

Broads Authority

24 January 2025

Agenda item number 7

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Updates before July 2023 have been archived and are available to read on Summary of Action reports from previous committee meetings.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 11 January 2024 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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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>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 2024. A vole survey is planned for the site on 15 April 2024. 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 Norfolk County Council to see what delivery can occur at Bramerton and Surlingham.</p> <p>September 2024: NCC has entered a new bid for Bramerton, including work at Hardley. We await the outcome of Norfolk County Council bids.</p> <p>January 2025: Norfolk County Council are still looking into the funding options.</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>September 2022: A member workshop was held on 25 July 2022, 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 2022.</p>	

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			<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>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>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 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> <p>November 2024: Planning application for CyclePods at Carlton Marshes Visitor Centre, Salhouse Broad and</p>	

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				<p>Reedham Ferry to be considered by the Planning Committee in December.</p> <p>January 2025: Planning application for the CyclePods approved. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting - 6 December 2024</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 April 2023 (the formal Change Control Notice was received from Natural England on 20 April 2023).</p> <p>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>Updates up to and including, July 2023 have been archived and are available to read on Summary of Action reports from previous committee meetings.</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.</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. 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 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</p>	31/03/2023

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				<p>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. 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. Twelve 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. 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. Hudsons Architects are presenting at Future Build. Secured two further Nature for Climate: Lowland Agricultural Peat partnership grants involving the Broads 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.</p>	

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				<p>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> <p>September 2024: Appointed new contractors for Buttle Marsh securing water abstraction permissions.</p> <p>Developed a novel watertable assessment tool. Modelled water requirements over 2 further farms. Arranged two webinar with Defra, EA, NE, ADA and partners. Planning two further peat cameras and knowledge exchange events with farmers about watertable assessment for Countryside Stewardship.</p> <p>Water Permissions Guide tested by the EA and welcomed, issued for trialling with partners on 30th August for feedback end of September and launching at Farm Adviser event in October.</p> <p>Presenting at Norfolk Landscape Conference and two UK peatland conferences in 2024/25.</p> <p>November 2024: Ran Broads workshops and webinars for 130 local and national peat policy officers, practioners and</p>	

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				<p>farmers. Presented projects to Broads Society annual key note presentation.</p> <p>Designing a fen creation project with farmers at Beccles. Created a sponsorship document to secure additional funding for Buttle Marsh.</p> <p>January 2025: Submitted a proposal for a 12-month extension of the FibreBroads project. All work packages are on track, including the two "Lowland Agricultural Peat Projects." A site visit for the Natural England Head of Agriculture is scheduled for February, ahead of the Norfolk Farming Conference. Three films are in production: 1. A farmer raising the water table in the Yare, 2. Peat level cameras, and 3. Horsey paludiculture. The Broads Peat work will be presented at an upcoming national peat conference in Ely.</p> <p>Water permissions for Buttle Marsh nearing completion. Discussions on the detailed engineering design and flood risk assessment for the reservoir are ongoing.</p> <p>No response yet about the two Water Restoration Fund bids related to water management</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.</p> <p>July 2024: Action - New Chair to write to new Minister when appointed on this issue and the costs of external audit.</p> <p>August 2024: Broads Authority Chair has written to the new Minister.</p> <p>January 2025: No response to date. Officers are raising the matter on 13 January as part of the Defra Annual Review.</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> <p>April 2024: Awaiting decision.</p> <p>July 2024: Awaiting decision by new Minister</p>	

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				<p>January 2025: Awaiting decision</p>	
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>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £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>August 2024: From the additional Defra grant received in 2024/25 the priority capital items agreed for purchase includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new concrete pump system for facilitating dredging operations (awaiting specification of a new system and final procing from our existing supplier). • Six replacement 4x4 vehicles for use across the operational teams (three delivered with the remainder due by the end of September 2024). • Excavator dipper arm extension for our 14 tonne JCB excavator (on order). • Slotted weed bucket for dyke clearance (on order).Steel welfare hut (delivered and in use). <p>November 2024: From the additional Defra grant received in 2024/25 the priority capital items agreed for purchase includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new concrete pump system for facilitating dredging operations (placing order in December). • Six replacement 4x4 vehicles for use across the operational teams (three delivered with the remainder due first week of November).Excavator 	

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				<p>dipper arm extension for our 14 tonne JCB excavator (on order and arriving in next week or two).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slotted weed bucket for dyke clearance (on order and arrival before Christmas). <p>January 2025: No update to report.</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> <p>August 2024: Response received from Great Yarmouth Port Authority and meeting to be arranged to discuss Haven Bridge.</p> <p>September 2024: Meeting deferred until after the Port Authority have had their AGM.</p> <p>November 2024: Meeting with users on lifting arrangements on 14 November 2024. Peel Ports proposed that charges be introduced for lifting the bridge and the Port Users Group would formulate a response to that proposal.</p> <p>December 2024: Peel Ports is consulting with the Port Users Group on a proposal to introduce charges for raising the Haven Bridge. The Group has written to the Great Yarmouth Port Authority highlighting Clause 59 of the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Act 1866 which states that “no charge shall be made in respect of opening the Bridge”. They have also pointed out that the introduction earlier this year of a transit fee on pleasure craft contravenes Clause 113 of the same Act. The Authority is seeking a meeting with the Port Authority and Peel Ports to establish the position.</p> <p>January 2025: Great Yarmouth Port Authority has indicated that the proposed Bridge Lifting Charge "will not be applied for 2025". Meeting arranged with Peel Ports.</p>	

Date of report: 09 January 2025