

Broads Authority

26 July 2024

Agenda item number 9

Summary of actions and outstanding issues following discussions at previous meetings

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
Wherryman's Way footpath on River Chet	26/07/2019	Rob Rogers	Wherryman's Way footpath by River Chet included in priority actions for new Waterways and Recreation Officer. Discussions ongoing with Norfolk County Council.	<p>Updates before July 2023 have been archived and are available to read on Summary of Action reports from previous committee meetings.</p> <p>July 2023: The Community Infrastructure Levy funding application was unsuccessful. The project team are scoping options for proceeding with the £216,000 currently available from the previous funding application. Norfolk County Council (NCC) are meeting with GNGB to establish the feasibility of a reapplication for funding. NCC are also actively looking for alternative funding to support the project.</p> <p>At the Hardley Flood site - there are three major ecological considerations (European protected species). Otters by footpath line - commissioned consultant to report. Water vole - a Norfolk Biodiversity Info report has been requested. Desmoulin's Whorl Snails – very specialist species – awaiting report.</p> <p>Once the ecological reports are completed talks will be held with Natural England regarding next steps. NCC have met with NP Law for advice on statutory duties and legislation for priority for Public Rights of Way or Ecology.</p> <p>At the Bramerton Site – the Broads Authority are working with engineering consultants on a gabion basket and rock roll design for the bank restoration.</p> <p>November 2023: Work still ongoing and habitat assessments are being carried out.</p> <p>January 2024: The January 11 meeting of the Wherryman's Way stakeholder group was cancelled as there were no new updates, but:</p>	31/12/2021

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				<p>Hardley Flood planning application is being prepared by NCC and it is hope it will be submitted by the end of January 2024. Bramerton Planning Application is being finalised by NCC and again it is hoped it will be submitted late January 2024.</p> <p>If both applications are sucessful the partnership work is expected to be completed by May 2024.</p> <p>February 2024: Planning applications (BA2024/0053/FUL) has been received to make repairs to two footbridges and access ramps on footpath 4, south-west of Hardley Flood.</p> <p>April 2024: A planning application will go before the Planning Committee on 26 April. A vole survey is planned for the site on 15 April. At a recent site visit the dredged material (placed two years ago) was observed to have heavily eroded and in places the current path is less than a metre wide and dropping into the river. Meetings with Norfolk County Council are planned to discuss this narrowing of the path and potential remedies and the overall safety of the path</p> <p>May 2024: The planning application for repairs to two foot bridges and provision of access ramps was considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 26 April 2024 and was approved.</p> <p>July 2024: Environmental and funding issues have stalled this project. We continue working with NCC to see what delivery can occur at Bramerton and Surlingham.</p>	
Responding to Climate Change Emergency	27/09/2019	John Packman	<p>To adopt Climate Change Emergency Statement for the Broads (first report Appendix 1) and principles outlined for BA to:</p> <p>Recognise climate emergency</p> <p>Work toward making the Broads Authority 'carbon neutral' by 2030, with further objective of reducing all carbon emissions to zero by 2040.</p> <p>Establish base line for CO2 emissions using a common methodology with NPAs and develop an Action Plan and Monitoring system.</p> <p>Work with constituent local authorities to reduce emissions from domestic, travel and other sources in the Broads across the two counties.</p>	<p>Updates before July 2023 have been archived and are available to read on Summary of Action reports from previous committee meetings.</p> <p>13 September 2022: A member workshop was held on 25 July, and the full report circulated to members. Work is ongoing on the next steps, with a report anticipated for the November Authority meeting.</p> <p>The next phase of Clean Maritime funding, which may allow us to build on the Electrifying the Broads feasibility study, is expected to be announced on 22 September.</p> <p>November 2022: We are working on various possible bids for external funding to support our climate change work, including the Norfolk Investment Framework. Unfortunately the Clean Maritime Competition Phase III was not suitable for</p>	

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			<p>Work with farmers, land managers, NFU and Defra to influence land management practices, to maintain and build organic matter and carbon in soil, improve biodiversity and store water to protect against flooding and drought.</p> <p>Work with boating and tourism organisations to continue promoting and developing environmentally friendly boating and sustainable tourism; and</p> <p>Aspire to offsetting carbon emissions locally within the Broads by a Broads offsetting scheme.</p>	<p>the Electrifying the Broads project, so we are exploring other avenues.</p> <p>December 2022: An update report setting out next steps was presented to the Authority Meeting in December. We will hear in early January the outcome of the bids to the Pioneer Places fund and the Norfolk Investment Framework.</p> <p>February 2023: Pioneer Places bid was not awarded. We have a new possibility of funding through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund award, in partnership with Norfolk County Council, that includes funding for electric pillars in the Broads.</p> <p>June 2023: We have had discussions with the Canal & Rivers Trust and Environment Agency to see what joint work can be done on boating electrification. Round 4 of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition is expected to open in July 2023, we will reach out to partners to determine if we can submit a bid. We are drafting a tender for the installation of solar panels at the Dockyard. We have launched a consultation with Visit The Broads members to identify opportunities to use funding from the Norfolk investment Framework to support sustainable tourism.</p> <p>September 2023: We are continuing to work with Norfolk County Council on developing a bid under the Norfolk Investment Framework for Sustainable tourism. Unfortunately the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 4 has not proved suitable for the Electrifying the Broads project as it does not allow for capital expenditure. The Dockyard solar tender is currently open and will close on 15 September.</p> <p>July 2024: Press release on the National Parks' Race to Zero campaign will be going out this month. Broads Authority has received funding for 3 installations of solar powered cycle pods.</p>	
'Broads Peat' - A Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme project	23/07/2021	Andrea Kelly	<p>The Broads Peat Project was awarded £785,668 in December 2021 from Defra, as part of the Nature for Climate Peatland Grants Scheme – Discovery Grant which is administered by Natural England. The project budget was revised to £855,831 in December 2022 (the formal Change Control Notice was received from Natural England on 3 January). The project budget was revised to £1,125,831 in</p>	<p>Updates before March 2023 have been archived and are available to read on Summary of Action reports from previous committee meetings.</p> <p>March 2023: Submission of ~£400k Paludiculture Exploration Fund bid with Norfolk FWAG, Norfolk County Council, NUA, Wetland Products Foundation and Hudson Architects. with support from EA, Broads IDB, Fenland Soil.</p>	31/03/2023

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			<p>April 2023 (the formal Change Control Notice was received from Natural England on 20 April 2023). Broads Peat was initially expected to close in March 2023 - an extension until 31 August 2023 has been granted. Following the Discovery phase, a restoration grant was awarded for Buttle Marsh on 26 August 2023.</p>	<p>April 2023: The peat project extension to 31 August was approved, with a revised budget of £1,125,831; the formal Change Control Notice was received from Natural England on 20 April 2023. A restoration bid is being prepared for Buttle Marsh, and discussions have taken place for other sites. Field-by-field assessment of carbon emissions in the Broads was presented to the Lowland Peatland Conference in Ely17-18 April. SWT secondment ended at the end of March. The Carbon Reduction Project Manager is providing additional support to the project.</p> <p>June 2023: The restoration bid was submitted for Buttle Marsh. Paludiculture Exploration Fund project 'FibreBroads' successful, led by Broads Authority, with Norfolk FWAG, Norfolk County Council, NUA, Wetland Products Foundation and Hudson Architects. with support from EA, Broads IDB, Fenland Soil.</p> <p>September 2023: The Broads Peat Discovery project closed at the end of August, and preparation for the final reporting is underway. The Nature for Climate Peatland Restoration Grant has been awarded to Buttle Marsh in August 2023, with co-funding secured from Anglian Water. Peatlands set to be restored to help tackle climate change - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>The other Nature for Climate partnership project led by the Broads Authority, 'FibreBroads', ~£500 funded by the Paludiculture Exploration Fund has also started. . New investment in peat in fight against climate change - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) It hosted Minister Pow on 11 & 12 August. Minister Spencer visited the FibreBroads stand at the Royal Norfolk Show. The project featured in eight media articles since the launch of the project in June 2023.</p> <p>November 2023: Reporting on Broads Peat Project complete.</p> <p>Buttle Marsh Peat Restoration project is securing permissions for water transfer, eels, planning and water voles and reviewing project costs for delivery in 2024, subject to permissions.</p> <p>FibreBroads a partnership led by the Broads Authority to grow wetland crops, engage with farmers, regulators and fibre product developers is on track. Wetland plants are</p>	

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				<p>growing well and many wading birds benefit from the shallow water and damp conditions. Farmer one to ones and workshops in planning stage and 50 NUA students engaged in product awareness.</p> <p>Two further Nature for Climate partnership bids involving the Broads Authority totalling ~£260k have been applied for focusing on water management and farmer collaboration.</p> <p>January 2024: Buttle Marsh Peat Restoration project gained planning permission and continues work on securing permissions for water transfer, eels and water voles and reviewing project costs to add in a water storage reservoir for delivery in 2024, subject to permissions. Discussing new wind pump design to comply with eel regulations.</p> <p>FibreBroads remains on track. Presented at Defra lowland agriculture workshop in December and hosted the Defra Peat Team. Presenting at January Paludiculture Conference in Manchester. Planning novel acoustic monitoring of wading birds at wetland demonstration site. 12 Farmer one to ones completed and farm adviser workshops in planning stage. Fenland Soil farmers are visiting the Broads for a Farmer's Dialogue visit to the Wet Farming Trials at Horsey on 16 January 2024. Wetland plants are growing well.</p> <p>Awaiting notification of the two further Nature for Climate partnership bids involving the Broads Authority totalling ~£260k have been applied for focusing on water management and farmer collaboration.</p> <p>February 2024: Buttle Marsh Peat Restoration project continues work on securing permissions for water transfer, eels and water voles and designing water storage reservoir for delivery in 2024, subject to permissions.</p> <p>FibreBroads remains on track. Will be presented at Norfolk Show and hosted Fenland Soil Farmers as well as preparing to host partners from the Great Fen in April. Novel wildlife acoustic monitoring will be set out in March at wetland demonstration site, which is also being adjusted to optimise water filtration. The project team are putting on a farm advisers training day for peat restoration and green finance.</p> <p>Hudsons Architects are presenting at Future Build.</p> <p>Secured two further Nature for Climate: Lowland Agricultural Peat partnership grants involving the Broads</p>	

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				<p>Authority totalling ~£260k focusing on water management and farmer collaboration.</p> <p>April 2024: Scientific publication being prepared on our assessment of current and future GHG emissions from peat soils in the Broads National Park with Cranfield University. LAPSIP grant has enabled the install of a further 10 peat level cameras with farmers with UKCEH, making the Broads the most significant area for peat level monitoring in the UK. LPAWDP is starting work with BAWAG and partners to engage with farmers across 4 areas of the Broads. Advisers training on peatland and watertable management very well recieved. The water permissions and BNG support was particularly useful.</p> <p>FibreBroads will be in the Innovation Hub at the Norfolk Show again in June.</p> <p>June 2024: Buttle Marsh Restoration - Announcement of additional funding award decision from Natural England to follow the election period. Active dialogue with Environment Agency regarding water abstraction.</p> <p>All FibreBroads work packages on track, including volunteers planted reed and reedmace, planning another 'train the trainer' farm advisers event, guiding them on water voles, watertable assessment, permissions and Countryside stewardship. Preparing for the Innovation Hub again at the Royal Norfolk Show with our partners NUA and Hudson Architects.</p> <p>Two Lowland Agricultural Peatland Grants on track, assessing water table management and forecasting the water storage needs to deliver land-based carbon targets in the Broads peatland.</p> <p>Applied for two Water Restoration Fund grants related to water management.</p>	
Reduction in office space at Yare House	28/07/2023	Emma Krelle	Reduce occupation to cut overhead costs and reduce carbon emissions.	<p>September 2023: Revised plans for reduced occupation submitted for landlord approval.</p> <p>October 2023: Plans approved by landlord. Prequalification stage of works tender complete with tender packs being finalised to be issued in November.</p> <p>November 2023: Tenders issued on 8 November 2023 and the closing date was 15 December 2023. It is hoped that the work will start early in the New Year.</p>	

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				<p>January 2024: Tender responses reviewed 15 December and we are in the final stages of finalising our preferred contractor. Building Control Plans have been submitted with the view to the new lease being agreed and works commencing last week of January.</p> <p>February 2024: Delays in January with responses from the Landlord means the lease is still not agreed. The Authority's solicitor is helping to move along outstanding queries for the lease to be agreed as soon as possible.</p> <p>March 2024: The Broads Authority signed the lease and supporting documents on 26 March 2024. Landord is due to sign by 19 April 2024.</p> <p>April 2024: Licence for surrender and alterations signed by Landlord 19 April 2024. Seven days notice to start works issued to landlord and tenants. Contractor due to start on site 29 April 2024.</p> <p>May 2024: The contractor had started on time and work was progressing very well. The conversion of the Waveney Room into two spaces was almost complete and it was hoped that some desks might be moved in over w/c 13 May 2024.</p> <p>July 2024: The work has been completed ahead of schedule and staff will be working from the second floor office space from Wednesday 10 July, enabling the first floor office space to be emptied before the deadline of 1 August 2024.</p>	
Funding the waterways of the Broads National Park	26/01/2024	John Packman	To track the progress on making the case for central Government funding to support the maintenance of the Broads waterways.	<p>January 2024: The Board unanimously endorsed the paper and supported the Chairman in writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment.</p> <p>February 2024: Chairman has written to the Minister and local MPs.</p> <p>April 2024: Response received from Defra Minister 18 March 2024. See Appendix to report on National Park Grant (agenda item 9).</p> <p>July 2024: Action - New Chair to write to new Minister when appointed on this issue and the costs of external audit.</p>	
Appeal under S31 Harbours Act 1964		John Packman	Broads Hire Boat Federation lodged an appeal with the Department for Transport on 11 October 2023, 10 months after Broads Authority decision in January 2023 regarding navigation charges for 2023/24.	<p>22 November 2023: Broads Hire Boat Federation published notice in Eastern Daily Press</p> <p>23 February 2024: Broads Authority submits response</p> <p>March 2024: Decision by Department for Transport expected.</p>	

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Capital Programme 2024/25	15/03/2024	John Packman	<p>At the meeting on 15 March 2024 it was reported that a third tranche of capital funding was likely to become available in the form of a further £10 million for the 44 Protected Landscapes in England, £5 million for the AONBs and £5 million for the National Parks, divided equally between them.</p> <p>A bid was submitted to DEFRA for the purchase of five items: the development and build a replacement Ranger launch; a new concrete pump; replacement of four Hilux (Rangers and CME); a Dipper Arm Extension and Weed Bucket for Fen Excavator; and a Steel Welfare Unit.</p>	<p>July 2024: Awaiting decision by new Minister</p> <p>March 2024: The Board approved that, subject to Defra's confirmation of a capital grant of £500,000, the Authority implemented the capital expenditure set out in Table 1 of the Capital Programme 2024/25 report of 15 March 2024.</p> <p>April 2024: See report on National Park Grant for update (agenda item 9 - 10 May 2024).</p> <p>June 2024: Defra awarded £500,000 extra funding split as: £250,000 Uplift Capital Funding to purchase a new concrete pump which would be used for the Authority's dredging activity, dipper arm extension and weed bucket for fen excavator, replacement Hilux vehicles, and a new steel welfare unit; and £250,000 Uplift Revenue Funding which will be placed in the earmarked reserves to support the purchase of the other items: the research, development and delivery of a replacement Ranger launch and the additional replacement vehicles previously identified.</p>	
Flood Risk		Dan Hoare	<p>Follow up to public meeting in Hickling on 2 Feb 2024 to investigate whether further dredging of the Lower Bure would have any benefit in reducing flood risk further up in the catchment</p>	<p>April 2024: Through the Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) a new fluvial/tidal hydrological model of the Broads river system has been built to be used during strategy development to understand the implications of climate change and sea level rise on flood risk and to test the effectiveness of different possible flood risk management actions. In addition, the model outputs will be used by the Environment Agency's local Partnership and Strategic Overview team during their day-to-day work.</p> <p>As part of the review and calibration of the new model we are keen to share outputs based on past events. While we have a good calibration of the model against the gauged data, such discussion will help add further confidence to the modelling. It is proposed to have a virtual workshop session (using MS Teams) where we will use GIS software to review the modelled flood extents of the following calibration events:</p> <p>On top of this planned stage of the model development, the specific ask from the Broads Authority is now fully included in the contract from EA to Jacob's. The additional work will generate model runs with modified channel bed levels (below the current bathymetry) for two capital dredging scenario's along the Bure Loop Removal of all sediment to -</p>	31/08/2024

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				<p>2.5 m below ODN. This is roughly half a metre below the Authority's current Waterways Specification depth)</p> <p>Removal of all sediment to -3.0 m below ODN. This is roughly one metre below the Authority's current Waterways Specification depth)</p> <p>From these model runs, the total volume of sediment to achieve these river depths can be calculated. The wider application of this modelling will be to understand the impact of climate change on the proposed dredging regime and what impact such capital dredging may have on water levels higher up in the northern river system.</p> <p>June 2024: The Jacobs team are now running the modelling scenarios, as per the contracted timetable set by the Environment Agency. The Authority has provided typical cost per cubic metre for it's own sediment removal projects in the lower Bure, so that some estimates of cost (assuming landward deposit of sediments on floodbanks) can be start to be calculated.</p>	
Haven Bridge	02/04/2024	John Packman	<p>The Great Yarmouth Ports Leisure Users meeting on 2 April had a long discussion regarding the problems with the Haven Bridge. There is a dispute between Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council regarding opening the bridge which is having an adverse impact on commercial and private boat owners based in the Broads.</p>	<p>April 2024: Chief Executive has contacted Norfolk County Council and has been asked to brief the local MP. Awaiting outcome of discussions between Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>July 2024: Temporary arrangements agreed by Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council have allowed the bridge to open. The Monitoring Officer has written to the Great Yarmouth Port Authority reminding it of its statutory duties.</p>	

Date of report: 16 July 2024