

**National Park of the Year**  
Report by Chief Executive

<b>Summary:</b>	The Broads has been shortlisted as National Park of the Year by the BBC's Countryfile Magazine.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Note the shortlisting of the Broads as National Park of the Year and the acknowledgement to the good work on habitat management.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Along with four National Parks the Broads has been shortlisted as National Park of the Year by the BBC's Countryfile Magazine. The citation reads:

*One of our newest national parks, with a distinct character - wide open skies, tranquility and water, water everywhere. The peat fens and wet woodland attract a wealth of wildlife, particularly rare wading birds.*

*Britain's largest protected wetland is a mysterious and marvellous landscape, with a quarter of the country's rarest wildlife.*

*Judge Fergus Collins says: "It's a very different landscape, which takes a different sort of management. It has a huge leisure industry, which they seem to be balancing with the wildlife and the natural landscape. It's under pressure with climate change and rising sea levels, so they've got a big job there to keep things going. But essentially some very good habitat management."*

*Judge John Craven says: "The people that I've met who are involved with the administration of the Broads are very passionate about it. Although there's a lot of pressure these days for development, they want to maintain the Broads as we all remember them. And they do a very good job."*

- 1.2 The results of the public vote are due to be announced on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The Eastern Daily Press has been particularly helpful in encouraging local people to vote for their national park. Whatever the outcome, it provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Authority and its partners on habitat management in line with one of the recommendations of the Peer Review Team.

Background papers: None  
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Appendices: None