



## UK Tentative List of Potential Sites for World Heritage Nomination: Application form

Please save the application to your computer, fill in and email to:  
[UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

The application form should be completed using the boxes provided under each question, and, where possible, within the word limit indicated.

Please read the [Information Sheets](#) before completing the application form. It is also essential to refer to the accompanying [Guidance Note](#) for help with each question, and to the relevant paragraphs of UNESCO's *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, (OG) available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>

Applicants should provide only the information requested at this stage. Further information may be sought in due course.

### (1) Name of Proposed World Heritage Site

The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads

### (2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

UK/East Anglia

Grid reference to centre of site

TG440030

Please enclose a map preferably A4-size, a plan of the site, and 6 photographs, preferably electronically.

### (3) Type of Site

Please indicate category:

Natural  Cultural  Mixed  Cultural Landscape

### (4) Description

Please provide a brief description of the proposed site, including the physical characteristics. 200 words

The Broads, a member of the UK's National Parks family, are shallow freshwater lakes originally dug during the early medieval period for peat extraction, but now an internationally protected site for its wildlife and biodiversity interest. Within its 303 square km there are five principal rivers and 63 lakes ("Broads"), offering 200 km of navigable waterway. The landscape is of flat drained grazing marshes with botanically rich ditches, areas of freshwater fen, carr woodland, fen meadow and reed-fringed water bodies, an estuary and coastal dune system punctuated by smaller riverside settlements, drainage pumps and windmills. It is a landscape in fragile balance.

This habitat supports numerous species of conservation concern, including fen orchid, holly-leaved naiad, water vole, brown hare and bittern. It is also a staging post for thousands of migrating birds, including pink-footed geese and flocks of widgeon which graze the marshes. Rare warblers breed in the reedbeds and the only breeding group of Common Crane in Britain have been recorded. Among the rare insects, the Norfolk Hawker dragonfly and the British Swallowtail Butterfly are also found. The peat fens also support a particularly diverse array of over 250 plant species, some of which cannot be found anywhere else in Britain.

### (5) History

Please provide a short summary statement of any significant events in the history of the site. 200 words

After the last glaciation, East Anglia and the Continent were still connected. Traces of Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures have been found in the area. As sea-levels rose, Britain was cut off, the East Anglian rivers slowed, and fens developed in their valleys, leading to the formation of peat. By the Iron Age/Roman period, these rivers fed into a large inland estuary, whose mouth was later blocked by shingle - the site of the town of Great Yarmouth.

Medieval records, including from St Benet's Abbey, in the heart of the Broads, demonstrate that peat extraction from the river valleys was a major industry for around 400 years until around 1500: the Broads are its flooded workings. Subsequently, the landscape bears traces of other uses – the rivers for navigation and trading between the Hanseatic ports and East Anglia, and for fishing and the hunting of wildfowl, and the land for farming by the creation of pasture using wind-powered drainage pumps, and by the production of reed and sedge for thatching. Since the 1890s, the area has been increasingly popular for its recreational boating, which now forms a key attraction, whilst conservation measures have been put in place to preserve the wildlife.

**(6) Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?**

Give reasons. 200 words

The Broads meet many of the criteria outlined in the UNESCO Global Strategy for new World Heritage Sites, and would contribute under cultural and natural criteria to the UK list whilst meeting one of the World Heritage Committee's key natural heritage priorities (lake systems). Identified since 1989 as having the status of a National Park, its boundaries and management structures are already clearly defined, and much of the 303 square kilometres is already protected under various forms of UK, European, and International designations. Around 6000 people live within the boundary of the Broads, and much recreational use is made of the extensive network of lakes and rivers; the site therefore cannot be entirely a natural heritage site, but much of the area is less accessible fen and wetland landscape where wildlife thrives, and where the biodiversity has been described as the temperate equivalent of the tropical rainforests. Ultimately, therefore, this is a quintessential "mixed" site, where the influence of different forms of human management and exploitation of the landscape has been spectacularly recolonised by natural processes, and where intensive management of

the area for conservation purposes while providing access for all is key to the area's future appreciation and survival.

**(7) Please say why the site has Outstanding Universal Value and specify the main features which underpin its importance. 200 words**

The Broads have been shaped by natural processes and human activity, to produce a distinctive and complex area, bearing traces of features spanning more than a millennium of human interaction, a unique history which can still be read in the landscape, and which is also inherently at risk from climate change, rising sea levels and salination. Its combination of man-made interventions, abandoned over time, which now form habitats for rare and endangered species, coupled with its ongoing history and documentation of human activity is unique in the world, and has inspired generations of artists to portray its serenity and beauty for more than two centuries. The Outstanding Universal Value of the site lies therefore in its special history, its long story of human exploitation of the area by peat-diggers, ordinary traders and merchants, reedsmen, farmers and fishermen, as well as its discovery more recently as an area for recreation and relaxation. But out of this history has also come a rich and universal series of values attached to its biodiversity, including the significant and important habitats it contains for threatened species of international concern. It is a truly mixed site where its history and its biodiversity are equally strong.

**(8) Outstanding Universal Value**

Please state which of the [10 UNESCO criteria for Outstanding Universal Value](#) the proposed site meets, and describe briefly why the criteria were chosen. Please see criteria note at the end of the form.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(v)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Broads are an outstanding example of human interaction with the environment over many hundreds of years, beginning with Bronze and Iron Age settlement and farming at the river margins, the Roman use of the inland estuary, the important trading links though the rivers between East Anglia and mainland Europe, and the exploitation of the area for peat fuel extraction during the medieval period. There is a substantial subsequent history of marshland drainage, farming and river usage. This low-lying freshwater system is highly vulnerable to radical change through the influx of salt water and to catastrophic impacts exacerbated by climate change</p>
(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Norwich School, the earliest society of artists in the UK outside London, was founded in 1803 and flourished until the early 1830s. Its leading artists, many of whom portrayed the Broads, were John Crome (1768 – 1821), regarded in his lifetime on a par with Constable and Turner, and John Sell Cotman (1782 – 1842), who produced some of the finest work in the history of watercolour painting. They depicted the Broads in a way which indelibly captures their essence, and recorded a period when it was a hard-working landscape, at the heart of the local identity they sought to portray.</p>
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(x)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Substantial portions of the Broads are designated as Ramsar sites, supporting a number of rare species, and forming a mosaic of wetland habitats of significance for the biogeographical zone, including calcareous fens and alluvial forests. These support a variety of rare resident species, including otters, bitterns, as well as providing a range of habitats including estuary and coastal grazing marsh for internationally significant numbers of over-wintering wildfowl including bewick swans, widgeon, gadwall and shoveler. Rare plants such as the fen orchid and intermediate stonewort are the pinnacle of an extremely diverse range of plant</p>

<b>UNESCO criterion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Why was this criterion chosen?</b> 100 words
		communities.

**(9) Authenticity (for cultural or mixed sites only)**

Authenticity concerns the current state of conservation of a cultural or mixed site; especially whether its importance, its Outstanding Universal Value, is still obvious from its physical condition. Please outline the condition of the site. 200 words

The sources for the understanding of the man-made origin of the Broads are: stratigraphical data from many locations around and in the river valleys of the Yare, Waveney and Bure; cartographical evidence supplemented by historical surveys, tithe and estate maps from various dates between c. 1550 and 1900; and Ordnance Survey mapping from c. 1870 to 2000. This evidence is all supplemented by substantial medieval records, dating from the C12th onwards, recording the rights to dig for peat in many of the Broadland parishes.

The significant attributes of the authenticity of the Broads cultural landscape are:

- The form and shape of the Broads themselves, including their relationship with parish boundaries
- The documented use and function of peat diggings in the area
- The traditions, techniques, and management systems used for over 1,000 years to manage this landscape
- The location and setting of the Broads and their attendant landscape types, which survive and can still be seen.

The landscape has been managed by the Broads Authority for 20 years, and, though this can require intensive work to provide flood defence, manage sediments, and control development pressures, the condition of the system is good, and its authenticity is unimpaired,

**(10) Integrity**

For cultural or mixed sites, please state how much original fabric is included in the proposed site, and its condition. For guidance on how the test of integrity is met for natural sites under criteria (vii) – (x), please refer to the OG 90-94. Information Sheet 6 also provides help on this point. 200 words

The proposed WHS area comprises all of the land within the river valleys in which the Broads were created. The landform of the rivers has changed little in the last 1,000 years, and the peat diggings, which have subsequently flooded to produce areas of considerable biodiversity, are completely incorporated within the river corridors. The cultural landscape of the Broads, managed at various times in the past for different forms of local industrial, riverine, and agricultural purposes, punctuated and defined by visible evidence of these activities, belongs uniquely to the flatlands of the river valleys, and is entirely encompassed within the boundaries of the Broads area.

The surviving elements within the river valleys, given active and positive

management, contain the key elements of biodiversity surrounding the primarily freshwater waterbodies to support the essential long-term conservation of the ecosystems, and enhance their biological diversity. Threats to this are posed by habitat fragmentation, lack of management, water abstraction, nutrient enrichment, siltation, invasive non-native species and impacts of climate change, all of which are managed in different ways.

**(11) Are there other examples of this kind of site already on the World Heritage List?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list. 100 words

**(12) What distinguishes this site from other similar sites?**

150 words

There are few similar sites anywhere in the world. Shallow lakes such as the Broads in close association with rivers, but through which the rivers do not run, can scarcely occur naturally. The origin of the Broads, therefore, for many years was a subject for debate about whether they could have been formed naturally. In around 1960, conclusive evidence was found that they were dug to extract peat.

The Milicz ponds on the Barycz river, north of Wroclaw in Poland, are a series of about 100 lakes dug as fish ponds by monks in the C12. These provide a wildlife haven primarily for birds, both resident and migratory.

The Parc Naturel Régional de la Brière is another, similar site – the largest wetland in France outside the Carmargue, west of Nantes. Its 40,000 ha are a naturally created peatland above a clay subsoil, with a network of marshes and lagoons.

**(13) How does the site contribute to meeting UNESCO's priorities for a balanced World Heritage List?**

200 words

Few of the natural sites in the UK or its islands are well-placed to meet the UNESCO priorities. Wetlands, however, are one area where the UK has some examples within its boundaries, and the Broads are one of the best examples of a wetland environment. Specifically, the Broads answers the point made by IUCN that State Parties should place more emphasis on natural/mixed properties when compiling their tentative lists, and the addition of the Broads, as a mixed site within one of the categories of site identified as under-represented would help to balance the UK list.

The Broads is already recognised at National level by being a member of the UK's National Parks family, with specific legislative protection to safeguard the area's special qualities and encourage appropriate public access. The area is also recognised at European level by having significant areas of Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area, as well as containing 2 Ramsar sites, covering Broadland and the Breydon Estuary. The Broads is also the UK Member of the International Living Lakes partnership, run by the Global Nature Fund and recognised as a key area in England's Wetland Vision.

**(14) What benefits do you think World Heritage Site inscription would bring?**

Please indicate the main opportunities and benefits.

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regeneration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please describe. 100 words.

Education: telling the complex, diverse & important story, increasing the interest & enhancing the quality experience for visitors  
Conservation: enhancing the quality of the landscape, its contribution towards the region's well-being; reinforcing its overall coherence in cultural & natural terms  
Tourism: bringing a promotional/branding advantage, particularly for the Broads internationally  
Regeneration: sensitive regeneration of key areas within the Broads Partnership: creating a shared value attached to the cultural & biological coherence  
Involvement: increasing the voluntary contribution to its care & upkeep  
Protection: of the Fragile & vulnerable landscape

**(15) Are there any known threats to the proposed World Heritage Site?**

Yes  No

Please indicate any proposed developments, or other potential impacts on the site.

Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please describe.</b> 100 words for each issue.
Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	95% of the Broads lies in the functional flood-plain, so new development poses a particular problem. Quality, appearance, innovation and design are key considerations. The flat, wide-open landscapes mean that new large-scale development close to the Broads could be a visual threat, and there have for some time been pressures for new roads across the area. Potential changes in agricultural practice could also have an impact on the character of the area.
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change, with the prospect of warmer wetter winters and dryer summers could make considerable changes to the ecology of the river valleys. Studies of the area have started to predict the way in which these impacts would be felt on the biodiversity of the Broads. In addition, the low-lying river valleys are immensely vulnerable to sea-level rise, and the increasing levels of salination of the essentially freshwater systems.
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eutrophication, fertilisation of the water and wetland habitats through nutrient enrichment, mainly phosphates and nitrates, causes competitive species, such as algae, to grow at such a rate that they become dominant. Invasive non-native species are a significant threat to biodiversity, and affect both flora and fauna, and are exacerbated by a warming climate. Habitat fragmentation, scrub and waterways management all need to be addressed in order to keep the landscape in balance, and work to ensure water quality and quantity is essential for the maintenance of the ecosystem.

### (16) Legal Protection

Please list any legal and other protections, including cultural and natural designations, which cover the whole or part of the proposed site. 200 words

The whole area is the subject of its own protective legislation, the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988, in which the key responsibilities of the Broads Authority are:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty wildlife and cultural heritage of the Broads;
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public, and
- protecting the interests of navigation.

Specific parts of the Broads are also protected by other forms of designation:

- 28 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, covering around 24% of the area, a third of which are also National Nature Reserves.
  - Two Ramsar sites (Globally significant wetlands), covering around 24% of the area
  - Special Areas of Conservation (Natura 2000 designation) covering 24% of the area.
  - There are 272 listed buildings, and parts or all of 23 conservation areas within the Broads, aimed at protecting the historic environment
- There are 8 National Nature reserves

### **(17) Ownership**

Please list the main owners of the site, where possible.

There are many individual owners of land within the Broads. Within the settlements, there are individual properties; outside these areas, 40% of the area is grass marsh, owned by many landowners and cattle graziers; 50% of the fens are in private ownership but managed by the Broads Authority under management agreements.

Other substantial owners of land within the Broads are:

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (5 reserves)

Norfolk Wildlife Trust, (7 wildlife reserves in the Broads, covering , nearly 1,300 ha)

Suffolk Wildlife Trust, (3 reserves)

The National Trust (1 property)

Do the owners support the application? Yes  No

A statement of support from the principle owners of the proposed site should be attached to the application, preferably electronically.

### **(18) Local Authority support for the site**

Please list all Local Authorities with an interest in the proposed site.

The whole of the proposed site comes within the Executive Area of the Broads Authority whose statutory purposes encompass those required for the management of a WHS and whose status is similar to that of a local authority. It has a role very akin to that of a national park authority as well as being the planning and navigation authority for the area. The Broads Authority membership is fully supportive of the application for the area to be included on the UK's WHS Tentative List, and resolved at its meeting on 14 May 2010 to submit the bid.

There are eight other local authorities which provide a range of other services to people who live within the Broads area. they are Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, County Councils, Norwich City Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Broadland, North Norfolk, South Norfolk and Waveney District Council.

Does the proposed site have local Authority support? Yes  No

Please attach a statement of support from each one in relation to the application.

Please indicate whether the site is included in the local plan/s by specific policies.

Yes  No  Partly

Please describe. 200 words.

There are specific policies regarding the protection and management of the Broads in two main documents.

The Broads Plan, produced in 2004, and to be revised this year, is the 5-year management plan for the Broads, as required by the Broads Act, 1988. This sets out the Authority's policy on the exercise of its functions, and, in particular, its "national park" duties.

The Local Development Framework is a suite of documents outlining how the Authority will exercise its planning powers in specific policy areas relating to its development control functions. The whole of the Broads is therefore covered by a specific suite of detailed planning policies, which are kept constantly under review. At present, the adopted policies are a mixture of new policies outlined in a Core Strategy adopted in 2006, a detailed Development Plan Document, which is currently about to go out for public consultation, and a series of reserved policies retained from the existing Broads Local Plan (not to be confused with the Broads Plan above), which was adopted in 1997.

These documents take into account the requirements for specific protection for individual sites designated under specific national or international provisions as set out in Question 16 above.

## **(19) Stakeholders**

Please list the main parties with an interest in the site. 100 words

Ten main stakeholder groups have been identified by the Authority as having major interests in the Broads:

- o Boating/water based Recreational Interest Groups
- o Commercial Interest Groups
- o Land Based Recreation Interest Groups
- o Fishing/Angling interest groups
- o Wildlife and Conservation Interest Groups
- o Farming/Landowning Interest Groups
- o Education Interest Groups
- o Cultural Heritage/Landscape Interests
- o Local Charities
- o Local Communities

52 organisations falling within the above categories are represented by 25 individuals on the Broads Forum, which meets 4-5 times a year under an independent Chairman, and gives advice to the Authority on the key strategic issues

## **(20) How will the Site be managed?**

Please outline the management arrangements for the proposed World Heritage Site, including where the responsibilities lie. 200 words

The Authority has a permanent staff of around 150, some of whom are seasonal, whose role is to carry out the functions of the Authority in respect of its statutory duties listed under Q 14 above, and who already manage the whole of the Broads area. Staff are organised into 4 Directorates - Planning and Strategy, Waterways, Conservation and Countryside Management, and Corporate Services. Each of these has a work programme. The organisation is headed by a Chief Executive, answerable to a Board (Authority) of 21 Members, 9 of whom are currently appointed to the Authority by the constituent county, unitary and district authorities, 10 of whom are appointed by the Defra Secretary of State, and 2 of whom are appointed from the Authority's Navigation Committee (which itself is formed of 8 external members appointed after interview and 5 Members of the Authority).

There is therefore a clear management structure in place, and clear accountabilities from the Authority to Government Ministers in Defra.

## **(21) Funding: the nomination**

Please indicate how the preparation of the nomination would be funded. 100 words

If accepted onto the Tentative list, the Authority would use its resources and professional skills in the first instance to prepare the necessary nomination documents, including the proposed WHS Management Plan. There is a sufficient number of staff in place with expertise to feed into the preparation of a full nomination for WH inscription. Much of the preliminary material for inclusion within the WHS Management Plan already exists in other documents already produced as part of the current management of the area.

**(22) Funding: management**

Please outline how the future management would be funded. 100 words

At present, the Authority receives annual National Park grant from the Government to carry out the functions outlined in Q16 and 20 above, and also raises annual tolls on all craft licensed to use the navigable waterways of the Broads. In addition to this funding, many other organisations and stakeholders carry out management responsibilities and expend resources within the Broads area. It is to be expected that the number and range of projects and programmes delivered by the Authority and by other statutory and private organisations will continue for the future, and potentially increase with WH inscription for the area.

**Name and Contact Details of Applicant**

Name	Dr John Packman
Status	Chief Executive, Broads Authority
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Telephone	01603 756019
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Completed applications should be forwarded, preferably in electronic format, to the World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport at the following email address: [UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

Any material that cannot be sent electronically should be sent to the following address:

World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1 5DH

The closing date for applications is 11th June 2010

## UNESCO's criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value (para 77 of the Operational Guidelines)

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.