechanical parts were replaced. Drone footage shows the final stages after the successfully repaired gate was lifted and secured back into its original location.

Mutford Lock is essentially a sea lock, with a different tidal cycle at each end, and its operation must be co-ordinated with the lifting of one or two bascule bridges to allow boats to pass through. The lock gates are a major control for the water level and flows on Oulton Broad and the separation of saline and fresh water.

[facebook.com/BroadsAuthority/videos/drone-footage-of-the-gate-at-mutford-lock-being-lifted-back-into-place/1319522629331396](https://www.facebook.com/BroadsAuthority/videos/drone-footage-of-the-gate-at-mutford-lock-being-lifted-back-into-place/1319522629331396)

Starting young

One of the wider audiences referred to in the Broads Recreation and Tourism Strategy (see above) is young people without easy access to places like the Broads. Generation Green 2, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, was a national initiative to address this. It stemmed from an aspiration in a 2019 Government report, to enable young people to have ‘A night under the stars’ – an overnight stay in protected landscapes. This translated into the first phase, Generation Green, co-ordinated by YHA (the Youth Hostels Association), which worked with young people living in England’s most socially disadvantaged areas, with the aim of connecting them to nature, many for the first time.

Fortunately, the Government funding continued and the second phase, Generation Green 2, ran until March 2025. In the Broads, Generation Green 2: ‘A night under the stars’, managed

by the Broads Authority's education staff, was able to build on experiences, activities and engagement gained with schools and partners during the first phase. The funding for the second phase delivered 300 discovery days, 60 nights under the stars and 300 residential visits for young people. Activities included days at Barton Turf Adventure Centre, where young people went pond dipping for dragonfly larvae, learnt about peatland soils by using peat corers, made charcoal, enjoyed boat trips, went on night walks with torches, tried geocaching and encountered wildlife from a canoe.

Generation Green 2 has again shown us how close encounters with wildlife cultivate a sense of care for nature and the Broads, and how a connection with nature improves mental and physical well-being. This in turn benefits protected landscapes for the future, by increasing their relevance to a wider audience, and the Authority is continuing with related projects.

On a similar theme, we again welcomed young people from local schools who were keen to spend their work experience week with us. Twenty-eight students participated over the year, working 135 days with rangers, operations technicians and other staff, including at the Royal Norfolk Show (see below), gaining a valuable insight into working life and learning about careers related to caring for the environment. Our education staff attend careers events at local schools during the year, which encourages interest in work placements.

yha.org.uk/generationgreen

broads-authority.gov.uk/learning/work-experience

Showtime

In June 2024 the Broads Authority once again participated in the Royal Norfolk Show, by far the biggest annual event that the Authority attends. Our Broads Village area included stands from Broads businesses such as Sutton Staithe Boatyard and public sector organisations such as Broads Beat. The voluntary sector was again well represented, with a very significant participation by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

Stands gave participants the opportunity to find out about visiting, discovering and caring for the Broads and keeping safe on the water. The Authority's activities included a new game based around extinct animals, and the opportunity to find out about biodiversity net gain and to participate in an Active Travel England consultation (see above). Our work on paludiculture (or wet farming) was also presented in a separate area of the show directly relevant to farmers and landowners.

There was a great response from the public and the show is always a welcome chance for staff from all areas of the Authority to work together. Volunteers play a big part too and for the 2024 show work experience students from local schools also made a big contribution to the success of the event, working alongside staff and volunteers.

For Broads Authority events for the public in 2025 go to:

broads-authority.eventbrite.com

Landscape Connections

Following completion of the Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme: Water, Mills & Marshes in 2023, the Broads Authority will be submitting an expression of interest in the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Landscape Connections initiative. This was agreed by members at the Authority's meeting in January 2025, together with the subsequent development of an initial bid ready for submission at the end of 2025. The bidding process is being managed by our Partnership and External Funding Manager.

The funding is open to those who care for or can partner with National Parks and National Landscapes in England and Wales, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Northern Ireland, and National Parks and other world-class landscapes in Scotland. Our bid is supported by the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape, which will make it a much stronger partnership to go forward for potential funding.

The aims of the Landscape Connections initiative are to improve biodiversity, increase public access to nature and strengthen these areas as vibrant, working landscapes. Key priorities include ensuring universal access to natural spaces, making landscapes more inclusive, delivering ambitious projects with measurable outcomes, supporting local communities and landowners, accelerating nature recovery, and fostering innovative partnerships. A successful initial bid would open a funded two-year development period to fully develop and write a project plan for the identified scheme area (the Broads Catchment), to be delivered over an eight-year period.

Landscape Connections projects should focus on putting landscapes into recovery while connecting people, heritage, nature and culture. The funding would allow us to work across the entirety of the Broads and beyond, including Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and the Broads Catchment area in Norfolk and Suffolk. There would be many partners, from government agencies such as Natural England to local organisations such as the Broads Society, and they would span many sectors, including the environment, culture, education, business and health.

Projects would be major contributors to the aims of many of our internal and partner strategies, including the Broadland Rivers Catchment Plan, Broadland Futures Initiative, Broads Nature Recovery Strategy, Integrated Access Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, Education Strategy, Recreation and Tourism Strategy, Volunteer Strategy and others.

heritagefund.org.uk/funding/strategic-initiatives/landscape-connections

Revenue accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

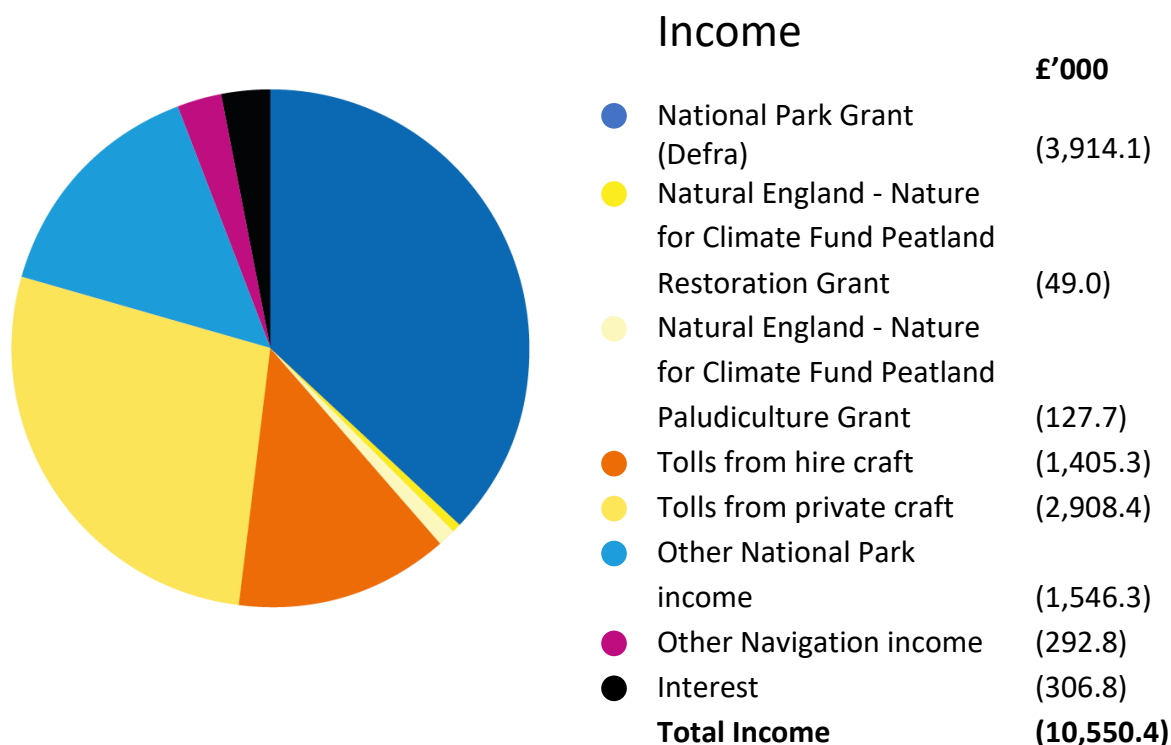
A summary of the Broads Authority's consolidated income and expenditure for 2024/25 is set out below.

National Park Grant is awarded to the Authority in recognition of the Authority's status equivalent to that of a national park. It is spent on matters relating to conservation, planning, recreation, and information and design. The level of revenue National Park Grant has remained static since 2019/20, although an additional £500,000 was received in 2024/25, equally split between revenue and capital.

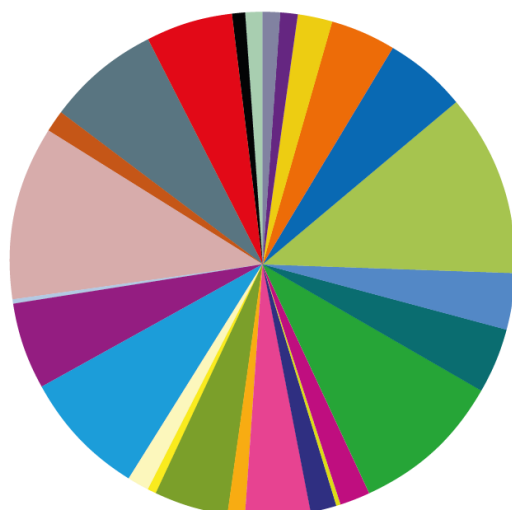
Navigation activity is self-financing from tolls paid by users of the Broads waterways.

Although the Broads Authority Act 2009 removed the statutory requirement to maintain separate general and navigation revenue accounts, there is still a requirement to prepare a report at the end of each financial year describing the navigation income received by the Authority and the navigation expenditure incurred during the year. A copy of this report is available on the Authority's website.

The Authority is required to prepare a full and detailed Statement of Accounts in accordance with guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These accounts will be scrutinised by the Authority's External Auditors and are made available for public inspection. The audit has not been completed for 2024/25 and the draft Statement of Accounts can be viewed on the Authority's website or can be obtained from the Director of Resources, Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY.



Expenditure



	£'000
● Asset management	127.5
● Biodiversity strategy	120.8
● Collection of tolls	219.9
● Communications (including education, events, design and interpretation, tourism and UK Communications Team)	435.8
● Development management	578.4
● Dredging	1,215.0
● Equipment, vehicles and vessels	370.5
● Fen and tree management	430.6
● Finance (including insurance and National Park Grant Capital items)	1,045.2
● Governance	198.6
● Heritage Lottery Fund - Landscape Partnership Delivery phase	34.9
● Human resources	166.9
● ICT	417.4
● Legal services	126.5
● Management and other costs	512.1
● Natural England - Nature for Climate Fund Peatland Restoration Grant	43.9
● Natural England - Nature for Climate Fund Peatland Paludiculture Grant	136.9
● Practical maintenance	849.9
● Premises and property management	586.0
● Projects	15.8
● Ranger services	1,187.6
● Safety	124.9
● Strategy (including strategy and projects, Broads Plan, cultural heritage, climate change and FiPL)	761.0
● Visitor services (including boat trips and yacht stations)	602.0
● Volunteers	62.2
● Waterways strategy	115.1
Total Expenditure	10,485.4
Contribution from reserves	(65.0)

