

Broads Local Access Forum

30 August 2023

Agenda item number 9

Integrated Access Strategy Projects update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

This report gives an update on some of the strategic priorities identified in the Integrated Access Strategy.

Recommendation

To note the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Every year, as part of the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS), we identify a number of strategic priority projects to be delivered by the Broads Authority and its partners.
- 1.2. Setting these priorities helps us target resources and external funding sources. Many of these projects cannot be delivered without working with external partners and securing external funding. Where partnerships are already identified, the project will be scored higher in the priority scoring matrix.

2. Update

- 2.1. A progress update on the highest priority projects as well as some of the lesser-known projects, have been listed in table 1.
- 2.2. The table includes a column showing which of the seven objectives of the IAS each project meets. The seven objectives 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 to recreational opportunities and interpretation about recreational sites.

Table 1

Integrated Access Strategy priorities 2021/2022 – progress update August 2023

Project	Progress	Objective	Partners
Broads Mills trail	Status: On track Signage and interpretation currently being ordered.	2,7	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
Wherryman's Way Hardley Flood	Status: On track The project team are scoping options for proceeding with the £216,000 currently available from the original CIL funding. Norfolk County Council are also actively looking for alternative funding to support the project. At the Hardley Flood site - there are three major ecological considerations (European protected species) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Otters by footpath line - commissioned consultant to report. 2. Water vole -a Norfolk Biodiversity Info report has been requested. 3. Desmoulin's Whorl Snails – very specialist species – awaiting report. 	1,2	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council
Wherryman's Way Bramerton to Surlingham	Status: On track Broads Authority are working with engineering consultants on a gabion basket and rock roll design for the bank restoration.	1,2	Broads Authority Norfolk County Council

Project	Progress	Objective	Partners
Hoveton Riverside Park	Status: Delayed Design work now underway for piling replacement.	1,2,3,7	Broads Authority North Norfolk District Council
GIS Recreation maps	Status: Delayed Slipway and launch point map now live on the Authority's website. Slipways and launching points (broads-authority.gov.uk) Next step is to incorporate moorings, angling platforms, waste facilities.	7	Broads Authority
Discovery Hubs	Status: Phase 1 complete – hubs in three locations, Gt. Yarmouth, Beccles and Salhouse.	4, 7	Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust
New signage on Wherryman's Way	Status: Completed Signage in place	1,7	NCC
Rockland Staithe to Rockland Broad	Status: Completed New footpath surface completed	1,3	NCC
River Wensum Strategy	Status: On track Delivery Plan can be viewed here River Wensum Strategy Norwich City Council to see progress on the suite of projects.	1,2,5	Norwich City Council, Broads Authority
Geldeston Canoe pontoon	Status: Completed Pontoon now in place and being well used. Small changes to be made to signage to encourage correct storage of canoes/paddleboards.	1,2,4,6	Broads Authority Broads Charitable Trust The Canoe Foundation River Waveney Trust
Extend the Navigation - Geldeston	Status: Delayed	1,2	River Waveney Trust, Broads Authority
Tactile Map Whitlingham	Status: Completed Map in place	3,7	Broads Authority Whitlingham Charitable Trust

Project	Progress	Objective	Partners
Restoration of Gillingham FP14	Status: On track Norfolk County Council leading on restoration work.	1,2,6	Broads Authority Norfolk Trails
Wild Swimming advice and guidance	Status: Completed Website guidance only Outdoor swimming (broads-authority.gov.uk)	1,7	Broads Authority BLAF – Swimming subgroup
Access for all paths Whitlingham	Status: On track Currently being constructed – due to be completed Summer 23.	1,2,3	Broads Authority Whitlingham Charitable Trust
Changing places facilities Multiple locations	Status: On track Working with local district councils who are eligible for funding through the Government. Whitlingham complete and in place. Lowestoft site still being considered.	2,3	Broads Authority North Norfolk District Council South Norfolk/Broadland District Council Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Permissive path Coldharbour to Womack Water	Status: Delayed Initial discussions with landowners were positive, however they were interested in funding through an environmental stewardship scheme so wanted to speak to the Broads Authority Environment Policy Adviser first.	1,2	Broads Authority
Permissive Path Horning marshes	Status: Delayed Broads Authority asset manager to organise the agreements. Delayed due to the asset going to probate.	1,2	Broads Authority
Cycle parking facilities Broads Executive area	Status: Delayed Audit conducted and several sites identified.	2,4	Broads Authority

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[Broads Plan](#) objectives: E1, E3