

AGENDA

Wednesday 05 June 2019

2.00 pm

	Page	Time
1. Apologies for absence and welcome		2.00
2. Declarations of interest		
3. Receive and confirm the 13 March 2019 minutes (included)	4 – 10	
4. Matters arising from the minutes		
5. Membership update (verbal update by the WRO)		
6. Broads Integrated Access Strategy and Action Plan (report by the SWRO included)	11 – 39	
7. Draft Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2018-19 (included)	40 – 45	
8. Any other business (advance notice needed)		
9. Date of next meeting Wednesday 04 September 2019 at 2.00 p.m.		

Broads Local Access Forum membership details included.

Broads Authority
Broads Local Access Forum Members

Name	Address	Phone No	Email	Interest
Kelvin Allen	9 Landseer Drive Downham Market PE38 9NG	01366 384458	kelvinallen@btinternet.com	Broads Authority
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield Gt Yarmouth, NR29 5DF	01692 581314	keithbacon@keme.co.uk keithbacon@broadland.net	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Louis Baugh	Neatishead Hall Neatishead Norwich NR12 8XX	07785 224589	lbaugh@netcom.co.uk	Landowners and managers
Liz Brooks	Heronway Norwich Road Ludham Gt Yarmouth, NR29 5QD	01692 678674	ejb553@gmail.com	Equestrian riding and driving
Robin Buxton	Speedwell House South Burlingham Road Lingwood NR13 4ET	01493 750102	robin.buxton@ukgateway.net	Landowners and managers / Tourism and local businesses
Michael Flett	33 Broad Reaches Ludham Norfolk NR29 5PD	01692 678560	mikeandjeanne@btinternet.com	Local Authority (Parish Councils)
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston Norwich NR7 8PS	01603 400973	tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com	Angling
Alec Hartley	23 Ipswich Road Norwich Norfolk NR2 2LN	01603 452884	alecandkathie@gmail.com	Wensum River Parkway Partnership
Dawn Hatton	'Windward' Woodland Drive Thorpe End Norwich, NR13 5BH	01603 433174	stock.dawn@gmail.com	Walking / People with disabilities / Access for all
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	peter.mason51@sky.com	Walking / Tourism and local business

Name	Address	Phone No	Email	Interest
Steve Read	The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft, NR32 3PL	07720 808715	stevereadcon@btinternet.com	Walking / Water borne recreational users
Richard Webb	9 Bek Close Norwich NR4 7NT	01603 505362	dickwebb@talktalk.net	Walking / Sailing
Christopher Yardley	Thorpe Cloud Creak Road Burnham Thorpe PE31 8HW	01328 738705	cj.yardley@tiscali.co.uk	Waterborne recreational users / Nature conservation

Secretary to the Broads Local Access Forum:

Lottie Carlton, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1RY

Telephone 01603 610734, Fax 01603 756069, Email BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk

Broads Authority
Broads Local Access Forum
Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019

Present:

Dr Keith Bacon (Chairman)

Mr Louis Baugh	Mr Stephen Read
Mr Robin Buxton	Mr George Saunders
Mr Tony Gibbons	Mr Richard Webb
Mr Alec Hartley	Mr Chris Yardley
Mrs Dawn Hatton	

Also attending:

Mr Martin Caplin – Norfolk County Council
Ms Lottie Carlton – Administrative Officer
Mr Adrian Clarke – Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer (SWRO)
Mr Ken Hawkins – Vice-Chair Norfolk Local Access Forum
Mr Mark King - Waterways and Recreation Officer (WRO)
Mr Ian Leatherbarrow – Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Mrs Marie-Pierre Tighe – Director of Strategic Services

3/1 Apologies for absence and welcome

Mr Kelvin Allen, Dr Peter Mason and Miss Liz Brooks sent their apologies. The Chairman welcomed members and other attendees to the meeting.

3/2 To receive declarations of interest

None declared at this point of the meeting. Mr Baugh later declared an interest in relation to item 9 regarding point 1.48 of the Broads Integrated Access Strategy Action Point.

3/3 Receive and confirm the 05 Dec 2018 minutes

The Forum approved the minutes which the Chairman signed.

3/4 Matters arising from the minutes

(1) Minute 2/6 (1) How Hill Footpath

The Environment Agency to carry out works to the bridge in the next few weeks. BA to take on ongoing responsibility for the bridge. Once work is complete the permissive footpath can open.

(2) Minute 2/6 (2) River Wensum Strategy

Norwich City Council is delaying the launch of the Strategy.

(3) Minute 2/6 (3) Staithe Report

Thorpe Town Council is happy with the revised wording for their area. The SWRO sent revised entries to those who provided feedback. Once he receives confirmation of these entries, Tom Williamson will be asked to finalise the report and it will be made available on the Authority's website.

(4) Minute 2/6 (4) Wherryman's Way – Phase 2

The Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council are looking for further funding contributions for the £11.9k project to upgrade the hydrological modelling and scenarios for potential work on the Wherryman's Way at Hardley Flood. The Environment Agency do not have any funding available. A senior officer level decision is due from South Norfolk Council.

Martin Caplin agreed to find out if the section of path from the dyke at Rockland to Beauchamp is on Norfolk County Council's cutting regime.

3/4.5 Norfolk Wildlife Trust consultation on Hickling Broad project (extra item)

The Chairman agreed to include an extra item from Mr Ian Leatherbarrow of Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT).

Background: NWT is consulting on how to improve access to Hickling Broad and surrounding land that they own. Landscape architects Shields Flynn are coordinating the consultation. They held a workshop at Hickling village hall for residents and are consulting with stakeholder organisations including BLAF.

Issues: It is hard to view the water from the land. A NWT boat trip takes visitors to view the broad, but there is a ten-minute walk to get to the boat. Visitors want circular walks, particularly linked with the Weavers Way.

Comments and answers to questions

- Hickling Staithe is a good viewing point. NWT owns the staithe but the pub owns access to it via a permissive path.
- The 'beach' near the sailing club could be a good viewing point, but again access is over private land belonging to the pub.
- 'Swim Coats Mill' has a good viewing point, but again access is over private land and residents raised concerns over car parking and access at this site. The Forum could revisit an 'on the shelf' project from 2007 for this site.
- Vehicle access to the NWT reserve is along Stubb Road. A parking area near the staithe would help.

- Public mooring at Deep Go Dyke does not have access to trails or the Weaver's Way.
- Viewing points and access to waterside trails are part of the Integrated Access Strategy. Participants at the Broads Engage event raised some good ideas. The SWRO and Mr Ian Leatherbarrow to meet to discuss these ideas.
- Broads Engage participants also raised the problem of having to walk along long stretches of road as part of the Weavers Way.
- Wild moorings: some like the remoteness with lack of access but more people would like such moorings to link to footpaths, particularly the Weavers Way.
- A permissive path could join NWT land with Catfield Staithe.
- NWT should consider wheelchair access for any proposed viewing point projects. Boat trips starting from the staithe would be an improvement.
- The BLAF is supportive of any public benefit access projects.
- Mr Ian Leatherbarrow agreed to provide plans showing land ownership in the Hickling area along with existing access routes so that the Forum can formulate more detailed suggestions for the consultation.

3/5 Membership review

The review of BLAF membership resulted in the following resignations: Mr Ray Walpole, Mr Charles Swan, Mr Martin Symonds and Mrs Melanie Vigo di Gallidorno. Mr Tony Brown did not respond and has not attended Forum meetings for some time. He is therefore no longer a member of the Forum by assumption. The Authority will assign a replacement member following Mrs Melanie Vigo di Gallidorno's departure from the Forum.

14 members were reappointed to the Forum leaving spare places up to a maximum of 22.

At the December BLAF meeting members agreed that tourism business, nature conservation and entry level craft were categories missing representation on the Forum. Following resignations and a further review, the Forum agreed to add the following additional areas of representation: youth ambassador, health and wellbeing, diversity and cycling. The entry level craft category includes canoeing and paddle boarding.

Comments and answers to questions

- Following their resignations, the Chairman agreed to write and thank the long-standing members Mr Ray Walpole and Mr Charles Swan for their significant contributions to the Forum over many years.

- Easton College and UEA could provide links to a regular youth ambassador place or places on the Forum. The SWRO agreed to check the minimum age for membership of LAFs and to contact the College and University.
- Oulton Parish Council email correspondence suggests a misunderstanding of the procedure for membership of the Forum. The Authority will invite them to apply, but it confirms that they do not have a permanent place for their parish on the Forum. There are 92 parishes in the Broads area and this would not be a practical assumption for all parishes. The SWRO agreed to contact Oulton Parish Council to explain the situation.
- The SWRO agreed to arrange the process for enlisting new members to the Forum for the agreed areas of representation (to include placing an advert in the local newspaper and arranging a press release).

3/6 Regional LAF meeting update

Dr Keith Bacon and Mr Ken Hawkins attended the regional LAF meeting in Cambridge on the 16 January 2019. Representatives from the Broads, Norfolk, Central Bedfordshire and Luton, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire LAFs attended along with staff from Natural England.

Main discussion areas included railway crossings, an important topic for some LAFs and Agri Environment schemes finishing meaning associated permissive paths closing.

Mr Louis Baugh updated the Forum on post Brexit planning for farming and the environment. Following consultation, Defra is now at the 'Tests and Trials' stage for a number of new scheme proposals using 'public payments for public benefits' as the underlying basis for potential new ELMs schemes. The Authority continues to promote multiple benefit access to Defra at every opportunity. The Broads Authority and key stakeholders submitted a lowland grazing scheme proposal and are waiting to see if Defra includes it as one of the pilots for Tests and Trials.

Natural England involvement with LAFs is decreasing due to funding cutbacks and they cannot give the same support they used to give.

Public maintenance of claimed routes: The meeting discussed the issue of Councils not maintaining any routes claimed by 2026 based on long-term use. The advice is therefore to make claims based on documented evidence where possible.

3/7 Norfolk County Council update

Mr Martin Caplin, Norfolk County Council (NCC) Trails Officer, gave a presentation on projects the Council is carrying out in the Broads area.

RDPR, CIL and NARLEP funded projects are helping to improve signage, surfacing and circular walks associated with NCC long-distance trails in the Broads.

Projects in Great Yarmouth are linking town circular walks, access improvements and signage to the trails.

The Angles Way has many gates along the route, put in by BESL. Where no longer needed for stock reasons, more accessible alternatives will replace these gates. There is also potential for a cycle way on the trail. BESL maintain paths on banks once a year so that engineers can check settlement. 40 new signs will go in to guide people through Great Yarmouth and to the Angles Way. Signs on the Beccles to Carlton Colville section will have mileage showing how much further to go. The sign design will use a hybrid of the Norfolk and Suffolk styles. Urban signs will replace the sticker system currently in place.

The Wayfaring project will put in five kissing gates a year replacing less easily accessible barriers and latches.

The Weavers Way will get new signage including for circular walks off the trail. RDPE funding will tackle Greenways Route Stalham to Bengate (permissive parts of the path) including improved road signs and surfacing. Public consultation on this project was very positive.

The Wherrymans Way is using CIL funding to improve the Norwich to Loddon section with new signage and physical improvements. Habitats regulations and historical boundaries research concluded before the projects started. Other sections receiving funding are Kirby Bedon (BR4), Surlingham (FP4 and FP2) and Rockland St Mary (FP6).

Comments and answers to questions

- The Forum congratulated Norfolk County Council on progress made.
- The Forum would like to see improvements to signage on the public paths near Acle bridge as it is not clear where to go.
- The SWRO agreed to try and get an update on the Reedham permissive footpath issue from the Parish Council who is dealing with landowner negotiations.

3/8 County Council prioritisation of Rights of Way claims under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Chairman submitted a response on behalf of the Forum to the Defra consultation on public benefit and public access, raising concerns about the task Norfolk County Council has in assessing the definitive map log based on historic evidence. There are still many more submissions to come and the cut-off date of 2026 is soon approaching.

Worcestershire LAF also raised the issue with Defra claiming that their Council cannot get through all the applications before the deadline and that Defra did not give the Deregulation Act enough thought. They are asking Defra for an extension to the deadline. They are also asking for support from other LAFs on HUDDLE.

Norfolk LAF asked Norfolk County Council for a list of applications. They did not receive a list but are now trying to collate information from individual applications on

the Council's website. There is already a back log and this will only get worse. Forum members are concerned that either Norfolk cannot share the information or does not have it.

The Chairman agreed to write to Norfolk County Council to ask for the list of applications but to wait for Norfolk LAF to build an evidence base from their research before the Chairman writes to Defra. HUDDLE to be used to get interest going with other LAFs.

3/9 Broads Integrated Access Strategy update on draft changes

The SWRO gave a presentation on draft changes to text of the Integrated Access Strategy. The draft strategy includes comments made at BLAF meetings and by those attending the Broads Engage workshop event. The draft action plan includes projects that have previously been prioritised by the BLAF and actions to identify future projects that will maximise opportunities for partnership working with Norfolk County Council through the new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP).

The main proposed changes to the strategy, supported by the BLAF were:

- 1) The addition of a new objective to improve easy access in the Broads through partnership with other authorities and organisations;
- 2) The addition of a new objective to provide routes that relieve visitor pressure on sensitive sites and accommodate growth;
- 3) The addition of a new objective to deliver the River Wensum Strategy through the River Wensum Strategy Partnership;
- 4) Prioritising bridleway creations that provide opportunities for circular riding routes and allow riders to avoid dangerous road riding; and
- 5) Prioritising the creation of Mills Trails through the Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Comments and answers to questions

- Only Norfolk County Council gets a mention throughout the Strategy. Although the NAIP offers good partnership project potential this should not exclude promoting opportunities to work with Suffolk County Council. The draft could read that there will not be any projects in the Suffolk Broads.
- Permissive footpath agreements drawn up under the Water, Mills and Marshes project are not tied to the project timescales. 15 years is a usual minimum for such agreements.
- The SWRO attends the CIL Decision Officers Group.
- Text should include not just Norfolk Trails but the wider network under Objective 5 and working with Suffolk County Council.
- The SWRO agreed to see if the Broads Authority could receive the draft Integrated Access Strategy in July instead of May. This would allow Forum

members to consider any last-minute changes to the draft at their June BLAF meeting.

3/10 Any other business

The SWRO agreed to find out if there is an access element to the next Broads Engage workshop on Biodiversity at Hoveton Village Hall on 25th April (1.30-4.30pm).

There are examples of signs reminding users of shared routes of priority to pedestrians in Lowestoft and at UEA.

The SWRO agreed to discuss an issue at Smallborough Staithe with Mr Chris Yardley outside the meeting.

The SWRO agreed to investigate an issue concerning angling at Sutton Staithe.

The SWRO announced this would be his last BLAF meeting as he is leaving the Authority at the end of May. The Chairman and members thanked him for guiding the Forum and providing constructive and helpful meetings over the years. He would be a huge loss to the Authority and the Forum.

3/12 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 05 June 2019 at 2pm.

The meeting ended at 4.20pm.

Chairman

Broads Integrated Access Strategy and Action Plan
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary:	This report provides members with details of the draft Broads Integrated Access Strategy and Action Plan.
Recommendation:	Comments from members are invited in advance of consultation with the Navigation Committee.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Integrated Access strategy was first adopted by the Broads Authority in 2013 to aid in the delivery of the 2011 Broads Plan ambition to develop and manage the network of access provision in a more holistic manner.
- 1.2 The Strategy is now being reviewed following the adoption of the Broads Plan 2017. In the Broads Plan, the long-term aim for tourism, recreation and access states that:

“The value of the Broads as a place for escape, adventure, enjoyment, inspiration and reflection for people of all ages and abilities is recognised and treasured. The area continues to offer a wide range of high quality, distinctive and memorable activities and events on water and on land, in suitable locations and in harmony with the special status and qualities of the Broads National Park and its communities. The long-standing tradition of boating remains integral to the Broads recreational offer, alongside other popular pursuits of angling, walking, cycling and experiencing the rich natural and Cultural assets of this wetland landscape. Year-round tourism is managed at environmentally and socially sustainable levels, contributing to a thriving local economy and secure employment base and meeting green tourism business standards. 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.”

- 1.3 The key strategic action identified in the Plan for access is for the “development and implementation of schemes to upgrade and improve the network of access points and routes (where adverse effects can be prevented) that are linked to visitor facilities and include easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs.”

2 Achievements of the Integrated Access Strategy 2013

2.1 The original Integrated Access Strategy delivered a range of access improvements in the Broads which have been well received by users, visitors and local residents. These include:

- New visitor moorings and safety moorings
- New canoe launch sites and the promotion of canoe trails
- New angling platforms
- New permissive access routes linked to moorings and visitor destinations
- New public rights of way
- Phase 1 of the 3 Rivers Way shared use (cycling and walking) route in partnership with Norfolk County Council.

3 Scoping and Consultation

3.1 The draft Strategy, at Appendix 1 to this report, takes account of the aims in the Broads Plan and comments made by the Broads Local Access Forum throughout the review process. Members will recall that the BLAF advised officers on the scope of the strategy, its objectives, guiding principles and the content of the draft strategy action plan.

3.2 Public consultation also took place through the first Broads Engage workshop on the subject of accessing the Broads which was held in November 2018. The input from the workshop was also used to map out priority areas for moorings and potential land-based access.

3.3 In addition to consulting the BLAF and Broads Engage, discussions also took place with Norfolk County Council (NCC) during the development of the new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) to ensure that shared access goals are identified in both strategic documents.

4 Draft Integrated Access Strategy

4.1 The Strategy seeks to deliver access improvements in the Broads by following a number of guiding principles and seven strategic objectives. Newly added strategic objectives are in bold text:

(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.

4.2 At its meeting on the 13th of March the BLAF advised that three new objectives should be added to the Strategy to take account of the Broads Plan's long term aim for tourism recreation and access and other Strategies that the Broads Authority has adopted.

4.3 Objective 3, the aim to improve access for all, was added, because this aim is identified in the Broads Plan's strategic action for access. Further, NCC has also identified this as a priority area for partnership working with the Authority in the future. The draft Action Plan therefore includes actions to identify potential locations throughout the Broads where signage, surfacing and infrastructure can be improved through partnership projects with NCC.

4.4 Objective 5, the delivery of the River Wensum Strategy (RWS) was added at the suggestion of the BLAF and because a number of individual access projects suggested at the Broads Engage workshop are included in the RWS action plan. The Authority is also a member of the RWS partnership and adopted the RWS in 2018.

4.5 Objective 6, relating to the provision of access routes to relieve visitor pressure on sensitive sites and species and accommodate growth, was also suggested by the BLAF and raised at the Broads Engage event. This is also an area identified by NCC for future partnership working.

5 Funding

5.1 It is important to recognise that, with reduced resources following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Broads Authority is not in a position to lead on the delivery of all the potential access improvements identified in this document. Cuts in public sector budgets across the board mean that effective collaboration and partnership working between agencies and local communities will be essential if projects are to be realised.

5.2 The new NAIP presents a significant opportunity for partnership working with NCC. The NAIP recognises the importance of the Broads for recreation in the county. It also identifies a need to work with the Broads Authority to improve access in the National Park. This is reflected throughout the statement of

actions in the NAIP which includes the aims of identifying shared objectives for access development in the Broads with the Broads Authority and developing joint action plans to deliver projects across the themed areas of the NAIP.

- 5.3 Officers will therefore seek to develop partnership projects with NCC and other partners for delivery through this strategy. The Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) presents similar opportunities for partnership working and the Broads Authority will also seek to identify projects that deliver shared access goals in Suffolk.

6 Strategy Action Plan

- 6.1 The Strategy will be delivered through an initial outline three-year action plan (see appendix 2 Moorings Action Plan and Appendix 3 Land-Based Access Action Plan) and subsequently through a detailed annual action plan of priority projects which will be delivered as resources allow.
- 6.2 The Moorings Action plan takes account of suggestions made at the Broads Engage event. The priority areas for mooring provision were identified through discussions with the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association and Broads Hire Boat Federation. The Navigation Committee will be consulted on this plan at its meeting on the 13th of June.
- 6.3 The Land Based Action Plan also takes account of suggestions made at the Broads Engage event and includes a number of projects that had been prioritised by the BLAF and were already in development. These include building an easy access path at How Hill, opening a permissive path linking How Hill and Sharp Street and building ne canoe portages at New Mills in Norwich. Further assessment of projects and themes suggested at the Broads Engage workshop will be carried out to identify viable projects for the future.
- 6.4 Future action plan development will be informed by the guiding principles for project prioritisation and the overarching objectives which are set out in the Strategy. The Broads Authority will use these to assess which access projects it is able to support and promote.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 This Strategy aims to provide leadership and guidance on the principles that all those working towards improving access provision in the Broads should take into consideration when developing access projects. The Strategy also aims to influence the local and regional policy agenda by ensuring that the benefits of recreation in the Broads are recognised in the local and regional policy and strategic framework and are given adequate weight in the planning process.
- 7.2 The Strategy provides a framework for the development of recreational access in the Broads. The Broads Authority will play a key role in the delivery of the aims of the Strategy; in part by direct delivery of projects on the ground

but also by supporting and encouraging the initiatives of partners and providing guidance to community groups and local businesses. The strategy and its action plan should be seen as a living document which will evolve to take account of changing priorities, ongoing consultation on project development and opportunities over time.

- 7.3 By adopting this approach to access management officers hope to demonstrate that access can be successfully integrated with conservation, land management, economic development and health initiatives. Closer working with partner organisations and community groups will also lead to more joined up public sector working and consequently better access provision in the Broads. Members are invited to comment on the draft of the Strategy text and the action plan attached to this report in advance of further consultation including the Navigation Committee.

Background papers:	Nil
Author:	Adrian Clarke
Date of report:	23 May 2019
Broads Plan Objectives:	6.1
Appendices:	APPENDIX 1 – Draft Integrated Access Strategy for the Broads APPENDIX 2 – Moorings Action Plan 2019-21 APPENDIX 3 – Land-Based Access Action Plan



Integrated Access Strategy for the Broads

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Executive summary

The Broads is the UK's premier wetland, internationally recognised for its landscape, nature conservation and cultural features and a member of the UK National Park family. More than seven million people a year visit the area to enjoy a range of outdoor activities from boating, walking, angling and cycling to wildlife watching, photography and visiting historic and cultural assets such as mills and churches. The area has more than 200km of inland, navigable, lock-free waterways and over 300km of public rights of way, including three county long distance trails and part of the England Coast Path.

The strategic action for access identified in the Broads Plan 2017 that informs this strategy is for the “development and implementation of schemes to upgrade and improve the network of access points and routes (where adverse effects can be prevented) that are linked to visitor facilities and include easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs.”

In line with the Broads Plan, this integrated access strategy seeks to meet the following key objectives:

- (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 to recreational opportunities and interpretation about recreational sites.

The Broads Authority will continue to work with partners and local communities towards the objectives of this strategy, seeking to make the best use of shared knowledge and resources. The strategy will be delivered through an outline three-year action plan and subsequently a detailed annual action plan of priority projects which will be monitored in line with the Broads Plan review process.

For more information, contact:
broads@broads-authority.gov.uk
Broads Authority

Yare House
62-64 Thorpe Road
Norwich NR1 1RY

Review of Broads Integrated Access Strategy 2013

Historically, the strategic management of access in the Broads was based on standalone plans that focused on a single type of access, such as moorings, slipways or rights of way. The consultation exercise for the Broads Plan 2011 identified a need to consider and develop the network of access provision in a more holistic manner.

Following the adoption of the Broads Plan, the Broads Authority consulted a wide range of user groups and bodies and developed an Integrated Access Strategy which was adopted in 2013.

Since its adoption the Integrated Access Strategy has delivered a range of access improvements in the Broads including:

- New visitor moorings and safety moorings
- New canoe launch sites and the promotion of canoe trails
- New angling platforms
- New permissive access routes linked to moorings and visitor destinations
- New public rights of way
- Phase 1 of the 3 Rivers Way shared use (cycling and walking) route in partnership with Norfolk County Council

The Strategy is now being reviewed following the adoption of the Broads Plan 2017. Consultation on the strategy review has taken place with the Broads Local Access Forum, and through an open public consultation event called Broads Engage on the subject of accessing the Broads which was held in November 2018.

Since the Broads Engage event Norfolk County Council has adopted the new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) in 2019. The NAIP recognises the importance of the Broads for recreation in the county. It also identifies a need to work with the Broads Authority to improve access in the National Park. This is reflected throughout the statement of actions in the NAIP which includes the aims of identifying shared objectives for access development in the Broads with the Broads Authority and developing joint action plans to deliver projects across the themed areas of the NAIP.

In particular the NAIP presents opportunities for partnership working with the County Council in the following areas:

- Improving access for all
- Provision of cycle routes
- Provision of bridleways and shared use routes
- Provision of routes to improve network connectivity
- Access to water
- Provision of green infrastructure to deal with growth
- Development and promotion of circular walks from hubs linked to the Norfolk Trails

The Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) presents similar opportunities for partnership working and the Broads Authority will also seek to identify projects that deliver shared access goals in Suffolk.

Following cuts in funding from central government the ability of local authorities to fund access projects has reduced. The Broads Authority has limited funds to deliver capital works for access projects and a reduced capacity to maintain access infrastructure. The Broads Authority will therefore seek opportunities to work with partner organisations and other local authorities, including parish councils, to prioritise and fund projects that meet the aims and objectives of this Integrated Access Strategy, as resources allow.

Strategic aim

The Broads is renowned as the UK's premier wetland – a mosaic of interconnected rivers, shallow lakes, fens, marsh, woodland and agricultural land set between the urban surrounds of Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. A member the UK National Parks family, the Broads has a range of national and international designations in recognition of its landscape, nature conservation and cultural features. It is a popular recreational destination, with over 200km of lock-free rivers and open water bodies, an extensive public rights of way network and a rich variety of natural, historic and cultural assets to be explored and enjoyed.

Adequate and appropriate provision of public access points, routes and services is vital to sustainable recreation and tourism. This strategy aims to manage and develop the access network in the Broads in an integrated way considering how individual access points and routes fit into the overall network of access provision in the Broads. The strategy will also take account of other strategies and plans covering interrelated themes such as sustainable tourism, growth, landscape and cultural heritage, angling, water space management and public transport.

In the Broads Plan, the long-term aim for tourism, recreation and access states that:

“The value of the Broads as a place for escape, adventure, enjoyment, inspiration and reflection for people of all ages and abilities is recognised and treasured. The area continues to offer a wide range of high quality, distinctive and memorable activities and events on water and on land, in suitable locations and in harmony with the special status and qualities of the Broads National Park and its communities. The long-standing tradition of boating remains integral to the Broads recreational offer, alongside other popular pursuits of angling, walking, cycling and experiencing the rich natural and Cultural assets of this wetland landscape. Year-round tourism is managed at environmentally and socially sustainable levels, contributing to a thriving local economy and secure employment base and meeting green tourism business standards. 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.”

The key strategic action identified in the Plan that informs this strategy is for the “development and implementation of schemes to upgrade and improve the network of

access points and routes (where adverse effects can be prevented) that are linked to visitor facilities and include easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs.”

This strategy is also informed by Defra’s 8 Point Plan for England’s National Parks which states that National Park Authorities with the Environment Agency and Natural England will champion integrated management of the natural environment, showcasing the benefits that designated landscapes can bring and realising the immense potential for outdoor recreation in National Parks. Further, Defra’s 25 Year Environment Plan includes the joint aims of connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing and creating more green infrastructure.

Scope

The scope of the integrated access strategy is:

- A review and mapping on GIS¹ of all current available baseline data on access provision in the Broads, covering:
 - Moorings
 - Public rights of way
 - Permissive paths
 - Slipways and other launching facilities
 - Staithes (landing stages)
 - Ferries
 - Angling access points
 - Public transport links
 - Private transport facilities
 - Land designated as open access land under the CROW Act 2000
 - National Nature Reserves and Local Nature Reserves
 - Land protected by conservation designations
- A review of the previous strategy action plan and the outputs from the Broads Engage workshop held in November 2018 to identify viable projects that meet strategy objectives.
- This strategy also takes account of other relevant local and regional strategies for interrelated topics such as recreation (including the Norfolk and Suffolk rights of way improvement plans), climate change adaptation, landscape and cultural heritage, community health and wellbeing, local transport and biodiversity.

The mapping and strategy review work will inform:

- The identification of priority sites for new or improved access provision.

¹ A Geographic Information System (GIS) analyses and displays (e.g. through diagrams and mapping) geographically referenced information.

- The development of access hubs where it would be appropriate to focus access provision. Access hubs are locations where a range of recreational facilities and local amenities are linked together and easily accessible from the public transport network.
- GIS mapping of priority sites for access development including moorings, permissive paths and public rights of way, potential easy access routes, canoe launch sites and slipways.
- The development of an outline three-year action plan and subsequently a detailed annual action plan identifying key activities and priority projects for improving access in the Broads.

This strategy provides the framework to deliver the long-term aim for sustainable, integrated access in the Broads. It is for anyone with an interest in access in the Broads including users, landowners and managers and stakeholders. Actions will be guided by the following guiding principles and strategic objectives, and informed by the GIS mapping and gap analysis.

Guiding principles

The following principles will be used to help guide the development and delivery of access projects in the Broads.

Landscape and environmental impact

The Broads is treasured as a place for escape, quiet enjoyment, inspiration and reflection. It is important that access provision is managed in ways that maximise opportunities for visitor enjoyment without degrading this natural or cultural resource. Project proposals for new or improved access provision will need to demonstrate that negative impacts on the environment and designated sites can be minimised. Projects that have the potential to affect Natura 2000 designated sites will therefore be assessed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulation 1994. Where possible, access schemes should be designed to deliver biodiversity and habitat improvements.

Climate change resilience and adaptation

Project design should consider the potential impacts of climate change, including changes in water levels. For example, when designing mooring projects, it may be appropriate to consider installing pontoon moorings that adapt to changes in tide levels, rather than piled moorings that are set at a fixed height.

Partnership working and community involvement

Where possible, project proposals should demonstrate partnership and community involvement in planning, delivery and ongoing maintenance liability. Stakeholders will be consulted on the scope and design of project proposals to maximise opportunities for collaborative working. This will also foster the development of a wider range of local stakeholder groups and public sector interests willing to be involved in access provision and the future maintenance of projects.

Multiple benefits

Project proposals should, where possible, provide multiple benefits for users with differing interests, needs and abilities (e.g. creating a new mooring to link to the existing rights of way network and local facilities, or improving surfaces and removing barriers to open up an access point or route to people with mobility problems). The project design process should therefore consider how project plans could maximise user benefit, foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities and deliver additional gains for biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage.

Quality and sustainability standards

Project proposals should seek to conserve and enhance the character of the area through the use of materials and construction techniques appropriate to a member of National Parks UK. Projects should also demonstrate a sustainable approach to materials use and be supported with robust and well documented plans for the future management of the project.

Strategic objectives

The key objectives for meeting the long-term aim for integrated access in the Broads 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.

The strategy also aims to ensure that the benefits of access and recreation in the Broads are recognised in local and regional planning policy frameworks and given adequate weight in the planning process.

Objective 1: To improve links between land and water and the water's edge

In some areas there are gaps in mooring provision, or limited opportunities for boaters to access the wider countryside from mooring locations. In other cases, people are unable to see or get to the water's edge or onto the water because of a lack of land access routes and/or facilities such as slipways and canoe portages.

Priorities:

- Improve access points between land and water, including visitor moorings, demasting moorings, safety moorings, isolated moorings, canoe portages and slipways. (The strategy will apply the principles set out in the Broads Authority's Mooring Strategy 2009 as regards mooring provision)
- Improve links from moorings to land-based facilities and visitor destinations
- Improve pedestrian access to the water's edge and alongside water for the purposes of walking, angling (including angling platforms) and bird watching
- Extend access to new areas of navigable water space where appropriate
- Protect, and where possible reinstate, ferries and staithes
- Identify appropriate locations where improved car parking would benefit users (e.g. at slipways)

Objective 2: To improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points

There are areas where improved access links to destination sites such as designated open access land, nature reserves and sites of historic or cultural interest would be beneficial, enabling people to experience and appreciate the special qualities of the Broads. The provision of a well-connected, maintained and functional access network will also contribute to the sustainability of the environment, communities and the local economy.

Priorities:

- Determine where access improvements to land designated as open access land under the CROW Act 2000 would be appropriate
- Identify and promote the development of new access routes to improve the connectivity of the existing public access network, including rights of way, permissive paths and long-distance routes
- Identify potential new bridleway routes that will allow riders to avoid dangerous road riding
- Develop new access routes through the Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme to form Mills Trails
- Establish/re-establish and promote circular routes from key access hubs
- Work with Norfolk County Council to deliver key Green Infrastructure projects that accommodate growth in Norwich and the Broads and relieve visitor pressure on sensitive sites
- Work with Norfolk County Council on the completion of the 3 Rivers Way and other strategic cycle routes in the Broads
- Identify opportunities for new or improved access to designated sites and visitor destination points, e.g. National Nature Reserves and historic buildings

Objective 3: To improve access for all in the Broads

Provision of safe, barrier free access is key to encouraging and enabling people of all ages and abilities to experience the Broads' countryside and waterways. Sometimes only minor works are required to make routes and access points easily accessible to a wide range of users

including people with disabilities, the elderly and families with small children. The nature of the Broads' landscape also lends itself to the provision of "access for all". The provision of a range of easy access routes linked to hubs will also contribute to the health and well-being of local communities in the Broads.

Priorities:

- Audit the access network in the Broads to identify and map routes where minor works can be carried out to deliver National Parks England's "Miles without Stiles" targets and remove barriers from the Trails in the Broads
- Identify and map priority routes for carrying out works to improve "access for all" including for people with sensory needs
- Identify works required to improve priority routes (surface, signage, infrastructure) for potential partnership funding bids
- Explore the potential for providing all-terrain vehicles for hire and changing places at key strategic hubs
- Provide appropriate information on sites to encourage new users

Objective 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

The strategy places emphasis on sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking and cycling. With the vast majority of visitors to the Broads currently using private cars, it is vital to consider how recreational access can be linked to public transport and car use minimised to make it more sustainable. Improving links to visitor facilities and services also boosts local economic development and tourism generally.

Priorities:

- Identify the key access hubs that will be promoted by the Broads Authority
- Identify opportunities to improve access hubs and existing links between facilities and public transport provision
- Identify opportunities to provide new shared use routes suitable for horse riding, cycling and walking
- Encourage and support the development of cycle hire facilities and routes in new locations for the benefit of boaters and land-based visitors
- Encourage and support the development of canoe trails with appropriate facilities in suitable areas
- Encourage local transport authorities and others to maintain, improve and promote public transport provision in and to the Broads

Objective 5: To deliver the River Wensum Strategy through the River Wensum Strategy Partnership (RWSP)

The River Wensum Strategy was adopted by the RWSP in 2018. Aside from the Broads Authority, the RWSP includes Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council, the

Environment Agency and the Norwich Society. The strategy is a ten-year project that seeks to improve access in the River Wensum corridor (on land and water) and connections between the key access routes that run out of Norwich into the Broads. The strategy also aims to help deliver the Broads Sustainable Tourism Strategy's aim of encouraging and promoting the use of the southern Broads.

Priorities:

- Work through the RWSP to provide new moorings and boat launching facilities to encourage recreational use of the Wensum and Yare
- Work through the RWSP to encourage the completion of the riverside walk in Norwich city centre
- Work through the RWSP and local planning process to encourage marina development downstream of Trowse swing bridge
- Work through the RWSP to encourage links between the riverside walk and Whitlingham Country Park

Objective 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

The Broads has a high number of sites and species that are protected under international and European legislation like the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. Some sites and species are particularly sensitive to visitor pressure. Visitor pressure is also likely to increase from growth in the Norwich area. It is therefore important that adequate access routes, green infrastructure and suitable alternative sites are made available in the Broads area or close to it to relieve this pressure.

Priorities:

- Audit known sensitive sites to assess the viability of providing alternative routes at their periphery to avoid disturbance
- Encourage appropriate provision of green infrastructure routes and sites through the local planning process and Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan
- Work with the county councils through the NAIP and Suffolk ROWIP to prioritise and agree shared goals for route creation and management

Objective 7: To provide appropriate information on access to recreational opportunities and interpretation on recreational sites

Easily available, up-to-date information on public access to land and water and to natural, historic and cultural assets and other attractions helps people to learn about, and get the most from their visit to, the Broads. Good information and interpretation on the Broads landscape also encourages responsible tourism, safeguarding the environment that people have come to enjoy.

Priorities:

- Provide information on how to access recreational opportunities, using sustainable travel options wherever possible
- Improve information and interpretation available at moorings and access hubs, on nearby facilities and visitor destination points
- Coordinate and promote information on walking, cycling, horse riding and canoeing routes and trails in the Broads
- Develop codes of conduct for various recreational activities and locations in the Broads to promote environmentally responsible behaviour

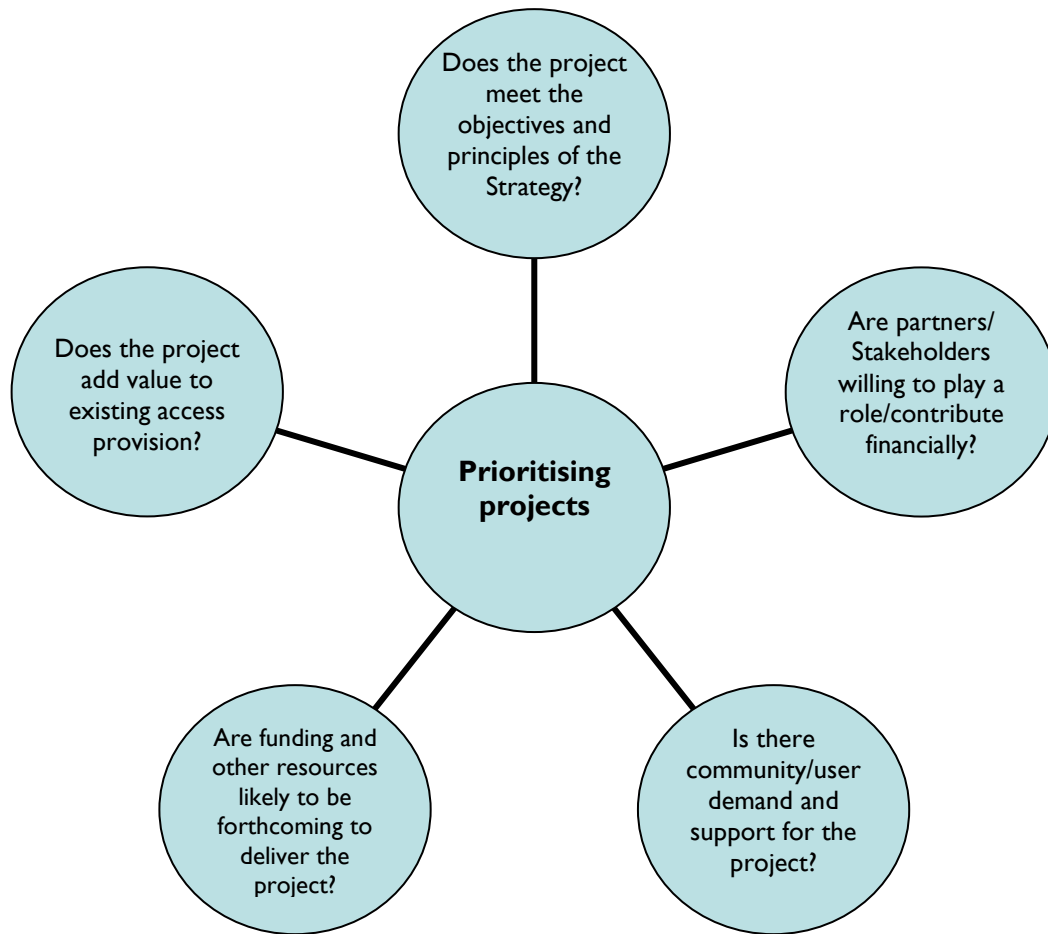
Implementation

Given the current constraints on funding across local government, the Broads Authority will work in collaboration with partner organisations and local communities to deliver the long-term aim and objectives of this integrated access strategy, seeking to make the best use of shared knowledge and resources.

The Broads Authority will develop partnership projects with other local authorities, including parish councils to prioritise and fund projects that meet the aims and objectives of this Integrated Access strategy, as resources allow. The Authority will also agree shared goals for access provision with Norfolk County Council through the new NAIP.

Project proposals from the Broads Engage workshop and BLAF have been recorded on GIS and additional initiatives for access improvements will be added to this list. From this, the Authority will prepare an outline three-year action plan and subsequently a detailed annual action plan of priority projects which will be delivered as resources allow. They will also provide guidance and support to partners and communities in project development and delivery.

The objectives and guiding principles of this strategy, along with the GIS mapping and gap analysis, will be used to assess and prioritise project proposals. The Authority will consult stakeholders, local communities and its standing consultative committees (Navigation Committee, and Broads Local Access Forum) as required in the initial and ongoing stages of project development. Further development of projects and funding allocation will be assessed through the Authority's internal project development processes.



Evaluation

The Integrated Access Strategy provides a broad framework for the development of the recreational access network in the Broads. The strategy is a ‘living’ document that will evolve over time to take account of changing priorities, circumstances and opportunities. Delivery of the strategy will be monitored and evaluated in line with, and to inform, the Broads Plan review process. Annual progress reports will be taken to the Broads Local Access Forum and reported to the Navigation Committee and Broads Authority.

Project information and guidance

For advice on project development, please contact broads@broads-authority.gov.uk. Information on the Integrated Access Strategy and its action plan is also available on the Broads Authority website www.broads-authority.gov.uk

Broads Authority

The Broads Authority is a Special Statutory Authority established under the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 with a duty to manage the Broads for the purposes of:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Broads;
- Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public; and
- Protecting the interests of navigation.

In managing the area, the Authority must also have regard to:

- The national importance of the Broads as an area of natural beauty and one which affords opportunities for open-air recreation;
- The desirability of protecting the natural resources of the Broads from damage; and
- The needs of agriculture and forestry and the economic and social interests of those who live or work in the Broads.

The Authority also has the duty to maintain the navigation area for the purposes of navigation to such standard as appears to it to be reasonably required, and take such steps to improve and develop it as it thinks fit.

Broads Plan

The Broads Plan is the key strategic plan for the management of the Broads. It is subject to review every five years. The current plan, adopted in 2017, has three key principles:

- Principle 1
Where there are likely threats of serious or irreversible damage to the environment, as a precaution, cost effective measures are taken to prevent environmental degradation in the absence of full scientific certainty of the outcome of such threats.
Such precautionary action is based on assessment of the costs and benefits of action, taking into account both the proportionality between the costs and benefits and the degree of certainty in their calculation, and transparency in decision making. Gaps in knowledge are addressed by research and, where feasible, precautionary measures taken while such knowledge is outstanding;
- Principle 2
We seek to understand and respect the complexity and biological limits of our ecosystems, and conserve their structures to maintain their health and productivity. Management is at a local scale, while recognizing the direct or indirect effects on wider, interconnected ecosystems and the public goods and services they provide.

We manage for long-term, multiple benefits, not just for short-term or single interest gains.

- Principle 3

We plan and work in partnership to make the best use of shared knowledge and resources and to avoid duplication of effort. People are involved from an early stage, and throughout, in decisions that may interest or affect them. Decisions are supported with robust evidence, including scientific and local knowledge, innovation and best practice.

Planning policy

This long-term aim set out in the Broads Plan is supported in the Broads Local Plan, which sets out planning policy guidance for the Broads. Two policies are especially relevant in the Broads Local Plan (2018):

Policy MODSP8 Getting to and around the Broads

Improvements to transportation to access facilities, services and settlements within the Broads will be sought in a manner and at a level which is compatible with sustainability objectives and the special qualities of the Broads:

Integration between all modes of transport will be sought to encourage the community and visitors to arrive and travel within the Broads via sustainable modes of transport.

Within the area, particular improvements required include:

- i) The improvement of access to and views of the waterside by the introduction of additional footpaths and cycle ways;
- ii) The promotion of access to enjoy the built, historic and cultural landscape; and
- iii) The creation of links to/from settlements.

Policy MODSP9 Recreational access around the Broads

Safe recreational access to both land and water and between the water's edge and the water will be protected and improved through:

- i) Developing the Public rights of Way (PRoW) network in line with the recommendations of the Norfolk and Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plans, Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan and the Broads Integrated Access Strategy;
- ii) Developing and/or improving access to other areas of the Broads from land and water, where appropriate;
- iii) Identifying and safeguarding potential crossing points of land and water;
- iv) Protecting and improving moorings, staithes and slipways;
- v) Creating new moorings and slipways where there is good road access and provision for parking;
- vi) Protecting and creating waterside spaces for informal recreation; and
- vii) Incorporating and developing appropriate measures for disabled people.

Broads Local Access Forum

The Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF), established as a statutory body under Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, advises the Broads Authority and other organisations on improving public access and contributing to opportunities for open air recreation and enjoyment of the area. In providing advice, the BLAF must have regard to the needs of land management; the conservation of the natural beauty of the area; and the management and maintenance of recreational access, whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture, the interests of landowners and managers, navigation and countryside management projects in the Broads.

The BLAF vision states:

The Broads is an unrivalled wetland of natural diversity, heritage and special character. It is a place where people come to explore, enjoy and find spiritual refreshment. Access to the Broads should be clear and easy to use, respectful of wildlife and land management, meet users' needs and promote responsible and harmonious behaviour. The Broads Local Access Forum will champion access improvements and management, represent a wide range of interests and contribute to sustainability for environment, communities and the economy.

Appendix 2: Glossary

Access hub	Location where a range of recreational facilities and local amenities are linked together and easily accessible from the public transport network.
CROW Act 2000	The Countryside and Rights of way act 2000
Local Nature Reserve	Places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
Mooring	Site formally managed for the purposes of mooring vessels
National Nature Reserve	Nationally important sites for nature conservation designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
Permissive path	A permissive path (sometimes called a 'concessionary path') is a path which the landowner permits the public to use, with the intention that it should not become a Public Right of Way.
Right of way	A public path recorded on the definitive map of public rights of way
Slipway	A ramp leading from the land into the water from which boats are launched.
Staithe	Any land which is adjacent to a waterway and which the inhabitants of the locality are entitled to use as a landing place.

Integrated Access Strategy Moorings Action Plan 2019 - 21

This Action plan is informed by suggestions made at the Broads Engage Workshop held in Nov 2018, discussions at the regular Broads Authority/NSBA/BHBF liaison meeting and the recommendations of a Broads Authority officer working group.

Priority areas for mooring provision in the next 3 years have been 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 - SouthWalsham/Upton Marshes/Thurne Mouth and Oby Marshes - 24-hour mooring
3. Waveney between Burgh St Peter and Blundeston Marshes - 24-hour mooring
4. Upper Thurne between Hickling and Martham - 24-hour mooring
5. Ludham Bridge - Demasting moorings
6. Norwich in area of riverside - short stay mooring for access to shops and demasting moorings at Trowse Railway Bridge

No	Location	Moorings 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.	
3	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.	

General Access Proposals

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Partners	Justification	Target Timescale	Comments
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	
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	
7	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/Lan downers		2020	
8	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	
9	Broads	Encourage establishment of ferries/water taxi/river bus		Prioritised by BLAF. Raised at Broads Engage workshop	ongoing	

10	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
11	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

Rivers Ant and Thurne

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Partners	Justification	Target Timescale	Comments
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	
2	Clayrack Marshes	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	Path established 2018. Waiting for transfer of bridge from EA before it can be opened.
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	

River Bure

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Partners	Justification	Target Timescale	Comments
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. Prioritised by NCC in NAIP and in Cycling and Walking Action Plan	2021	

Rivers Yare and Chet

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Partners	Justification	Target Timescale	Comments
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/Freethorpe/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	
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	Pioritised in Broads Angling Strategy	2019/20	

River Waveney

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Partners	Justification	Target Timescale	Comments
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	
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	

River Wensum

Ref	Location	Proposed Access Enhancement	Key Partners	Justification	Target Timescale	Comments
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	
2	Duke's Palace Bridge/Blackfriars' Bridge Norwich	Missing link on riverside walk. Priority project in River Wensum Strategy. 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 and GNIP	2019	
3	Norwich	Identify and promote formal angling areas in River Wensum Strategy project area.	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Identified in adopted River Wensum Strategy Action Plan	2021	
4	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	

The Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2018-19

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1. Broads Local Access forum

1.1 Statutory purposes

The Broads Local Access Forum is an independent advisory body established by the Broads Authority in 2003 under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Act states that the purpose of the forum is to be a statutory advisory body to provide guidance and advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations on the improvement of public access within the Broads and to contribute to opportunities for open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. In providing advice, the forum will have regard to:

- The needs of land management
- The conservation of the natural beauty of the area
- The management and maintenance of recreational access whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture, the interests of landowners and managers, navigation and countryside management projects within the Broads.

1.2 The forum's vision

The Broads is an unrivalled wetland of natural diversity, heritage and special character. It is a place where people come to explore, enjoy and find spiritual refreshment. Access to the Broads should be clear and easy to use, respectful of wildlife and land management, meet users' needs and promote responsible and harmonious behaviour. The Broads Local Access Forum will champion access improvements and management, represent a wide range of interests and contribute to sustainability for environment, communities and the economy.

2. What has happened during the year?

2.1 The forum at work

The forum has delivered its purpose in a number of ways:

- i The forum has held four public meetings to agree its advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations.
- ii The forum provided representation at the Broads Engage workshop, the Norfolk Local Access Forum, the Joint LAF meeting (Broads and Norfolk) and at Regional LAF meetings.
- iii Forum members provided advice by individual correspondence on consultation documents including the Broads Integrated Access Strategy Review and the Norfolk Access Improvement plan.
- iv Forum members are expected to use and develop their own networks of contacts to gather information and opinion, and to offer advice and information on access.

2.2 Challenges faced by the forum

The forum faced the following challenges:

The main challenge faced by the Forum has again been the continuing pressure on public funding for countryside access across all local authorities which has meant some paths have received little maintenance. Additionally as Agri-Environment Access payments to landowners have come to an end some permissive paths have closed resulting in a more fragmented access network.

2.3 Advising the Broads Authority

The Forum has given advice to a number of bodies over the year:

- Norfolk County Council, on the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan Consultation
- Defra, on the implementation of the cut-off date for recording public rights of way based on historic evidence
- Defra consultation response - Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment
- River Wensum Strategy Partnership on the River Wensum Strategy and Action Plan

The forum has also given further advice to the Broads Authority on:

- The Review of the Broads Integrated Access Strategy

2.3 Responding to consultations

The forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Norfolk Wildlife Trust consultation on Hickling Broad project

2.4 Access reports and presentations

- Broads Integrated Access Strategy Review
- Broads Engage Workshop – priorities for working with Norfolk County Council on access development through the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan
- Review of Broads Local Access Forum membership
- Broads Engage Workshop
- Defra consultation - Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment
- Aston Rowant National Land Access Centre
- Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment – The National Survey on People and the Natural Environment
- Membership review
- Regional LAF meeting update
- County Council prioritisation of Rights of Way claims under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Broads Integrated Access Strategy update on draft changes
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust consultation on Hickling Broad
- Norfolk County Council updates

2.5 Partnership working

The forum has worked with the following organisations:

- Norfolk County Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Norwich City Council
- Natural England
- River Wensum Strategy Group
- Broads Climate Change Partnership
- Broads Engage
- Norfolk LAF
- Suffolk LAF
- Environment Agency
- Broads Angling Services Group

2.6 Observers and advisors to the forum

- Andrew Hutcheson, Norfolk County Council
- Martin Caplin, Norfolk County Council
- Ken Hawkins, Norfolk Local Access Forum
- Ian Leatherbarrow, Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Marie-Pierre Tighe, Broads Authority
- Adrian Clarke, Broads Authority
- Mark King, Broads Authority
- Simon Hooton, Broads Authority

3 Who makes up the forum?

3.1 Chair and Vice-Chair

In December 2018 Keith Bacon was re-appointed as Chair and Alec Hartley was re-appointed as Vice-Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum.

3.2 Members and representation

Chairman: Keith Bacon – Catfield

Tel: 01692 581314

keithbacon@keme.co.uk, keithbacon@broadland.net

Representing: Archaeology and landscape heritage

Vice-Chairman: Alec Hartley - Norwich

Tel: 01603 452884

alecandkathie@gmail.com

Representing: Wensum River Parkway Partnership

Kelvin Allen – Downham Market

Tel: 01366 384458

kelvinallen@btinternet.com

Representing: Broads Authority

Louis Baugh – Neatishead

Tel: 07785 224589

lbaugh@netcom.co.uk

Representing: Landowners and managers

Liz Brooks – Ludham

Tel: 01692 678674

ejb553@gmail.com

Representing: Equestrian riding and driving

Robin Buxton - Lingwood

Tel: 01493 750102

robin.buxton@ukgateway.net

Representing: Landowners and managers / Tourism and local business

Mike Flett – Ludham

Tel: 01692 678560

mikeandjeanne@btinternet.com

Representing: Local Authority (Parish Councils)

Tony Gibbons – Norwich

Tel: 01603 400973

tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com

Representing: Angling

Dawn Hatton – Norwich
Tel: 01603 433174
stock.dawn@gmail.com
Representing: Walking / People with disabilities and access for all

Peter Mason – Catfield
Tel: 01692 583152
peter.mason51@sky.com
Representing: Walking / Tourism and local business

Stephen Read – Oulton Broad
Tel: 07720 808715
stevereadcon@btinternet.com
Representing: Walking / Waterborne recreational users

Richard Webb – Norwich
Tel: 01603 505362
dickwebb@talktalk.net
Representing: Walking / Sailing

Christopher Yardley – Burnham Thorpe
Tel: 01328 738705
cj.yardley@tiscali.co.uk
Representing: Waterborne recreational users / Nature conservation

Broads Authority
Yare House
62-64 Thorpe Road
Norwich
NR1 1RY
Tel: 01603 610734
Fax: 01603 756069
BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk
www.broads-authority.gov.uk