

BROADS BIODIVERSITY GROUP

Terms of Reference

CONTEXT

The issues of habitat fragmentation, catchment management and climate challenges require a landscape-scale approach. Organisations are developing integrated approaches to respond to these challenges facing The Broads. These approaches may well overlap and clear communication is needed to make them as effective as possible. By working together new opportunities can be identified and progress towards area based targets, agreed adaptation strategies and resourced projects can be made.

Achieving effective ecological networks and moving toward the delivery of the Broads Plan requires partnership working across the wider Broads. This can be achieved alongside conserving sustainable wetlands on partners own landholdings, taking an ecosystem services approach and raising awareness of the value of this unique landscape.

With these new challenges stretching the scope of organisations work the Broads Biodiversity Group will be a forum to generate action and working with higher level Conservation Partnership (Diagram 1) coordinate the management, funding and understanding of conservation activities, policies and strategies.

AIM

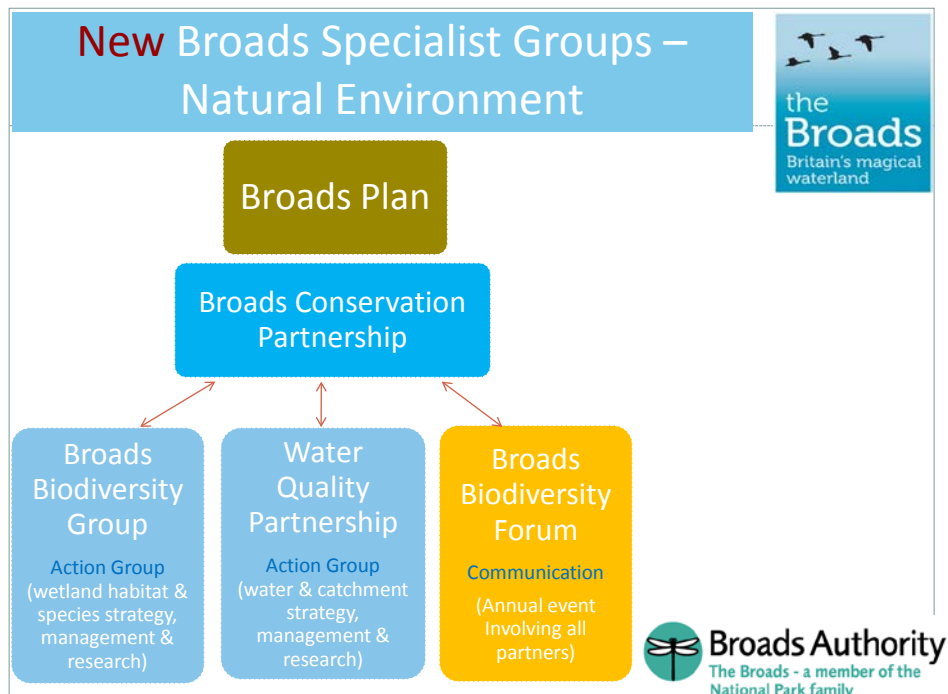
The overall aim of the Broads Biodiversity Group, which reports to the Conservation Partnership (Diagram 1), is to provide a focal point for the delivery of nature conservation at a landscape scale and through working towards consensus improve communication and provide overall coordination of conservation policy and strategy in The Broads.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide the focal point and drive to nature conservation effort in The Broads and oversee the relevant Broads Plan objectives and develop coordination of effort - with a focus on developing and influencing common policy and strategies for a shared approach to land management
2. To develop a common understanding among organisations of the policy impact and positions in the context of legal frameworks and policies
3. To identify opportunities for a common approach to targets (including PSA, SSSI and BAP) to improve effective setting and progress
4. To develop policies, partnerships and funding mechanisms to push forward the adaptation of The Broads wetland to catchment use and climate change pressures
5. To integrate landscape, nature conservation and recreation initiatives to develop shared approaches to landscape management to benefit wildlife
6. To identify common research agendas for focusing resources and funding to further understanding of Broads habitats

7. To be share issues and needs coming from the Area and Topic Groups where relevant to the integrated working of the Group
8. To provide clear messages of the importance of multifunctional wetlands and need to adapt to climate change challenges

Diagram 1. Broads group structures (2012)



OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. The Broads Biodiversity Group will be established and administered by the Broads Authority.
2. The Group will comprise representatives of conservation organisations (see Appendix 1). Where possible duplication of representation of a given organisation will be avoided in the interests of the Group being small, cohesive and effective.
3. Members of the Group will prepare, contribute to and give feedback from their organisation.
4. Members of the Group need to be able to make decisions or speak on behalf of their organisation.
5. Members of the Group may propose a substitute who will have a mandate to speak on behalf of the organization in the event of being unable to attend a particular meeting.
6. Members of the Group will be responsible for consulting with their respective constituencies and affiliated bodies on all proposed policies and strategy.
7. The Group will co-opt experts and representatives of other relevant interest groups by consensus for specific issues or meetings, as necessary.

- 8.** The Group will where appropriate report key points to the relevant committees, Partnerships, Fora and Working Groups covering the area. They will also seek briefings from appropriate groups with a more detailed focus on topic or geographic areas as required.
- 9.** The Group will take decisions within the boundaries of the objectives outlined but not authorize decisions.
- 10.** The agenda will be set by the Broads Authority in consultation with members of the group.
- 11.** In the interests of providing for informal discussion and debate, meetings will not be formally minuted. Notes will be taken of topics discussed, points of agreement and disagreement, and action points.
- 12.** There will be the opportunity of reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Group on an annual basis.

APPENDIX 1

Organisations to be represented on the Broads Biodiversity Group

Organisation	Representative
Broads Authority	Andrea Kelly/Lesley Marsden
Natural England	Chris Bielby/Rick Southwood
Environment Agency	Amanda Elliott
Norfolk County Council	Heidi Thompson
Suffolk County Council	Sue Hooton
Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service	Martin Horlock
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership	Haidee Bishop
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Kevin Hart/Reg Land
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Dorothy Casey
RSPB	Ian Robinson/Phil Pearson
Essex and Suffolk Water	Leon Debell
National Trust	Steve Prowse
Butterfly Conservation	Mandy Gluth/Bernard Watts
British Dragonfly Society	Pam Taylor
Little Ouse Headwaters Project	Helen Smith
Water Management Alliance	Caroline Laburn
Broadland Environmental Services Ltd	Jeremy Halls
Hymettus	Paul Lee
University of East Anglia	Hannah Mossman/Paul Dolman
Plantlife	Tim Pankhurst
Norfolk Flora Group	Jo Parmenter
Non-Native Species Initiative	Mike Sutton-Croft
Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society	Nick Owen
Pond Conservation	Pascale Nicolet