



Broads Explorer

Welcome to the first edition of the **Broads Explorer**. It's filled with information to help you discover more about the Broads, **Britain's magical waterland** and a member of the national park family. Find out about events for all ages and how you can get involved in planning for the future.

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Broads Authority
The Broads - a member of the
National Park family

Getting involved

All Broads Authority meetings are open to the public. You can find the dates and venues on the Broads Authority's website: www.broads-authority.gov.uk

There are also a number of forums whose members are made up of local residents, interest groups and businesses:

The **Broads Forum** consults with the Authority on its strategic aims and objectives. It promotes closer liaison and understanding between the Authority and local organisations.

The **Navigation Committee** advises the Authority on maintaining the waterways.

The **Broads Local Access Forum** advises the Authority on how to improve public access within the Broads.



The **Broads Tourism Forum** provides a voice for tourism-related businesses and promotes the Broads as a high quality and environmentally sustainable destination.

You can also get involved through **local working groups** or by visiting one of our **Parish Pop-In Sessions** where you'll have the chance to ask staff about anything from planning applications to waterways and countryside issues. The next Parish Pop-Ins are being held at **Stalham Town Hall on 2 June (1.30-6pm)** and at **Loddon Library Annexe on 28 July (2-7pm)**.

Trying something new



Thousands of young people have been learning outside the classroom thanks to the Broads Authority's Forest Schools project at Whitlingham Country Park.

Specially trained rangers have helped teenagers who have been excluded from school build skills in problem solving, communication and personal leadership while working on countryside management projects such as fence building and tree planting.

Whitlingham Country Park Manager Russell Wilson said: "The young people we have would struggle in a classroom but if you take them outdoors they thrive. One parent said the course had totally changed her daughter, while a school teacher said Forest Schools had been the making of pupils."

The Broads Authority set up the project with the YMCA, Norwich City College and Easton College. The rangers also work with groups of children as young as three to give them a taste of outdoor life.

Putting something back

Around 250 volunteers give their time and enthusiasm to work with the Broads Authority.



They range in age from 15 to 83, come from all walks of life and provide valuable support to staff, whether it's patrolling the waterways, carrying out habitat management for the benefit of nature conservation, improving areas for public enjoyment or helping in the office.

Howard Constantine (*above*), a former pensions administrator with Norwich Union, has been volunteering as an assistant countryside ranger for the past seven years – with tasks ranging from brush cutting footpaths and hedge-laying to taking guided walks. He used his experience to help achieve an NVQ in Environmental Conservation.

He said: "My voluntary work with the Broads has been varied, always interesting, incredibly rewarding and it's always a privilege to be out in the Broads and be given the chance to help in maintaining its unique characteristics."



Diane Alaoui (*far right in photo above*), a former bank clerk, is part of the volunteer team at the Trinity Broads which this year won a national Waterways Renaissance award for best Natural Environment.

She said: "Having busy lives these days, it's good to connect with our surroundings, keep fit in the process and learn new skills. You might catch a glimpse of an otter, or even our elusive bittern, and think that you may have helped towards the survival of these creatures!"

Training is provided for all our volunteers and many go on to become members of staff. Vacancies for volunteers are published on the Authority's website at www.broads-authority.gov.uk

Enjoy the Broads on the web

A new website has just been launched by the Broads Authority aimed at encouraging more people to enjoy Britain's magical waterland. It lists all the things to see and do, plus places to stay and to eat - putting the best of the Broads on the map.

We'd like to enhance it with your experiences of enjoying the Broads - be it on the water, watching wildlife or just living with this fantastic landscape on your doorstep.

If you'd like to tell us what you love about living in the Broads please log onto our new website at www.enjoythebroads.com. Here are the thoughts of some famous visitors to give you some ideas...



Actor and TV presenter **Griff Rhys Jones** presented part of his series River Journeys here.

"I loved being in the Broads. The few days I spent in my little motorless sailing boat or prowling the rivers in the police launch, or twanging my ukulele on a boathouse balcony revealed a blissful, mellowed essential part of the English holiday experience - unspoilt and charming."



TV presenter **Julia Bradbury** took part in the Thurne Mouth Open Regatta 2009.

"I really did enjoy my visit to the Broads to make a film for Countryfile. The landscape and wildlife were great but my best memory is racing in the all-girl crew of a traditional Broads yacht. It summed up the Broads experience for me - excitement and fun in a wonderful place."



Springwatch's **Chris Packham** opened How Hill when it received National Nature Reserve status:

"My introduction to the Broads was when I crept out of my battered old car in the early eighties on a freezing morning to peer through my telescope at a group of cranes. As the light came up a unique landscape unfurled and I was struck with an extraordinary sense of place. The Broads is buzzing with an amazing variety of animals, birds, insects and plants just waiting to be discovered. Whatever your interest there's always something for you to see."

What to spot around the Broads

How Hill Experience swallowtails close up on our National Nature Reserve butterfly meadow. Listen for bittern booming, you might hear them from the moorings. There's also a chance you might spot an otter if you look for a trail of bubbles in the water.

Ranworth Walk through the wet woodland and wild fen to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust floating centre overlooking the broad. In the early summer you may see common terns flying to their floating platform.

Hickling See grazing Konik ponies munching the wetland vegetation. You are likely to see a marsh harrier and if you are lucky you might spot a crane or two. Learn about the exciting new wetland creation project.

Carlton Marshes Walk round the marshes managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and look into the plant diversity in the dykes, including the spiky water soldier favoured by the Norfolk hawk, which is becoming more common in Suffolk.



FUN IN THE BROADS

Fun in the Broads is our programme of events including bike rides, boat trips, canoe trails, walks and children's activity days. Find out some of the best places for rare Broads wildlife, discover local history and traditions, and meet some of the people who keep the Broads special. As well as Broads Authority events, the programme includes events run by many other local organisations. Here's a taste of just a few. The complete programme is on our visitor website www.enjoythebroads.com or in the Broadcaster visitor newspaper.

Thursday **17 JUNE** 2 – 4pm

Buttles or Bitterns? Guided Walk

How Hill, Ludham [C2]

£3 adult, £2 child

Is it a buttle or is it a bittern? Come and find out on this guided walk (2 miles) to Buttle Marsh. This special site is home to all kinds of Broadland wildlife from herons and marsh harriers to swallowtail butterflies and dragonflies. Find out about the reed-bed restoration work that is helping to increase the variety of plants and wildlife.

B Toad Hole Cottage
(See back cover for contact details)



Saturday **19 JUNE** 10am – 4pm

National Bike Week: Carrs not Cars!

Reedham to Stanley Carrs [D5/6]

😊8+ £5 incl. ferry crossing - bike hire extra

Celebrate National Bike Week with our Countryside Rangers on a guided cycle trail (17 miles) through the peaceful Broads countryside. Starting from Reedham Quay we cross via the ferry then cycle along quiet roads and bridleways, stopping off along the way to take in the 'big sky' views across the marshes and learn about the history and wildlife of the Waveney Valley. Return transport provided. Bring a packed lunch or stop at a pub on the way. Bike hire can be arranged at additional cost (please request when booking).

B Beccles Information Centre
(See back cover for contact details)



Saturday **26 JUNE** 10am – 1.30pm approx.

Canoe Safari to a Hidden Broad

Coltishall Common to
Hoveton Riverside Park [B2]

😊8+ £15 adult, £10 child, £45 family

Join our Countryside Ranger for a guided paddle along the quieter upper reaches of the River Bure taking in Broads wildlife, habitats and local history. We also explore one of the Bure's rarely visited broads. Open Canadian canoes are safe, stable and seat up to three adults. No experience necessary, but you must be able to swim. Equipment and instruction provided.

B Hoveton Information Centre
(See back cover for contact details)

Saturday **3 JULY** 10am – 1pm approx.

Walk on the Wildside

Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve [C3]

free event Please bring your wellies

Join the Broads Authority Countryside Ranger and Natural England Warden for a magical walk (2 miles) around the Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve. Discover some of the unique plants and wildlife that live on the marshes and learn how the area is managed to increase its biodiversity. The walk is within an area not normally open to the public.

B Ranworth Information Centre
(See back cover for contact details)

Sunday **25 JULY** 11am – 4pm

Picnic in the Park

Cary's Meadow, Thorpe St Andrew,
Norwich [A4] **free event**

'Picnic in the Park' launches National Parks Week where all Britain's National Parks celebrate their special landscape and wildlife. Join the party with us at Cary's Meadow Local Nature Reserve. Get active with environmental activities and guided walks or enjoy craft activities and a Nutmeg Puppet Show. Bring a picnic. A great day out for all the family. In partnership with the Norwich Fringe Project.

Meet: Cary's Meadow entrance is just off the A1242 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew (opposite Broadland District Council Offices where parking is available).

i Whitlingham Visitor Centre
(See back cover for contact details)

Wednesday **28 JULY** 10am - 4.30pm

Wherry Good Time!

Potter Heigham [D2]

free event but donations welcome

In their heyday hundreds of Norfolk wherries could be seen out on the Broads ferrying goods up and down the rivers. Unfortunately only a handful of these beautiful boats now remain. Find out about their history and how they are used today. Wherry Albion is on view, so come on board and admire this grand old lady of the Broads. A good view of Albion can also be had from the staithe. With on-board displays and Norfolk Wherry Trust volunteers on hand to answer all your questions you're sure to become an expert.

Meet: Albion will be moored in the dyke opposite the river pilot's office in front of Herbert Woods' building.

i Potter Heigham Information Centre
(See back cover for contact details)

Saturday **31 JULY** 11am – 4pm

Celebrate Hoveton and the Broads

Hoveton Riverside Park [B2]

free event (small charge for some activities)

Explore Hoveton Riverside Park - the best place to get down to the river in Hoveton! Want to find out more about the wildlife, heritage and conservation of the Broads? Join this family countryside event with wildlife activities, guided walks, water-based activities, a Nutmeg Puppet Show and other entertainment. A chance for locals and holiday-makers to get together to share experiences of Hoveton's local heritage and conservation. There's also the chance to explore the quieter upper Bure in a Canadian canoe on a short guided safari, taking in a broad and the local wildlife on the way.

Site is suitable for wheelchair users.

Meet: The park is by the river and 'Roys of Wroxham' Station Road car park, Hoveton, NR12 8UR.

i Hoveton Information Centre
(See back cover for contact details or contact Hoveton Parish Council Tel. 07840 586170)

Saturday **7 AUGUST** 10am, 11am or 12noon
(50 min sessions)

Mini Beast Hunts

Whitlingham Country Park, Trowse [A4]

£3 child, adult supervision free

Have you looked closely at the life that surrounds us and is beneath our feet? Learn about beetles, bugs and creepy crawlies in a woodland area at Whitlingham.

B Whitlingham Visitor Centre
(See back cover for contact details)

A clear view for the future

Hickling Broad

The Broads is an ever changing landscape, influenced and shaped by nature and people over centuries. Looking forward, the biggest challenge facing the area is the impact of climate change and sea level rise. How we meet that challenge for the benefit of the Broads landscape and communities is a key theme in the next Broads Plan.

The Broads Plan is the key management plan for the Broads. It covers all areas related to the Broads Authority's core purposes, from conserving the area's natural beauty, wildlife and heritage to protecting the interests of navigation and promoting people's understanding and enjoyment.

While the Authority is responsible for its production, the Plan is for everyone with an interest in the future of the Broads. The Broads Plan is currently under review and we would like you to have your say. Over the summer we are asking everyone with an interest in the future of the Broads to tell us what they think the priorities should be for the next five years (2011-2016) as well as how we should plan ahead for the next 20 years.

Consultation on the draft Plan is from **7 June to 13 August 2010**. For more information, visit our website at www.broads-authority.gov.uk, email broadsplan@broads-authority.gov.uk or contact us on 01603 610734.

Going green with the Broads Authority



We all need to make changes in our lives to help fight the effects of climate change.

And the Broads Authority is aiming to lead the way by cutting its carbon emissions by 10% this year.

Last year it moved into reputedly the greenest office in the East of England, Dragonfly House in Norwich. The building, partly clad in sustainably sourced wood, has an environmentally friendly heating system, solar panels and harvests rainwater for flushing toilets.

Staff are increasingly using public transport to get to work or cycling and walking. Fuel efficient Smart cars and a pool bicycle are used for business travel.

On the water the Broads Authority runs electric boat trips and the solar powered passenger boat.

And the Authority is helping local people and communities become more carbon efficient by grant-aiding green projects from its Sustainable Development Fund.

Grant aid has been given for a 5kw wind turbine at Ellingham School near Bungay to help supply the school's electricity. An energy saving wood chip boiler at Flegg High School has also received funding as well as solar panels for a swimming pool at Reedham school and a ground source heat pump for a new village hall at Neatishead built of straw and clay lump.

A leaflet *Bright Ideas Wanted*, which explains who and what qualifies for Sustainable Development Fund cash, is available from the Broads Authority or you can find out more on our website at www.broads-authority.gov.uk

Above: Ciaran Clarke with Ellingham School's wind turbine



Neatishead residents joined forces to build their new green village hall, with a ground source heat pump funded by the Broads Authority.

New Planning Policies

We're inviting residents, local businesses and organisations to give their views on new draft planning policies that we will use to determine future planning applications. From **7 June** we'll be consulting on policies that cover such things as new development, flood risk, community facilities, climate change, design and re-use of historic buildings. All comments made will be considered by the Broads Authority's members before revised draft planning policies are submitted to the government later in the year. The draft policies are available on the Authority's website at www.broads-authority.gov.uk, at libraries, District Council offices and at Dragonfly House. **The closing date for comments is the 16 July 2010.**

A helping hand

Navigation rangers are the waterborne face of the Broads Authority. You will see them out and about in their launches on the 200km of rivers and broads ready to give a helping hand to boaters.

A total of 12 rangers patrol the Broads in summer supported by a team of 50 volunteers. They give help and advice, whether it is about boating or places to visit and things to do. They are also on the water to ensure people boat

responsibly, safely, and keep within the speed limits, which is key to preventing bank and reed-bed erosion and protecting the valuable Broads wildlife.

Broads Control co-ordinates the navigation rangers. If you have any navigational problems while boating or need to report an incident of speeding or bad behaviour you can alert Broads Control by ringing 01603 756056.



Getting afloat

What better way to enjoy the Broads than on the water? A boat will take you on a waterborne adventure among wildlife often hidden from view – and getting afloat is simple.

If you want to learn to sail many sailing clubs on the Broads run training courses for juniors and adults, and have dinghies available for members to use.

Or you could try canoeing - an easy and family friendly way to explore the secluded waterways and even see places bigger boats can't reach. Eleven centres in the Broads hire out three-seater Canadian canoes. They cost £30 for a day, £20 a half day, including buoyancy aids and waterproof rucksacks. Some of the centres run guided canoe trails.

Motor launches are available by the hour from boatyards in all major villages in the Broads and many hire electric day boats

which are quieter and better for the environment. Rowing boats and windsurfers can also be hired.

The Broads Authority has recently given grants to help buy two new specially adapted sailing dinghies, lifejackets and waterproofs for Waveney Sailability, a sailing club for disabled people on Oulton Broad, and provided training for club instructors.

Our Sustainable Development Fund has also match funded five new Wayfarer dinghies for the Norfolk Schools Sailing Association, three racing dinghies for Hickling Sailing Club, two Wayfarer dinghies for Dickleburgh Sea Scouts and sculling boats for Beccles Rowing Club.

For more information on how you can get afloat take a look at our new website www.enjoythebroads.com



5 fascinating facts

about the Broads



1 There are 63 broads ranging from Woolner's, the smallest, at just 0.1 hectare to Hickling which is the largest and covers more than 140 hectares. (Pictured here is Barton Broad, the second largest.)

2 Last year we removed 50,000m³ of mud from the Broads to improve water depth for boating – that's enough to fill Carrow Road football ground two and a half times to the top of the Jarrold stand.



3 People have lived here since the Stone Age. Hundreds of flints and pots dating back to 3,800BC were discovered during an archaeological excavation at Ormesby Broad, revealing the first Neolithic settlements in the region.

4 There are 300km of footpaths in the Broads. That's the equivalent of walking from Wroxham Broad to the Manchester Shipping Canal.

5 The Broads Authority has some of the most environmentally friendly lawn mowers – 15 Konik and 9 Welsh ponies graze our marshes for 18 out of 24 hours a day, munching and managing the wetland vegetation.

Reviving heritage skills

The restoration of a historic drainage mill on Hickling Nature Reserve is nearing completion.

Placing the cap on Grade II listed Stubb Mill, which is owned by Norfolk Wildlife Trust, marks the culmination of a three year project to train five apprentice millwrights. This ground-breaking bursary scheme was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund to address the shortage of skills crucial to maintaining our historic and cultural landscape.

Ten reed and sedge cutters have also been trained in commercial cutting operations plus a wide range of traditional land management skills.



Useful numbers

Broads Authority switchboard: 01603 610734
 Broads Authority tolls office: 01603 756080
 Broads Control (for reporting incidents): 01603 756056

i Broads Information Centres

Beccles

The Quay, Fen Lane NR34 9BH
 01603 756093 or 01502 713196
 becclestic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Hoveton

Station Road NR12 8UR
 01603 756097 or 01603 782281
 hovetonic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Toad Hole Cottage

How Hill, Ludham NR29 5PG
 01603 756096 or 01692 678763
 toadholetic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Potter Heigham

The Staithe, Bridge Road NR29 5JD
 01603 756098 or 01692 671723
 potterheighamtic@broads-authority.gov.uk

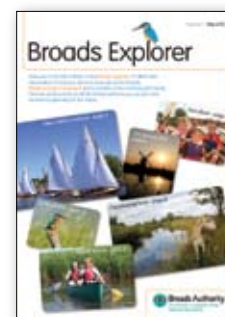
Ranworth

The Staithe NR13 6HY
 01603 756095 or 01603 270453
 ranworthtic@broads-authority.gov.uk

Whitlingham Visitor Centre

Whitlingham Lane, Trowse NR14 8TR
 01603 756094 or 01603 617332
 whitlinghamtic@broads-authority.gov.uk

More Broads Explorers



This is the first newsletter the Broads Authority has produced for residents of Norfolk and Suffolk.

In future we would like to distribute editions

electronically, although copies will be available in our information centres. If you would like to be kept informed of all that is going on in the Broads with an e-newsletter please email us at explorer@broads-authority.gov.uk We will not use your email address for sending any other material or pass it on to others.