

Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 02 September 2020

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Present

Keith Bacon– in the Chair, Kelvin Allen, Linda Aspland, Harry Blathwayt, Robin Buxton, Mike Flett, Tony Gibbons, Tim Harris, Dawn Hatton, Steve Read.

In attendance

Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Environment, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Lewis Treloar – Waterways and Recreation Officer, Ken Hawkins- Norfolk Local Access Forum, Martin Sullivan – Norfolk Local Access Forum, Duncan Holmes - Broads Angling Strategy Group.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the remote meeting, and welcomed Ken Hawkins and Martin Sullivan from the Norfolk Local Access Forum and Duncan Homes from Broads Angling Services Group.

Apologies received from Louis Baugh, Liz Brooks, Peter Mason, John Murray and Christopher Yardley.

2. 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.

3. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 3 June 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve

East Suffolk District Council have been contacted regarding the bridleway link, and the project has been added to their Walking and Cycling Strategy. However, the landowner at Carlton Marshes has not agreed to any change in the path, so meeting this current ambition is doubtful.

How Hill footpath

The footpath remains in good condition and has been popular with users. It was noted that signage at How Hill staithe to inform users of the length of the circular route would be beneficial. Dan Hoare agreed to share with the Communications team.

River Wensum Strategy

Lewis Treloar has contacted the River Wensum Strategy (RWS) Group who are keen to appoint a Broads Local Access Forum member to the RWS Delivery group. An invite will be sent to the Forum once the RWS Delivery group recommences.

Consultation on BLAF Constitution

The amended constitution was adopted by the Broads Authority. A copy of the endorsed constitution can be found [here](#).

Project updates from Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council have agreed to provide project updates to the Forum twice a year.

Wherryman's Way is still in the process of identifying suitable funding and preparation of feasibility in advance of a funding bid submission.

Ken Hawkins reported that there has been no further progress with Registering rights of way in Norfolk 2026 due to the County record offices remaining closed to the public.

5. Integrated Access Strategy: Update

Lewis Treloar provided an update on the highest strategic priority projects identified for delivery by a range of partners as part of the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS).

Reedham Permissive Path

Reedham Parish Council lead work on the path has begun with opening date expected September 2020. Reedham Parish Council will also be responsible for future maintenance.

Hoveton Riverside Park

Through the Broads Authority working closely with the Broads Charitable Trust, an external funding application was submitted in August 2020.

GIS Recreation maps

Angling platforms have now been mapped, and are live on the Broads Authority website. Work has commenced on producing similar mapping for the slipway and launching points.

Three Rivers Way

At this stage the potential project extension will be included in Norfolk County Council Walking and Cycling Strategy. Funding options are being explored by NCC.

Comments and answers to questions

- There are safety concerns regarding the access to the Wherryman's Way near The Beauchamp Arms whilst construction work is carried out by the landowner.

Lewis Treloar agreed to contact Norfolk Trails regarding any known restriction of access to the Wherryman's Way route.

- The framework and scoring system used for prioritising strategies and projects is one that is commonly used across the Authority, which can be reviewed each year.

Lewis Treloar agreed to circulate the Integrated Access Strategy projects framework and encouraged Forum members to provide feedback on the current scoring system used.

6. Objective of the BASG and current areas of focus

Duncan Holmes, Chair of the access group for Broads Angling Strategy Group (BASG) presented to the Forum ongoing and future access projects that BASG believe meet the criteria of the IAS.

Rollsby Broad Platforms

Starting in 2018, the transfer of assets from the Broads Authority to BASG for access platforms on Rollsby Broad is nearing completion. This is the first asset to become owned by the Community Interest Company and takes its formation to a new level protecting and securing the future of Broads Angling.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust have requested further documentation before issuing the angling license, and Rollsby Parish Council require further information before issuing the access permit. These requests highlight the complexities of management and ownership of assets across the Broads.

Beccles Fen Quay and Angling Access

Beccles Fenland Charitable Trust have been renewing 85m of piling and quay heading along the eastern bank of the River Waveney. Beccles Fenland Charitable Trust are intending to install new permanent moorings to fund the project and ongoing maintenance costs, currently this does not include any plans for angling access.

BASG are currently in discussions with the landowner and anglers to find a way forward.

South Walsham Slipway

During the winter months many anglers take advantage of the quieter waters and require the use of slipways to launch their boats.

This Broads Authority asset is currently controlled by South Walsham Parish Council. In order to obtain access a £100 deposit and a £25 annual fee must be paid, it is also extremely difficult to apply, and the number of keys issued are limited to 8. BASG are keen to understand how improvements to access to the slipway can be gained.

Dan Hoare noted that a review of the slipway access with South Walsham Parish Council is listed within the IAS, and Lewis Treloar will update on progress at the next meeting

Development of existing EA bank assets (Northern Broads)

BASG have commenced work on compiling a register of Environment Agency (EA) riverbanks in the Broads; whether they have any public access points; whether the access is fit for purpose; and if not, who controls potential access routes to those riverbanks. Duncan Holmes thanked Lewis Treloar for the existing work on GIS recreation maps which has supplemented this project.

Comments and answers to questions

- Platforms are often enjoyed by multiple users, not just anglers. Several attendees reported that in their general experience, conflicts of interests at fishing platforms were very rare between stakeholders, and there is often enough space for all users.
- Platforms and assets that are managed by the BASG are all covered by their third-party liability policy, which is not just for angling use.
- Dan Hoare confirmed that The South Walsham Slipway and Development of existing EA bank assets projects have Authority officer time allocated to each. Rollesby Broad Platforms and Beccles Fen Quay and Angling Access are led by BASG only.

The Forum agreed to support these projects with 9 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

7. AOB

The regeneration project at Stalham Staithe has been positively received since its completion in August 2020. The collaborative project between the Broads Authority, Norfolk County Council and Stalham Town Council has also ensured byelaws can be implemented, notably around the new 24-hour moorings. Some live-a-board boaters have now relocated elsewhere on the river.

Wayford Bridge is set to close to road traffic for repairs in November for three to four weeks while the bridge deck is re-waterproofed. Lewis Treloar agreed to check if this extends to any river closure.

Lewis Treloar thanked Forum members who had completed the survey for Ellie Hackwood on behalf of Norfolk Local Access Forum and agreed to share the report; Widening the reach of the Norfolk Local Access Forum.

Martin Sullivan reminded the forum that Pathmakers is looking for a member of the Broads Local Access Forum to become a trustee.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 2.00pm. Location TBC.

The meeting ended at 15:15.

Signed by

Chairman

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Contact Norfolk Trails to discuss access of the Wherryman's Way near The Beauchamp Arms.	02/09/2020	Lewis Treloar
Circulate the IAS projects table for Forum members to review and feedback.	02/09/2020	Lewis Treloar
Circulate NLAf survey report.	02/09/2020	Lewis Treloar
Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithe report.	04/12/2019	BLAF Chair

Completed actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Circulate a copy of the IAS projects prioritisation action plan to members.	03/06/2020	Lewis Treloar
Contact the River Wensum Strategy Group to discuss formally appointing a member to the group.	03/06/2020	Dan Hoare

Appendix 1 – Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 02 September 2020

Member	Agenda/minute	Nature of interest
Kelvin Allen	Item 6	Director and Chairman of BASG