

Expression of Interest Proposals - Broads Guardian scheme

Based on an application into the DEFRA HLF managed Species Survival Fund

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/putting-nature-on-road-to-recovery-with-species-survival-fund> & <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/species-survival-fund>

EOI Application Online Form template

Describe what you will do during the project will do during the project (200 words)

Provide proactive and reactive environment management activities for the largest Protected Wetland containing some 1500 SCC within 28 Sites of SSSI at risk of loss due to salinity ingress.

Aid Recovery
Build a reactive group of trained professional volunteers, the "Broads Guardians". Equip them to be available to assist the statutory agencies to deliver nature recovery duties in a clearly defined partnership providing sustainability to the Broads Freshwater environment.
Building on the skills and knowledge in the local community, modelling on examples from Netherlands and Germany to create a framework engaging with people who feel unable to connect with the current schemes.

Capture the Evidence
More Scientific data is needed, we will monitor both sea levels and salinity by deploying automated Data Buoys across the Broads Waterways.
We will also define the current ecological benchmark and implement through a Citizen Science monitoring plan the understanding risks of damage across all aquatic life.

Defend our Future
The data captured and its evidence, will scope the feasibility to adapt to climate change using small- and large-scale nature-based solutions, providing multiple benefits for climate, biodiversity, and people. Ascertain how to adapt and sustain the social economics of the Broads for the future.

Do you have a title for the project?

Broads Guardians

What outcomes do you want to achieve? (200 words)

The project will define the extent of saline incursion through the deployment of a new salinity monitoring network throughout the Broads waterways.
Creating a baseline of the existing Broads Ecology and implement a citizen science monitoring plan to ensure risks are defined and clearly understood.
Create a framework of 50 professional accredited volunteers to sustain the Broads Ecology for the future, aiding sustainability boosting environment services resource. There are many Broads people who connect with nature, often working in silos, uncoordinated and with variable risk management. The framework of "Broads Guardian Scheme" will enable best practices in the interests of the environment and create new opportunities for engagement with nature, benefiting both health, wellbeing and people's safety.
Define, create, and deliver adaptive actions, that can be delivered through the Broads Guardian volunteer scheme.
Drive evidenced outcomes on landscape scale recovery to protect the Broads Freshwater Environment. Previous recommendations from a lead Dutch specialist will be further investigated, evidenced, and linked into the wider nature-based recovery schemes.

A 20yo environment protection barrier that provides wildlife refuge needs refurbishment, but is currently unfunded. Its will be brought into community ownership and refurbished to meet future challenges, managed by Broads Guardians.

Tell us about the heritage of the project (100 words)

Include who it is important to and why.

The Broads has been shaped by human activity over thousands of years, with significant cultural and heritage significance. There's evidence of Roman fortresses, medieval peat diggings, thriving abbeys and more. The Broads management dates to 1883 when the local community took ownership and formed the initial parliamentary action under the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act. The Broads joined the national park family in 1989, to assist in conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the Broad. Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads to 8 million visitors each year.

What is the need for this project? (200 words)

What work have you done that shows the potential benefits of the project?

In autumn of 2022 salinity incursion killed an estimated million fish and unknown loss of aquatic invertebrates, and thousands of wild birds were lost to Avian Influenza. No agency would take ownership and recover these wild birds and fish which in the full public gaze left to decay. This triggered a BASG lead community conversation regarding the need for change, engaging and presenting to many of the statutory meetings and Broads forums. On the 23rd June 2023 BASG ran a workshop on this issue, with 28 of the key Broads Stakeholders attending. The statutory bodies stated they can't resource at a time of its greatest challenge from climate change and rising sea levels causing greater salinity incursion. The workshop outputs defined the current gaps in delivery supporting the Broads Environment, whilst defining the risks and potential options. It was unanimously agreed to take this forward and will be evidenced in the full application. A further full public forum is currently being planned to take place at the UEA conference centre on the 25th Nov 2023, this will again bring together world leading scientists and create a further compelling case for change on the need to protect the Broads freshwater environment.

How long do you think the project will take? (50 words)

Tell us an estimated start and end date if you have them

Creation of the Broads Guardian Scheme starting in 1st Jan 2024
The framework will become sustainable after 1st Jan 2026, with some management and maintenance costs provided until 2029.
The deployment of salinity Data Buoys will commence in Feb 2024 for pilot feasibility with a rollout completed by Dec 2024.

How much is the project likely to cost? (200 words)

If you know, tell us about the most important costs. These costs can be estimated.

Capital	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Staff	72760	74770	77180	79676	82261	84939	471587
Saline Monitoring	115556	87917	4509	4644	4783	4927	222336
Ecology Monitoring	12000	10400	9734	10124	10529	10950	63737
Equipment	46250	37043	4325	4455	4589	4727	101389
Contingency 10%	24657	21013	9575	9890	10216	10554	85905
Total Capital	271222	231142	105324	108789	112379	116096	944953
Revenue							
Staff	98000	100940	41143	9364	9413	9464	268325
Saline Monitoring	0	0	1030	1061	1093	1126	4309
Ecology Monitoring	0	0	1040	1071.2	1103	1136	4351
Equipment	0	0	2833	2917	3005	3095	11850
Training	32560	32560	10253	14733	15041	11185	116331
Contingency 10%	13056	13350	5630	2915	2965	2601	40517
Total Revenue	143616	146850	61928	32061	32620	28606	445682
Total Costs	414838	377992	167252	140851	144999	144703	1390635
Match Funding	10%	10%	25%	30%	40%	50%	
	41484	37799	41813	42255	58000	72351	293702
Grant Application	373354	340193	125439	98596	86999	72351	1096933

The matched funding sources would be from the Anglian Water Services - Get River Positive Fund
 Crowd funding from Broads Tourism both commercial and visitors
 Private investment in asset transfer of an existing environment protection barrier

How much funding are you planning to apply for from us?

1096933

When are you likely to submit a funding application, if asked to do so? (50 words)

If we receive support for this EOI, then a full application will be made within 6 weeks of this confirmation, up to the deadline of 26th Oct 2023.