

## Water Environment Improvements Project Evidence Form

### Scope & Purpose

This form is to be used by the external Water Environment Governance Group (WEGG), to review, validate and formally approve the length of bluespaces improved for the Water Environment Improvements ODI. The form will be completed by the Water Environment Team with support from project partners and presented to the WEGG. After formal approval, the km of water environment improved will be recorded against the ODI and projects will be marked as completed on the Water Environment Scorecard and illustrated as delivered in the Bluespaces Mapping Portals.

### Project Name

Discovering Ranworth Broad

### Project Lead

Company/ Organisation	Named Lead	Position
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Jane Warren	Grants Officer

### Bluespaces Improved

Year	Claimed	Proposed	Reason For Any Change
Year 3	0.8 km	0.8 km	N/A

### Water Environment Assurance

This project has been reviewed internally to ensure it has delivered benefits above and beyond our baseline and regulatory obligations to improve the water environment accessible to customers across at least two out of three aspects. Following our assurance process, the project was approved by both our internal and external groups for review before delivery. This form presents evidence of project completion and the outputs achieved, to request project sign off.

Level	Project Acceptance Date	Project Approval Date	Completed Project Sign Off Date
Project Team	October 2021	N/A	N/A
Water Environment Steering Group (Internal)	November 2021	December 2021	N/A
Water Environment Governance Group (External)	December 2021	December 2021	May 2023

### Project Timescales

Candidate Project Approved	Project Initiated	Project Completed
December 2021	2020	2023 and ongoing

## Project Summary and Highlights

### Summary

Through this project 0.8km of publicly accessible water environment at Ranworth Broad has been improved. Ranworth Broad is part of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) Bure Valley Living Landscape. Tucked away behind the larger Ranworth Broad, Cockshoot is one of NWT's hidden gems and provides a quiet refuge in the heart of the Broads. This project has provided additional access to enable a greater number of NWG customers to access and enjoy this area of the Broads, and to learn about the site and the importance of wetland habitat conservation. Cockshoot Broad is only accessible via water, with NWT run boat tours running from Ranworth Broad. The guided boat tours focus on education and encourage people to experience nature and help protect it. Independent visitors can also arrive by boat or canoe and moor at the Cockshoot dyke which has recently been upgraded by the Broads Authority.

Wildlife and biodiversity at Ranworth have been enhanced with the addition of an Otter holt and Kingfisher bank which is visible from the new green roofed hide. Nine interpretation boards have been installed and a new educational and engagement programme running from the floating wildlife visitor centre enhances the visitor experience.

### Highlights

- A new viewing hide and boardwalk, and installation of a bike shelter
- Construction of a kingfisher bank and Otter holt
- Installation of 9 trail panels around the reserve, and new interpretation in the discovery centre and creation of family quiz packs
- 'Discovery' boat trips from Ranworth to Cockshoot broad. 8 boat trips were delivered in 2022 and 8 scheduled for 2023
- Visits by Acle and Fairhaven Primary Schools on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> May
- A Thank you event for funders IS scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> May and an open day to showcase the project improvements on 27<sup>th</sup> May



The new wildlife viewing hide and bike shelter at Ranworth

Maps

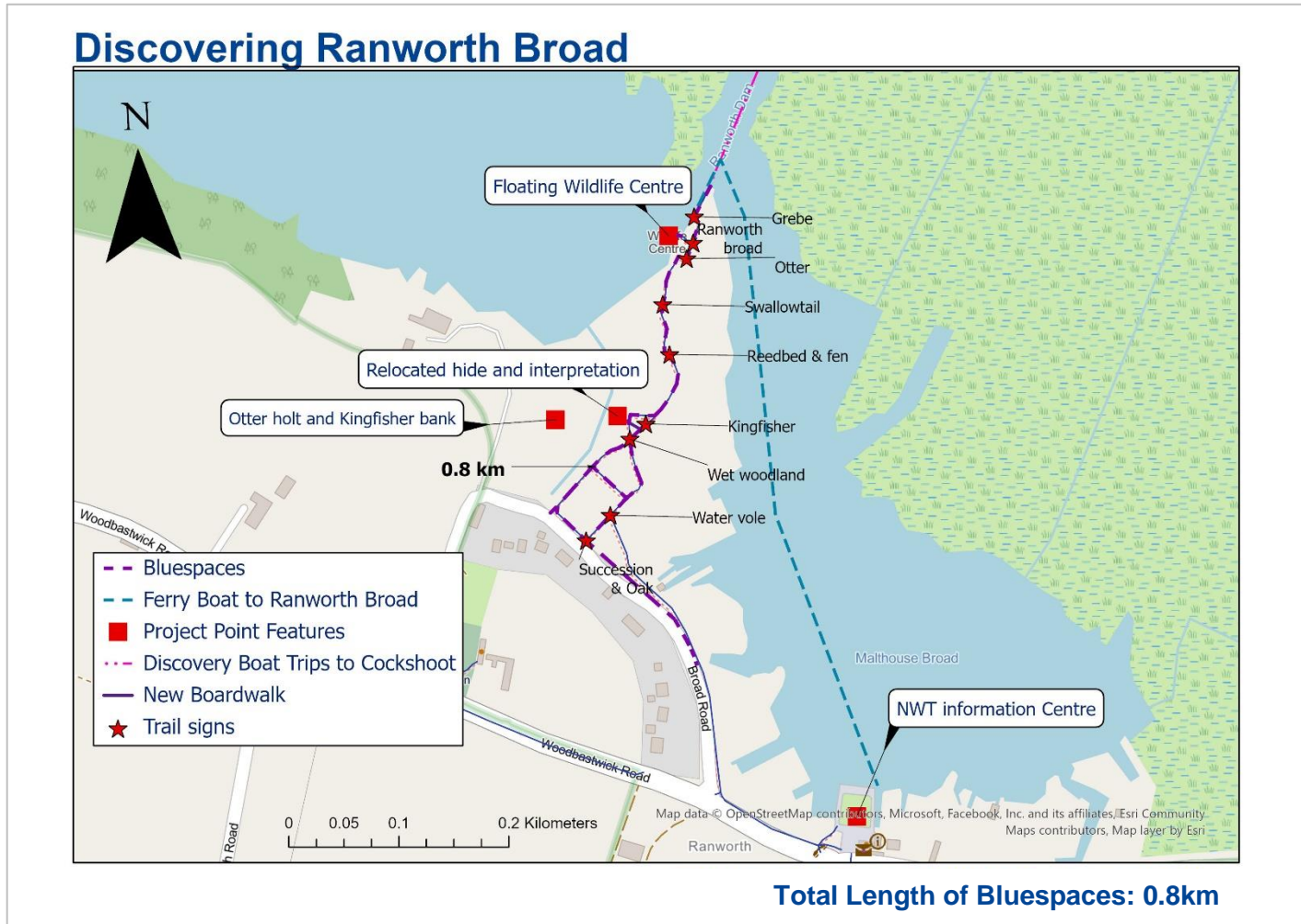




Figure 1: Bluespaces improved at Ranworth Broad

## Project Outputs, Benefits & Evidence Against Criteria

Access, Facilities & Recreation	
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New and replacement interpretation boards</li> <li>2. A new wildlife viewing hide with boardwalk</li> <li>3. Expanded programme of boat trips with a focus on family engagement</li> <li>4. Addition of visitor attractions to the Ranworth Visitor Centre discovery area</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A1: Increases access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment</li> <li>➤ A2: Benefits health and wellbeing</li> <li>➤ A3: Influences positive environmental behaviors</li> </ul>
Outputs	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 12 new interpretation panels have been installed around the reserve to increase engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment</li> <li>2. A new green roof hide with views of the water, otter holt and kingfisher bank with access via a new boardwalk has increased access to the water environment as well as benefitting health and wellbeing</li> <li>3. Additional boat trips focusing on family engagement with passengers learning water and wildlife has helped raise awareness of the water environment, benefitted health and wellbeing and nurtured positive environmental behaviours</li> <li>4. New visitor material, quiz packs and key messages in the visitor centre has promoted engagement, understanding and enjoyment of the natural world.</li> </ol>	
Evidence	
	
<p>Interpretation panels located around the reserve</p>	<p>Engagement items and interpretation within the visitor centre and a selection of drawings by pupils following educational visits</p>
	
<p>New wildlife viewing hide with green roof and interpretation</p>	

### Wildlife & Biodiversity

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aquatic and marginal habitat improvements through fish biomanipulation, exclusion zones and additional aquatic management</li> <li>2. Installation of a new otter holt visible from the new hide</li> <li>3. Installation of a kingfisher bank visible from the new hide</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ B1: Improves the quantity, quality and connectivity of habitats</li> <li>➤ B2: Improves the conservation status and or abundance or distribution of species</li> </ul>

### Outputs

1. Aquatic habitat improvements were carried out in 2020 as baseline activities. Three biomanipulation enclosures were formed in Ranworth and the fish populations manipulated to provide better edge and marginal habitat and establish aquatic vegetation beds to improve the quality of the broad habitat. The project also installed two tern rafts.
2. A new green roofed wildlife hide accessed via a new boardwalk has been constructed with views of the water and otter holt helping to improve the conservation status, abundance and distribution of otter
3. The hide also provides view to the newly created kingfisher bank improving the abundance and distribution of kingfishers at Ranworth broad

### Evidence



Tweet showing tern raft, biomanipulation activities and images show the Kingfisher bank during and after construction



Otter holt during and after construction visible from the new viewing hide

**Water Quality**

**Expected Project Outcomes**

1. Biomanipulation to restore aquatic vegetation and help address algae and turbidity issues
2. Raising awareness of aquatic environmental issues to members of the public, schools and local businesses to help reduce litter within the Norfolk Broads and help maintain water quality

**Benefits**

- C2: Contributes towards improved status or no deterioration of rivers or bathing waters or protecting drinking water
- C3: Improves state and function of water, including naturalisation, visual appearance, litter and odour

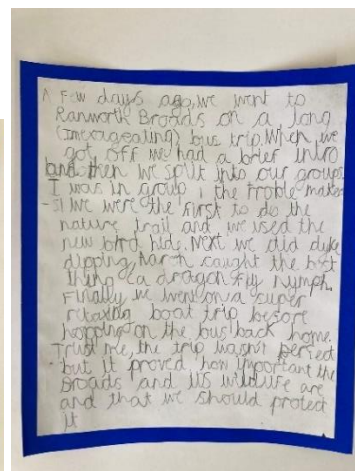
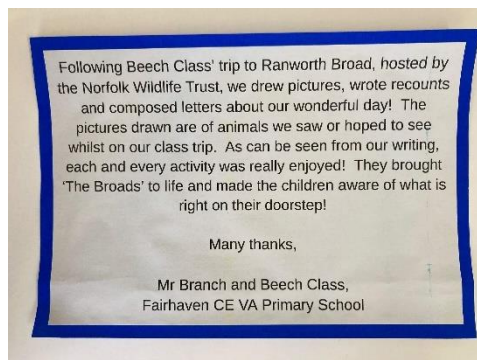
**Outputs**

1. Biomanipulation of the broad assisted in enhancing 15ha of open water habitat and 800m of marginal habitat contributing towards improved status of the broad. Over 200 fish were tagged to track their movements to further knowledge and help tackle water quality issues and protect drinking water
2. The new interpretation and material presented to visitors, school visits and local businesses enthused participants about the water environment and to reduce litter within their environment

**Evidence**



Ranworth broad fish barrier installation and biomanipulation



Teacher and pupil feedback following one of the education visits

Additional & Secondary Benefits

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expanded recreational activities provided through the project and environmental education will help to increase visitor numbers and benefit the local community.</li> <li>2. A partnership project with funds used for match funding and furthers ESW's relationship with a key partner that manages nearby ESW landholdings.</li> <li>3. Improved awareness and perception of ESW and the environment</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ D2: Provides benefits to local communities, the local economy or NWG</li> <li>➤ D3: Supports strategic project or investment into strategic partnership or landscape/regional activity</li> </ul>

Outputs

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visitor infrastructure has been enhanced improving accessibility and creating more inclusive interpretation. Engagement and volunteering activities has helped reconnect local residents and visitors with the water environment</li> <li>2. The project was assisted with funding from Branch out and Bluespaces further strengthening ESW's relationship with the partner</li> <li>3. The project has raised awareness of the value of wetlands, the role they play and ESW's logo has been incorporated on interpretation and at events to highlight the partnership</li> </ol>
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Evidence

**DISCOVERING RANWORTH**

*Below: other Centre: children enjoying our new hide Right: kingfisher and Broads Wildlife Centre*

**School visits kick off our nature discovery project**

Recent visits from pupils of Fairhaven and Acle Primary Schools signalled the start of the project.

Pupils watched from the new wildlife hide, took part in pond dipping, explored the habitat trail and enjoyed a boat trip on the Broad.

A teacher from Fairhaven Primary School said, 'We had a super day! This experience has made our pupils more aware of what a special part of the county we live in and are lucky to have.'

'I loved the boat,' said a pupil from Acle Primary, 'because we got to see all the animals and we saw three kingfishers!'

The pupils will continue to explore the theme of Broads wildlife throughout the coming term, and have a return visit to the nature reserve planned this year.

**Welcoming everyone**

As we add new features to the site, we hope to make Ranworth Broad as welcoming as possible to everyone. Like the boardwalk and the ground floor of the Broads Wildlife Centre, our new hide is fully accessible. We are exploring ways to ensure our new information boards can be enjoyed by as many of our visitors as possible, and the new bike shelter, due for installation in spring, will welcome those who wish to reach us on two wheels.

**22** TERN | Spring 2023

**23** TERN | Spring 2023


Spring 2023 issues of NWT's membership magazine Tern (ESW thanked in final paragraph)

**Customer Testimonies & Media**

A teacher from Fairhaven CE VA Primary School said of their visit: "We had a super day! This experience has made our pupils more aware of what a special part of the county we live in and are lucky to have."


A pupil from Acle Primary School added: "I loved the boat because we got to see all the animals and we saw three kingfishers!"

<https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/news-and-articles/news/all-news/2022-10-18-school-visits-kick-off-new-nor>



Days to Stay	Sleeps	Duration	Unit	Arrival Date
Any	Any	7 Nights	Any	d/m/yy

As one of the Norfolk Wildlife Trusts Investors in Wildlife I was lucky enough to be invited, as representative for Herbert Woods, along to Ranworth Broad this morning to view their renovated visitor centre.



A large amount of investment has been made in both the Visitor Centre and Wildlife Trail. The Visitor Centre now features full length windows along the rear wall with seating and viewing stations overlooking the Broad, complete with binoculars and beautifully illustrated identification boards detailing the wildlife that can be seen on the Broad.



## Lead Partner Quotes & Testimonials

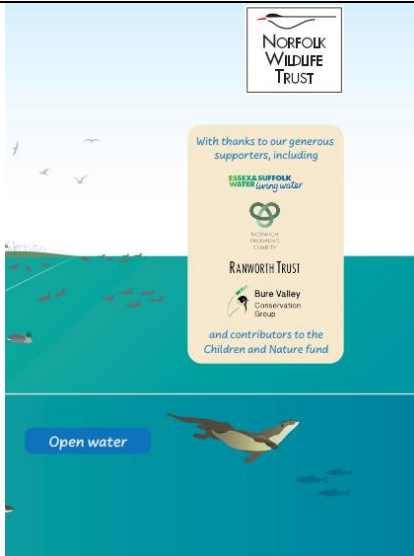
*'As part of our new Discovering Ranworth project we're making improvements that help visitors explore and learn about the vital wetlands of the Broads landscape. A huge thanks go to members of the local community, including the Bure Valley Conservation Group, who are kindly helping us improve habitat on the reserve. We are excited to share this wildlife-rich spot with as many people as possible, making the reserve more accessible and family friendly than ever before. The Discovering Ranworth project has been made possible thanks to generous funding from a variety of NWT supporters, including Essex & Suffolk Water, Norwich Freeman's Charity and The Ranworth Trust'.*

*"Our new Discovering Ranworth project has made improvements to the site that help visitors explore and learn about vital wetlands that make up the Broads landscape, from the abundance of plants and wildlife they support to how they can play a role in protecting against climate change and improving water quality. "*

*"We're excited to be able to create new ways to share this wildlife-rich spot with as many people as possible by making the reserve even more accessible and family friendly than ever. We were delighted when Acle St Edmund C of E Primary School donated a new wildlife hide to us. We have given it a new green roof, and built a new section of boardwalk to join it to the main path. It now overlooks a quiet, area of water that the public have not had access to before, where we are creating an otter holt and a kingfisher bank, to increase wildlife habitats on the reserve."*

**Nick Morritt, Visitor Centre and Sales Manager Norfolk Wildlife Trust**

Other Supporting Evidence



Ranworth Bay 3 – Visitor Centre, Tern Raft, Barrier floats and margin enhancement.

Expanded view of the welcome interpretation panel at the entrance of the reserve thanking funders



Pupils from Acle Primary School visit Ranworth Broad

1/3

School visits kick off new Norfolk Broads nature discovery project

Tuesday 18 October, 2022

Recent visits from pupils from Fairhaven and Acle Primary Schools signalled the start of a major new project to revamp the facilities at [NWT Ranworth Broad nature reserve](#), found 20 minutes from Norwich.

Release from NWT webpage