

# Broads Local Access Forum

## Agenda 05 June 2024

Arrival from 9.30am. Meeting starts at 10.00am  
Riverside Centre Bungay Suffolk NR35 1BF

### Introduction

1. Apologies for absence and welcome
2. Declarations of interest
3. **To receive and confirm the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 6 March 2024 (Pages 5-12)**
4. **Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings- to note the schedule (Pages 13- 16)**

### Items for discussion

5. **Bathing water designation at Falcon Meadow**  
Presentation by River Waveney Trust
6. **Broads Local Access Forum annual report 2023-2024 (BLAF consultation draft) (Pages 17-20)**  
Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
7. **Waterways and recreation project update (Pages 21-22)**  
Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer
8. **Farming in Protected Landscapes**  
Presentation by Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer

### Other matters

9. Any other business
10. To note the date of the next meeting – **Wednesday** 4 September 2024 at 10.00am.

### Site visit

[Falcon Meadow in Bungay, Suffolk - River Waveney Trust](#)

# Broads Local Access Forum membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Richard Atkins	Riverview Cottage Off Church Lane Surlingham NR14 7DF	01508 538083	<a href="mailto:richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com">richard.p.atkins@btinternet.com</a>	Paddle sports/ walking
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	<a href="mailto:keithbacon@broadland.net">keithbacon@broadland.net</a>	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	<a href="mailto:Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk">Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk</a>	Broads Authority
Christine Cane	The Roundhouse 160 Tuttlles Lane West Wymondham NR18 0JJ	01953 606019	<a href="mailto:christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk">christine.cane@bhsvolunteer.org.uk</a>	Equestrian riding and driving
Peter Dixon	The Smea Hickling NR12 0YL	078509 30486	<a href="mailto:Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com">Peterjbdixon@hotmail.com</a>	Broads Authority
Geoff Doggett	68 Pilgrims Way Harleston Norfolk IP20 9QE	01379 853464	<a href="mailto:geoffdoggett@gmail.com">geoffdoggett@gmail.com</a>	Waterborne recreation/nature conservation
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	<a href="mailto:tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com">tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com</a>	Angling
Edward Gilder	30 The Hills Reedham Norwich NR13 3AR	0777188 3406	<a href="mailto:edwardgilder@yahoo.co.uk">edwardgilder@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Cycling/ archaeology and landscape heritage
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	<a href="mailto:tim@catfieldhall.com">tim@catfieldhall.com</a>	Nature conservation/ archaeology and landscape heritage
Duncan Holmes	127 Lower Street Salhouse Norfolk NR13 6RX	0739356 6749	<a href="mailto:duncanholmes123@hotmail.com">duncanholmes123@hotmail.com</a>	Waterborne recreation/angling

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Kate Leonard	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe House Norwich NRY 1RY	01603 610734	<a href="mailto:mk.leonard@btinternet.com">mk.leonard@btinternet.com</a>	Walking/ waterborne recreation
David Lilley	26 Burnt Hill Way Oulton Broad Lowestoft Suffolk NR33 8PF	0773824 4595	<a href="mailto:lilleyd@live.co.uk">lilleyd@live.co.uk</a>	Angling
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	<a href="mailto:peter.mason51@sky.com">peter.mason51@sky.com</a>	Walking/tourism and local business
Joe Mitchell	High House Farm, Potter Heigham Road, Catfield, Great Yarmouth. Norfolk. NR29 5BU	0776776 4398	<a href="mailto:joemitchell@afiweb.net">joemitchell@afiweb.net</a>	Landowners and managers/ nature conservation
Katie Phillips	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe House Norwich NRY 1RY	01603 610734	<a href="mailto:outdoorskatiep@gmail.com">outdoorskatiep@gmail.com</a>	Walking/nature conservation
Steve Read	The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft NR32 3PL	07720 808715	<a href="mailto:stevereadcon@btinternet.com">stevereadcon@btinternet.com</a>	Walking/water borne recreational users
Christopher Yardley	Larkhill Cottage Priory Lane Ingworth NR116PG	01263 479691	<a href="mailto:Ci.yardley@tiscali.co.uk">Ci.yardley@tiscali.co.uk</a>	Waterborne recreational users/ nature conservation

**Kylie Moos – Broads Local Access Forum Secretary**  
Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

01603 610734

[BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:BLAF@broads-authority.gov.uk)

# Broads Local Access Forum

## Minutes of the meeting held on 06 March 2024

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## **Present**

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Christine Cane, Peter Dixon, Tim Harris, Duncan Holmes, Kate Leonard, David Lilley, Christopher Yardley.

## **In attendance**

Richard Cooper- University of East Anglia, Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Andrew Hollis- Norfolk County Council, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Jo Thompson – Waterways and Recreation Officer.

## **1. Apologies for absence and welcome**

**Apologies** received from, Geoff Doggert, Tony Gibbons, Peter Mason, Steve Read, Deborah Wicks.

## **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 29 November 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **4. Summary of actions and outstanding issues following decisions at previous meetings**

### **Lost paths in the Broads**

There has been no formal response from officers at Norfolk County Council or Suffolk County Council. There will be an update on the Bramerton footpath later on in the agenda.

## **5. Water quality in the Broads**

Dr Richard Cooper, Catchment Scientist at the University of East Anglia (UEA) provided a short presentation on water quality monitoring in the Broads, focusing on the River Wensum. The River Wensum is a priority chalk stream and has received funding from central government to set up monitoring programmes.

The UEA has been working on a project to pull together 22 years of water quality data for the River Wensum using a combination of data generated at the university, and data that is freely available, produced by the Environment Agency (EA). 10,950 samples were collected from 57 sites over a 22 year period for the Wensum catchment.

### **Phosphorus**

Phosphorus is a key pollutant and major driver of algal growth in the Broads. It is often released from sewage treatment works and agricultural fertilisers. Data for the Wensum shows a pronounced decline in phosphorus concentrations over the last 22 years with a decrease of 44%.

Concentrations significantly dropped between 2000-2005, primarily due to improvements in wastewater treatment and the installation of phosphorus stripping technology in some of the big treatment works. Whilst the phosphorus levels are heading in the right direction, for the water quality to be considered 'good' for supporting healthy ecology in the river, further reductions need to be made. To achieve another significant drop in phosphorus concentration, like in the early 2000's, there would need to be further upgrades to treatment works and a reduction in surface run off from agricultural land.

Using the data from the EA and UEA it is possible to pinpoint where in the river the phosphorus is highest and prioritise areas to work in. For example, sampling points on the River Tud had a particularly high concentrations of phosphorus which is likely due to the three sewage treatment works which drain into that stretch of river. Anglian Water are trying to address the amount of phosphorus coming out the treatment works, particularly at Mattishall which has seen a lot of housing growth in recent years. Management of these particular locations is only possible with high resolution data over a long period of time compared to a single sampling point that is analysed once a year.

### **Ammonium**

High ammonium levels are a good indication that there is sewage pollution in the river. Results from the Wensum show the same trend as phosphorus over the last 22 years. There was a pronounced drop off after the early 2000's and results have been steady throughout the last decade.

Concentration needs to be less than 0.6 milligrams per litre for good water quality and the catchment is significantly below that.

### **Nitrogen**

Total oxidised nitrogen is a fertiliser pollutant. Most of the nitrate in the Broads rivers is getting in from the widespread use of agricultural fertilisers leaching down through the soil into the ground water. Concentrations of total oxidised nitrogen is higher in the winter months when there are no crops growing in the field to soak up the extra nitrogen fertiliser. The Wensum saw a modest decline of 15% in the first decade, but in the last 5-8 years there has been an increase of 23%.

Higher nitrate concentrations increase the chance of having algal blooms and negatively impacts drinking water, which cannot go above 11 milligrams per litre. The safe drinking water level is occasionally being breached, this is likely due to the increase of wet winters and is a longer term concern.

Nitrogen in the Wensum catchment is predominantly an issue up in the upper catchments, up stream of Fakenham where 90% of river flow is from groundwater. More work needs to be

done with farmers and landowners to try and reduce the amount of fertiliser that is getting down into the aquifer and contaminating the groundwater.

### **Faecal indicator organisms**

Faecal indicator organisms such as E. Coli and salmonella are not monitored extensively as it is an expensive and labour intensive parameter to measure. The data that has been collected in the River Wensum has shown high levels of bacteria which are all above bathing water limits. As there are no designated bathing water sites in the Wensum, so there is not a requirement on water companies to reduce their level of bacteria down to safe swimming levels. Most of the bacteria will be coming from the 21 sewage works across the Wensum catchment and a small amount of bacteria will be from livestock accessing the water.

### **Comments and answers to questions**

BLAF members welcomed the presentation, and thanked Richard Cooper (RC) for the update.

A Forum member noted that there had been little progress on the Wensum for phosphorus reduction and nitrogen pollution has increased in the last 20 years. It is likely that the similar results will be found across the rest of the Broads and the results presented today should focus the efforts of the Broads Authority to push for more EA monitoring. They also asked why there isn't more salinity monitoring taking place on the Ant to review environmental damage to the river and Fens. Richard Cooper is planning to carry out the same review on the River Yare, Bure and Waveney as the Wensum however, it has taken six months of work to pull together the data on the Wensum. EA sampling points can be viewed on the following website: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/view/explore?search=&area=1-samplingPointType.group=&samplingPointStatus%5B%5D=open&loc=642780%2C323394&limit=500>. The website displays a variety of sampling point types and allows users to zoom in to the sampling point location.

The data presented today looked at the last 22 years, Dan Hoare noted that in the 1980s-1990s phosphorus levels were considerably higher and continuous progress is being made. A significant decline in phosphorus took place once the sewage treatment works were upgraded in the 1980s. Since then, it has been a difficult and expensive task to continue removing the remaining small amount of phosphorus.

A Forum member suggested that the EA data sets should be reviewed on a regular basis if the information is publicly available. Focusing on two or three pollutants that are doing the most damage and publicising the results will have a greater impact than trying to review them all. Dan Hoare added, there is already a history of water quality improvements for ecological drivers, there should be a focus on water access related pollutants such as the monitoring of faecal indicator organisms. Faecal indicator organism monitoring is often limited to priority sites and more work is required to pull out the relevant data from the EA website.



A Forum member commented not only does water quality need to be monitored regarding access to the water, but the number one attraction to the Broads is the natural environment and this is being damaged by the water quality of the rivers.

Richard Cooper informed the forum of a citizen science group that have been funded by Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo) and are carrying out their own monitoring on the River Lark. The group have been monitoring nutrients on average once a week with handheld kits that can be taken out to the river. Samples are taken from more locations than the EA carry out as part as their statutory monitoring programme. The results provide a more granular picture of what is going on in the catchment and individual point sources can be addressed. For example, the group have been able to identify particular septic tanks that are discharging into the river. Anglian Water have also set up the 'Get River Positive' scheme, providing millions of pounds of funding to set up citizen science groups and encouraging ownership of the river and to get people out monitoring.

A Forum member asked with nitrate levels increasing in the Wensum due to fertiliser run off and increased wet winters, who is responsible for liaising with farmers to look at alternative agricultural practises. Richard Cooper responded, Natural England administers Agri-environment schemes, one of which is the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI). Through SFI farmers and landowners can receive funding for planting winter cover crops which hold on to the nitrogen and reduces the nitrogen reaching the aquifer. Natural England farm advisors also support landowners to bid into these schemes and will be aware of the data that is available on the EA website.

Richard Cooper agreed to present the results of the River Bure, Waveney and Yare to the Forum once the assessment has been completed over the next few years. The assessments will not include any additional bacterial monitoring by the UEA

The River Waveney Trust are applying for a designated bathing site at Falcon Meadow, Bungay, and are experienced in testing for faecal indicator organisms and working with citizen scientists. Richard Cooper recommended contacting the River Waveney Trust for more information. Dan Hoare commented that the designation process is difficult, with on average 100 people need to use the site per day and the necessary supporting infrastructure is often the limiting factor in gaining bathing water status.

**Jo Thompson agreed to request a project update from the River Waveney Trust and attendance of at a future meeting.**

## 6. Broads Countryside Code

Duncan Holmes presented the Broads Countryside Code to the Forum on behalf of the Broads Society. Certain areas of the Broads are experiencing increasing reports of anti-social behaviour which is often due to a lack of awareness rather than intentional misconduct. The objective of a Broads Countryside Code is to foster respect for the area's natural beauty, wildlife, and local customs, reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour through education and awareness.

The Broads Society are ready to lead the initiative and are looking for input from other stakeholder groups to make sure that the content is relevant and inclusive of everybody's needs and to find funding for the printing costs. The Broads Countryside Code can be hosted through the Broads Society website and accessed through QR codes placed in the Broads. The printing costs for the leaflets are estimated at around £800 for 20,000.

The Forum supported the proposal of the Broads Countryside Code and would like to see the draft leaflet at a future meeting. Broads Local Access Forum does not have a budget to support the printing costs, but it would encourage the Broads Authority to support the proposal.

**Jo Thompson agreed to discuss the proposal further with Duncan Holmes and the Broads Authority communications team.**

## 7. Integrated Access Strategy

Jo Thompson introduced the Integrated Access Strategy report and thanked Forum members for their comments during the consultation phase. The final draft of the strategy will be presented for adoption at the Broads Authority committee meeting on the 15 March.

**It was resolved unanimously to endorse the Integrated Access Strategy.**

## 8. Any other business

Jo Thompson reported that planning permission has been submitted for improvements on the first two bridges at Hardley Flood on the Wherryman's way. Currently only one of the bridges is accessible.

A joint planning permission application from the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council is being put together for Bramerton footpath 5. The construction start date has not yet been confirmed and is dependent on the current funding that is available. Once the work is complete it will reestablish a path along the riverbank.

Jo Thompson approached Norfolk County Council for a list of paths that have been lost to the river. The paths that have been listed as inaccessible are only from the last six months and based on members of the public reporting an issue. Dan Hoare added, not all of the paths on this list are lost due to the river, some of the paths are inland and waterlogged from the rain.

**Jo Thompson agreed to review the areas where paths are at risk of erosion to the river or vulnerable to flooding, and report back to the Forum.**

A Forum member reported that in the last 2-3 years the maintenance cutting for footpaths has been so late in the year that paths are often inaccessible and asked if there is a coordinated approach between the responsible bodies. An example of this is the Weavers Way between Potter Heigham and the River Thurne. Dan Hoare responded, an action for the Integrated Access Strategy is to further coordinate the existing cutting efforts of the EA, County Councils, and the small stretches of path which the Broads Authority maintains.

**Andrew Hollis agreed to find out more information on the Norfolk County Council cutting programme in the Broads and to report back to the Forum.**

Andrew Hollis reported that the Norfolk Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy and the Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan will be going to cabinet for adoption on 8 April. Regarding staffing updates, Andrew Hollis confirmed two roles are currently being recruited into the department.

Recruitment for new members to the Forum will be taking place in the coming months. Jo Thompson proposed moving the recruitment to April/May ahead of the summer season. It is hoped that advertising earlier will generate more interest.

**Forum members agreed to move the recruitment window to April/May.**

The Broads Society are hosting an event with Dr Rose O'Neill, the Chief Executive of the Campaign for National Parks to discuss 'The State of the Broads in the Family of National Parks.' The event will take place on 11 April at The Forum, Norwich.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 5 June 2024 at 10.00am and would be followed by an optional site visit.

Dan Hoare suggested holding the meeting in Bungay to view the designated bathing site at Falcon Meadow.

The meeting ended at 11.15am.

Signed by

Chair



# Broads Local Access Forum

05 June 2024

Agenda item number 4

## Summary of progress 05.06.2024

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
Lost Paths in the Broads	09/06/2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify 'Lost Paths' to the river</li> <li>Contact NCC and SCC to identify 'Lost Paths'</li> </ul>	<p><b>September 2021</b> Norfolk LAF representative agreed to raise this item at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>December 2021:</b> Norfolk LAF representative agreed that 'Lost Paths' will be raised at the January 2022 Norfolk Local Access Forum meeting.</p> <p><b>August 2022:</b> The Chair has written to Norfolk County Council and Suffolk Council and requested a list of all the paths that have been lost to the river.</p> <p><b>March 2023:</b> The Chair agreed to raise this item at the upcoming NLAFF Rights of Way subgroup meeting.</p>	In progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
				<p><b>June 2023:</b> The Chair agreed to raise this item at the upcoming NLA Rights of Way subgroup meeting.</p> <p><b>August 2023:</b> The Chair agreed to raise the request on behalf of the Forum at the next Norfolk Local Access Forum Rights of Way subgroup meeting.</p> <p><b>November 2023:</b> The Norfolk Local Access Forum supports the request, but the focus needs to be on contacting officers at Norfolk County Council.</p> <p><b>March 2024:</b> Waterways and Recreation Officer agreed to review the areas where paths are at risk of erosion to the river or vulnerable to flooding, and report back to the Forum.</p>	
Staithe Report	04/12/2019		Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithe report.	<b>September 2021:</b> The Chair has written to the Environment Agency but has yet to receive a response. A follow up phone call will take place with David Horsfall.	In progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
				<p><b>March 2023:</b> The Chair agreed to select two staithes of interest to the Forum and contact the EA.</p> <p><b>June 2023:</b> The Authority are making progress on 24 hour moorings and are negotiating a public staithe with the Environment Agency.</p> <p><b>August 2023:</b> The new Waterways and Recreation Officer will compare staithes in the Broads which are on EA owned land.</p>	
Water quality monitoring in the Broads	30/11/2022	Waterways and Recreation Officer	Invite the Environment Agency to a future meeting to discuss water quality monitoring in the Broads.	<p><b>February 2023:</b> Written update to be provided in advance of the meeting on 8 March 2023.</p> <p><b>March 2023:</b> The Chair sent letter to the Director of Strategic Services (DoSS) sharing the views of the Forum on water quality monitoring in the Broads on 09/03/2023, The views were also discussed the March Broads Partnership meeting.</p> <p><b>April 2023:</b> DoSS responded to the BLAF Chair requesting more details about the request from the Forum.</p>	In progress

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Status
				<p><b>May 2023:</b> A report of water quality will be presented at the Broads Authority meeting on the 12/05/2023.</p> <p><b>June 2023:</b> The Waterways and Recreation Officer agreed to update the BA website to include the risk of water borne diseases for paddle sports users and open water swimming.</p> <p><b>August 2023:</b> The Chair agreed to send a letter to the Director of Strategic Services sharing the views of the Forum.</p> <p><b>March 2024:</b> Waterways and Recreation Officer agreed to request an update on bathing water designation at Falcon Meadow from the River Waveney Trust.</p>	

Date of report: 15 May 2024



# Broads Local Access Forum

05 June 2024

Agenda item number 6

## Broads Local Access Forum Annual Report 2023-2024 (BLAF consultation draft)

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

This report is an initial consultation of the Broads Local Access Forum annual report content for the year April 2023 to March 2024. This report is to be reviewed and any comments are invited from BLAF members, prior to final pdf production and reporting to the Broads Authority at its AGM in July.

### Recommendation

To review the content of the draft annual report of the Broads Local Access Forum for the year April 2023 – March 2024

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. The statutory purpose of the Broads Local Access Forum is an independent advisory body established by the Broads Authority in 2003, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Act states that the purpose of the Forum is to be a statutory advisory body to provide guidance and advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations on the improvement of public access within the Broads, and to contribute to opportunities for open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. In providing advice, the Forum will have regard to:

- The needs of land management

- The conservation of the natural beauty of the area
  - The management and maintenance of recreational access whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture, the interests of landowners and managers, navigation and countryside management projects within the Broads.
- 1.2. The Forum’s Vision - The Broads is an unrivalled wetland of natural diversity, heritage and special character. It is a place where people come to explore, enjoy, and find spiritual refreshment. Access to the Broads should be clear and easy to use, respectful of wildlife and land management, meet users’ needs and promote responsible and harmonious behaviour. The Broads Local Access Forum will champion access improvements and management, represent a wide range of interests and contribute to sustainability for the environment, communities and the economy.

## 2. What has happened during the year 2023-24

- 2.1. The forum delivered its purpose in several ways between April 2023 and March 2024:
- i. The Forum met four times between April 2023 and March 2024. Three online and one in person at Hoveton Village Hall.
  - ii. The Forum reviewed and commented on the Integrated Access Strategy.
  - iii. The Forum has worked with Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council to identify “Paths Lost to the River.”
  - iv. The Forum placed continued pressure on The Broads Authority to not lose sight of the importance of water quality monitoring on the Broads, particularly around bacteriological risks to human health. They also had a presentation, and question and answer session with Richard Cooper from University of East Anglia on “Water Quality Monitoring in the Broads.”
  - v. The Forum supported parishes in the quest for pedestrianisation of bridges and reinstatement of footpaths.
  - vi. The Forum provided representation and guidance at the Norfolk Local Access Forum.
  - vii. Received reports from Broads Authority Officers relating to projects in the Broads executive area.

## 3. Advising The Broads Authority and other bodies

- 3.1. A representative from Norfolk County Council regularly provided relevant project updates including the County Wide Local Walking Cycling Infrastructure Plan.
- 3.2. Campaign for National Parks presented their campaign for more public access in National Parks.

- 3.3. Andrew Farrell, Programme Manager for the Broads Authority updated the forum on Water Mills and Marshes Access and Accessibility.
- 3.4. The Broads Society presented their Broads Countryside Code.

## 4. Working in Partnership

- 4.1. The forum worked in partnership with:
  - Norfolk County Council
  - Norfolk Local Access Forum
  - University of East Anglia
  - Environment Agency

## 5. Who makes up the Broads Local Access Forum?

- 5.1. At the August 2023 meeting the Chair was reappointed unanimously.

- 5.2. **Chair: Keith Bacon** – Catfield  
Representing archaeology and landscape heritage

**Richard Atkins** – Surlingham  
Representing paddle sports and walking

**Harry Blathwayt** – Ludham  
Representing the Broads Authority

**Christine Cane** – Wymondham  
Representing equestrian riding and driving

**Peter Dixon** – Hickling  
Representing the Broads Authority

**Geoff Doggett** – Harleston  
Representing waterborne recreation and nature conservation

**Tony Gibbons** – Sprowston  
Representing angling

**Tim Harris** – Catfield  
Representing nature conservation, archaeology, and landscape heritage

**Alison Holden-Standley** – Sea Palling  
Representing people with disabilities and access for all

**Duncan Holmes** – Salhouse  
Representing waterborne recreation and angling

**Kate Leonard** – Norwich

Representing walking and waterborne recreation

**David Lilley** – Oulton Broad

Representing angling and walking

**Peter Mason** – Catfield

Representing Walking, tourism and local business

**Joe Mitchell** – Catfield

Representing Landowners and Managers, and nature conservation

**Steve Read** – Oulton Broad

Representing walking and waterborne recreational users

**Deborah Wicks** – Norwich

Representing people with disabilities, access for all and educational establishments

**Christopher Yardley** – Ingworth

Representing waterborne recreational users and nature conservation

Author: Jo Thompson

Date of report: 03 May 2024

# Broads Local Access Forum

05 June 2024

Agenda item number 7

## Waterways and Recreation Project Updates

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

An update of the projects being undertaken by the Waterways and Recreation Officer.

### Recommendation

To note the updates and consider where additional guidance or assistance may be given.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Authority Waterways and Recreation Officer manages a variety of projects that take place in the Broads executive area. This report is an update on the current projects.

## 2. Hoveton Riverside Park

- 2.1. Hoveton Riverside Park is a recreational area adjacent to the River Bure. The area is leased by the Broads Authority from Roys of Wroxham. We currently have a tender open for the re-piling of the park and the resurfacing of the footpaths. We are hoping that the works can commence in the Autumn and be completed by the end of the Winter.
- 2.2. The tender is split into three sections so that we can get the most out of the budgeted money. The sections cover: 150 metres of pathway; piling of the river-side mooring for the solar-powered boat Ra (up to the footings of the old bridge); piling from the old bridge to the corner of the dipping dike and then piling across the dipping dike over to the canoe platform.
- 2.3. The successful tender submission will be confirmed the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

## 3. The Wherryman's Way

- 3.1. The Wherryman's Way is a historical long-distance footpath from Norwich to Great Yarmouth. There are 2 sections of the path that are currently proposed for refurbishment: Bramerton FP5 and Hardley Flood.

- 3.2. Bramerton FP5 – this project is in partnership with Norfolk County Council. This section of the Wherryman’s Way path is being lost to the River Yare. There have been ecological and tree studies carried out.
- 3.3. Hardley Flood – this project is managed by Norfolk County Council. This section of the path has been sectioned into two phases, the first including the refurbishment of the first two bridges. The second phase being the replacement of the third and fourth bridges. Phase 1, up to the bird hide, was presented at the Broads Authority Planning Committee on 26 May and planning permission was granted. Ecological studies are being carried out on the site.

## **4. Active Travel England Fund**

- 4.1. The Broads Authority has been awarded £100k to compile a Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Broads. This plan will include feasibility studies of suggested cycling or walking routes.
- 4.2. The Broads LCWIP will be focussing on the rural towns in the Broads area, it will be drawing upon the Countywide LCWIP, Great Yarmouth LCWIP and Norwich LCWIP.
- 4.3. There will be a 2-stage consultation which will include public consultation at the Royal Norfolk Show in June 2024.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. There are a variety of ongoing projects relating to access to the Broads. The Broads Local Access Forum will be periodically updated on the projects listed above, and any others which may develop through the year.

Author: Jo Thompson

Date of report: 08 May 2024