

Broads Local Access Forum

05 March 2025

Agenda item number 7

Access for All project update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

An update on how the Access for All fund from DEFRA has been spent between 2022 and 2025.

Recommendation

To note the update.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In 2022 DEFRA distributed £7.66m between the 44 protected landscapes over a 3-year period. The money was intended to make protected landscapes more accessible to people of all ages and abilities and from all backgrounds.
- 1.2. The funding aimed to improve accessibility to all through capital expenditure including access infrastructure, buildings, machinery and equipment.
- 1.3. The Broads Authority was allocated £152,580. April 2025 sees the end of the funding period.

2. Project Overviews

- 2.1. In the 2022/2023 financial year the funding was used for path improvements at Hoveton Riverside Park, the installation of digital, solar powered signage across the Halvergate Marshes trail system and for the installation of a tactile map at Beccles Quay. There was no funding in 2023/2024. The funding for 2024/2025 has been spent on refurbishment to the Acle to Acle Bridge permissive path and access improvements at Hoveton Riverside Park.
- 2.2. The Halvergate signage enables better access through usage of public transport infrastructure and increased year-round access to the system.
- 2.3. The tactile map is from the Royal National Institute of Blind People and allows improved access for visually impaired people to better access the River Waveney, Quay and Marshes.
- 2.4. The Acle to Acle Bridge permissive path is one of few footpaths owned by the Broads Authority. It provides access from the Acle Bridge moorings to the town and vice versa.

- 2.5. Hoveton Riverside Park has been going through an overhaul. Rejuvenation and reinstatement of the paths, and installation of benches and wayfinding are part of the overhaul. The paths will be reinstated to Access for All specifications.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. Funding spent in 2022/2023 was £69,729.13 and the funding for the 2024/2025 year is £82,851.02.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. DEFRA allocated £152,580 of additional funding to the Broads Authority in 2022. These funds have been used for access improvements within the protected landscape.

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