

# Broads Local Access Forum

## Agenda 08 March 2023

10.00am

This is a remote meeting held under the Broads Authority's [Standing Orders on Procedure Rules for Remote Meetings](#).

**Participants:** You will be sent a link to join the meeting. The room will open at 9.45am and we request that you **log in by 9.45am** to allow us to check connections and other technical details.

**Members of the public:** Please email [BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk) with any queries about this meeting.

### Introduction

1. Apologies for absence and welcome
2. Declarations of interest
3. **To receive and confirm the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 30 November 2022 (Pages 5-13)**
4. **Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings- to note the schedule (Pages 14-16)**

### Items for discussion

5. **Proposal to renew the Dogs on Leads Public Space Protection Order for Herringfleet Hills**  
Update provided by Waterways and Recreation Officer
6. **Water quality monitoring**  
Written update provided by the Environment Agency
7. **Permissive access and ELMS**  
Update provided by Norfolk Local Access Forum
8. **Current access projects by the Broad Authority**  
Update provided by Waterways and Recreation Officer

### Other matters

9. Any other business
10. To note the date of the next meeting – **Wednesday June 7 2023** at 10.00am

# Broads Local Access Forum membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Linda Aspland	Quercus 229 Norwich Road Wroxham NR12 8SL	01603 951814	<a href="mailto:linda.aspland@icloud.com">linda.aspland@icloud.com</a>	Waterborne recreational users / Paddle sports
Richard Atkins	Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF	01508 538083	<a href="mailto:richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com">richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com</a>	Paddle sports/ Walking
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	<a href="mailto:keithbacon@keme.co.uk">keithbacon@keme.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:keithbacon@broadland.net">keithbacon@broadland.net</a>	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Louis Baugh	Neatishead Hall Neatishead NR12 8XX	07785 224589	<a href="mailto:lbaugh@netcom.co.uk">lbaugh@netcom.co.uk</a>	Landowners and managers
Katie Baxter	18 Keys Drive Wroxham Norwich NR12 8SS	07917 785282	<a href="mailto:info@gopaddle.co.uk">info@gopaddle.co.uk</a>	Paddle Sports/ Tourism and local business
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	<a href="mailto:Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk">Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk</a>	Broads Authority
Christine Cane	The Roundhouse 160 Tuttle Lane West Wymondham NR18 0JJ	01953 606019	<a href="mailto:christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk">christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk</a>	Equestrian riding and driving
Peter Dixon	The Smea Hickling NR12 0YL	078509 30486	<a href="mailto:Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com">Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com</a>	Waterborne recreational users
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	<a href="mailto:tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com">tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com</a>	Angling

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	<a href="mailto:tim@catfieldhall.co.uk">tim@catfieldhall.co.uk</a>	Nature conservation / Archaeology and landscape heritage
Alison Holden- Standley	Homestead Beach Road Sea Palling	01692 598609	<a href="mailto:AlisonStandley@gmail.com">AlisonStandley@gmail.com</a>	People with Disabilities/Access for all
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	<a href="mailto:peter.mason51@sky.com">peter.mason51@sky.com</a>	Walking/Tourism and local business
Steve Read	The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft NR32 3PL	07720 808715	<a href="mailto:stevereadcon@btinternet.com">stevereadcon@btinternet.com</a>	Walking/water borne recreational users
Martin Rendle	62 South Hill Road Norwich NR7 0NG	01603 339133	<a href="mailto:adventure@norfolkoutdoor.co.uk">adventure@norfolkoutdoor.co.uk</a>	Paddle sports/Tourism and local business
Paul Saunders	8 Heathside Road Norwich NR1 1TH	07557 018954	<a href="mailto:paulandrewsaunders@outlook.com">paulandrewsaunders@outlook.com</a>	Open Water Swimming
Michael Scott	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 610734	<a href="mailto:michaeldorf@hotmail.com">michaeldorf@hotmail.com</a>	Broads Authority
Richard Webb	9 Bek Close Norwich NR4 7NT	01603 505362	<a href="mailto:dickwebb@talktalk.net">dickwebb@talktalk.net</a>	Walking/sailing
Christopher Yardley	Thorpe Cloud Creake Road Burnham Thorpe PE31 8HW	01328 738705	<a href="mailto:Cj.yardley@tiscali.co.uk">Cj.yardley@tiscali.co.uk</a>	Waterborne recreational users/ nature conservation

**Kylie Moos – Broads Local Access Forum Secretary**  
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# Broads Local Access Forum

## Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2022

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## **Present**

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Linda Aspland, Richard Atkins, Harry Blathwayt, Christine Cane, Peter Dixon, Tony Gibbons, Tim Harris, Alison Holden-Standley, Steve Read, Chris Yardley.

## **In attendance**

Thomas Balfour – Anglian Water, Jason Beck – East Suffolk Council, Ken Hawkins – Norfolk Local Access Forum, Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Natasha Kenny – Anglian Water, Emily Linsdell – Anglian Water, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Martin Sullivan – Norfolk Local Access Forum, Grant Tuffs – Anglian Water, Andrew Walters – Waterways and Recreation Officer.

## **1. Appointment of Vice Chair**

The Forum agreed that the appointment of Vice Chair was not required at this time. If the Chair is unable to attend a future meeting than an interim Vice Chair will be appointed for the duration of the meeting. Nominations for a Vice Chair will be opened again at the 2023 AGM.

## **2. Apologies for absence and welcome**

**Apologies** received from Louis Baugh, Katie Baxter, Peter Mason, Paul Saunders

## **3. Declarations of interest**

Members indicated they had no further declarations of interest other than those already registered and set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

## **4. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 31 August 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **5. Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meeting**

There were no comments on the actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings.

### **Access to National Parks**

This week a local newspaper published an article which stated that there is a lack of public access to the Broads and other National Parks. The Chair commented, the nature of Open Access land often refers to moorlands in other National Parks, as the Broads does not contain moorlands it is an unfair comparison. The article has come from an analysis that the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) carried out. Dan Hoare suggested that CNP are invited to a future Forum meeting to describe the access opportunities in the Broads and the different way in which the land is owned and managed.

**Andrew Walters agreed to contact Dr Rose O'Neill from CNP and invite them to a future Broads Local Access Forum meeting.**

## **6. Safety of splash sports in the Broads: Anglian Water's responsibilities, challenges and future plans for water quality improvement**

Grant Tuff, Natasha Kenny, Tom Balfour and Emily Linsdell from Anglian Water presented Get River Positive, an initiative to improve river health and river quality with partners Severn Trent. Anglian Water is the largest water and water recycling company in England by geographic area and is the driest region in the UK with 2/3 of the national average rainfall each year.

### **Water Industry National Environment Plan**

- The environmental ambition of our current Business Plan is underpinned by the sector's largest Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP).
- £800m of investment and 1,200 schemes -contains 20 per cent of the total, national obligations.
- We've accelerated at pace, front loading the programme with £300 million of investment and 200 schemes fast-tracked through the government's Green Recovery Plan at no extra cost to customers.
- By the end of 2022, 88% of our programmes will be complete, and crucially we're delivering our programme in collaboration with Catchment-Based Approach partnerships, local Rivers Trusts, environmental groups and landowners.

### **Chalk streams**

- Deliver a wide array of river restoration, habitat improvement, river support, sustainability reductions, water treatment wetlands and pollution reduction through our WINEP.
- Protect chalk streams by capping abstraction from all major groundwater aquifers to recent actual levels to prevent any further deterioration.
- Invest in major capital solutions to allow a significant reduction in abstraction from two critical chalk streams in our region -River Lark and River Nar.
- Create up to 34 water treatment wetlands, building upon the learnings made from our award-winning low carbon wetland at Ingoldisthorpe in Norfolk, which benefits the River Ingol chalk stream.
- Conduct investigations on a further 40 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and put intervention in place for these deemed to be the highest risk.

### **Get River Positive**

Anglian Water joined forces with Severn Trent in March 2022 to launch [Get River Positive](#).

#### Get River Positive commitments:

1. Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers.
2. Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers
  - Within 10 years, 90 per cent of the population in our region will live within an hour's drive of a bathing site.
  - We will create more across the regions for canoeists, anglers and recreational events.
  - We have already identified over 20 potential inland bathing water locations across our region, and we will work with local river groups and communities to prioritise at least two for early implementation.
  - We will continue to promote the use of our existing inland bathing water at our Rutland Water reservoir and will look for opportunities to further increase recreational access to our reservoir sites.
  - Application in at Deben in Woodbridge, one on river Waveney in Bungay and one on the River Cam in Cambridge.
3. Support others to improve and care for rivers.
4. Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive.
5. Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans.

#### Storm overflows

Storm Overflows, also know as Combined Storm Overflows (CSO) were built in Victorian times and 60's and 70s, none have been built since privatisation (1989). 80% of CSO are fitted with an Event Duration Monitor, the remaining 20% are in progress.

#### Investment in the Broads

Between 2020-2025 185 environmental obligations have been identified.

#### Investigations/Monitoring:

- Enhanced understanding of flows to our Water Recycling Centres
- CSO spill frequency across Norwich, Diss, Gt Yarmouth, Lowestoft
- Monitoring of flows through our networks

#### Improvements:

- Licence reductions and River flow enhancement
- Habitat restoration
- Catchment Management
- WQ Improvements at Sisland, Swardeston, Cotton, Aylsham and Southrepps WRCs

#### Water recycling and pollutions

Across the UK combined sewer overflows contribute just 4% of the reasons why UK rivers are not high quality (and only 1% in the East of England).

Other drivers impacting river water quality include:

- Agriculture and rural management
- Urban development and transport
- Non-native species
- Misconnected plumbing

### **Comments and answers to questions**

A 16km pipeline is being installed between East Ruston water treatment works and Horstead water tower. The new pipeline will move water from the north of the region, where supply is more abundant, to areas of water shortage. More information can be found at the following website: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/hidden-pages/east-ruston/>

Today's presentation focused on rivers however, there are separate targets and environmental quality standards depending on whether water is being discharged inland, coastal or to an estuary. Targets are driven by the water quality standards set by the Environment Agency. For example, one river compared to another can have a different standard depending on the amount of discharges it has and the amount of dilution. Coastal sites have different targets because they fall within the bathing water directive.

Storm tanks are built to hold storm stormwater and settle out some of the water before it discharges the stormwater into the environment. Storm tanks can be concrete or metal and sit both underground and above ground. Anglian Water are continuing to build more tanks to reduce the number of spills from storm overflows. They are also targeting areas that spill the most and investigating any misconnections. The long-term aim is to keep the water in the environment instead of inside a tank next to a watercourse or the sea.

Anglian Water were handed over the requirement from the Environment Agency (EA) to test their own discharge from water recycling centres and water treatment works to the water course in 2010. Anything that has been specified within the environmental permitting regulation permit that the EA issue is tested. Examples of this are ammonia, phosphorus, iron, biological oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand.

The EA will test for E-coli and any bacterial virus in rivers when an application for a bathing water for a particular area is submitted. The sampling is managed and funded by the EA. It was noted that splash sports such as canoeing and paddle boarding involve people frequently entering the water. The Forum commented that busy areas for splash sports should also be tested as well as bathing areas.

A Forum member asked if Anglian Water are looking at an economic solution for saline incursions in the Broads, particularly after the incursion which took place in September 2022. Tom Balfour responded, the team worked with the EA to net 10,000 fish and relocate them into Hickling Broad. Anglian Water support the EA with flooding issues across the catchment however it is the EA that are responsible for investigating saline incursions.

A Forum member asked who is responsible for checking and monitoring water quality in the Broads and added that since the privatisation of water companies there have been multiple stakeholder and policy meetings but a lack of monitoring and fulfilment. Grant Tuffs confirmed that it is the EA responsibility for monitoring quality and Anglian Water will support where possible. Anglian Water will be doing more water quality monitoring in the next

program of work, but it is going to be focused on what's going on upstream and downstream of the discharges.

The EA have previously shared data on water quality monitoring but it can be difficult to understand. A Forum member requested that any data Anglian Water may publish is in a clear and understandable for the public.

**Dan Hoare agreed to invite the EA to a future meeting to discuss water quality monitoring in the Broads.**

## 7. East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy

Jason Beck (JB) from the Policy department at East Suffolk Council presented the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to create safe, coherent, direct, comfortable, and attractive cycling, walking and wheeling environments that lead to improvements in health and wellbeing, facilitate greater social interaction and play, encourage more environmentally sustainable lifestyles, reduce road congestion, and support economic growth.

An interactive web version of the strategy can be found here: [East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy 2022 \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/arcgis.com). A PDF version is also available. Jason Beck demonstrated the following features of the map.

### **Recommendations map**

This map shows the cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations from the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy 2022 alongside supporting data. There are four types of recommendations:

#### **Key corridors**

Key routes between, and through, settlements where there are significant opportunities to changing people's use of transport modes from vehicular travel to cycling and walking by improving cycling and walking infrastructure.

#### **Local plan site allocation recommendations**

Recommendations for Local Plan site allocations, covering both on and off-site opportunities.

#### **Leisure routes**

A number of rural routes have been identified, connecting some more rural settlements. The primary function of these routes is to facilitate leisure opportunities.

#### **Community recommendations**

Recommendations submitted to the Council as part of the initial consultation. These have been assessed against the methodology set out in the community recommendations tab. These have also been useful in identifying opportunities for the above three recommendations types.

#### **Next Steps**

- Infrastructure Development Framework that provides cost estimates as well as funding options
- Working with Suffolk County Council to create a prioritisation table.
- Monitoring framework.
- Potential implementations opportunities including:
  - Planning applications,
  - Neighbourhood plans
  - Other funding opportunities e.g SCC or CIL

### **Comments and answers to questions**

The Planning Policy officer for the Broads Authority has been involved with the strategy and attended stakeholder groups.

A Forum member asked if there was ever any consideration for horse riders to be included in discussions regarding suitable routes and noted that wider paths for cyclists doesn't always make it suitable for horse riders. Jason Beck responded, it is a cycling and walking strategy first however, equestrians were considered in the recommendations to ensure that they were not adversely affected by any of the proposals made. All users will be considered at the design stage of the routes.

The strategy is not included in the Suffolk Rights of Way improvement plan, but recommendations are made to the plan.

Suffolk Local Access Forum were included in the consultation but did not sit on any steering groups.

## **8. Any other business**

The Chair encouraged forum members to suggest and/or present future agenda items. The Chair also noted a possible future agenda item on Open Access which was mentioned at item 5.

Andrew Walters to liaise with the Chair on this topic to identify future speakers, if the invitation to Dr Rosie O'Neill from the Campaign for National Parks isn't picked up

Forum members were interested in Norfolk County Council's response to the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking strategy and if their own strategy is being developed.

**Andrew Walters agreed to ask for an update on the Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy from Norfolk County Council.**

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 10.00am

The meeting ended at 12.10pm

Signed by

Chairman

## Appendix 1 – Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 30 November 2022

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# Broads Local Access Forum

08 March 2023

Agenda item number 4

## Summary of progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
Open water swimming	09/06/2021	Waterways and Recreation Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin internal discussions at the BA regarding the policy change of open water swimming.</li> <li>• Investigate consistency of 'no swimming' signage in the Broads</li> <li>• Agree on "Wild Swimming" locations</li> </ul>	<p><b>July 2021</b> - Initial meeting held with Head of Rangers, Head of Safety management and representatives from BLAF to discuss current guidance and suggest ways to improve how we manage swimming safely in the Broads.</p> <p><b>October 2021</b> - All parties agree that swimming is taking place and needs to be done safely. Next steps are to erect safety signage at key sites and along river corridors to alert boaters of potential swimmers in that area.</p> <p><b>December 2021:</b> A member of the Broads Authority open water swimming sub group will be invited to provide an update at the next Broads Local Access Forum meeting.</p>	In progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
Lost Paths in the Broads	09/06/2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify 'Lost Paths' to the river</li> <li>Contact NCC and SCC to identify 'Lost Paths'</li> </ul>	<p><b>September 2021</b> Norfolk LAF representative agreed to raise this item at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>December 2021:</b> Norfolk LAF representative agreed that 'Lost Paths' will be raised at the January 2022 Norfolk Local Access Forum meeting.</p> <p><b>August 2022:</b> The Chair has written to Norfolk County Council and Suffolk Council and requested a list of all of the paths that have been lost to the river.</p>	In progress
Staithes Report	04/12/2019		Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithes report.	<p><b>September 2021</b> The Chair has written to the Environment Agency but has yet to receive a response. A follow up phone call will take place with David Horsfall.</p>	In progress
Water quality monitoring in the Broads	30/11/2022	Waterways and Recreation Officer	Invite the Environment Agency to a future meeting to discuss water quality monitoring in the Broads.	<b>February 2023:</b> Written update to be provided in advance of the meeting on 8 March 2023.	In progress

Date of report: 23 February 2023