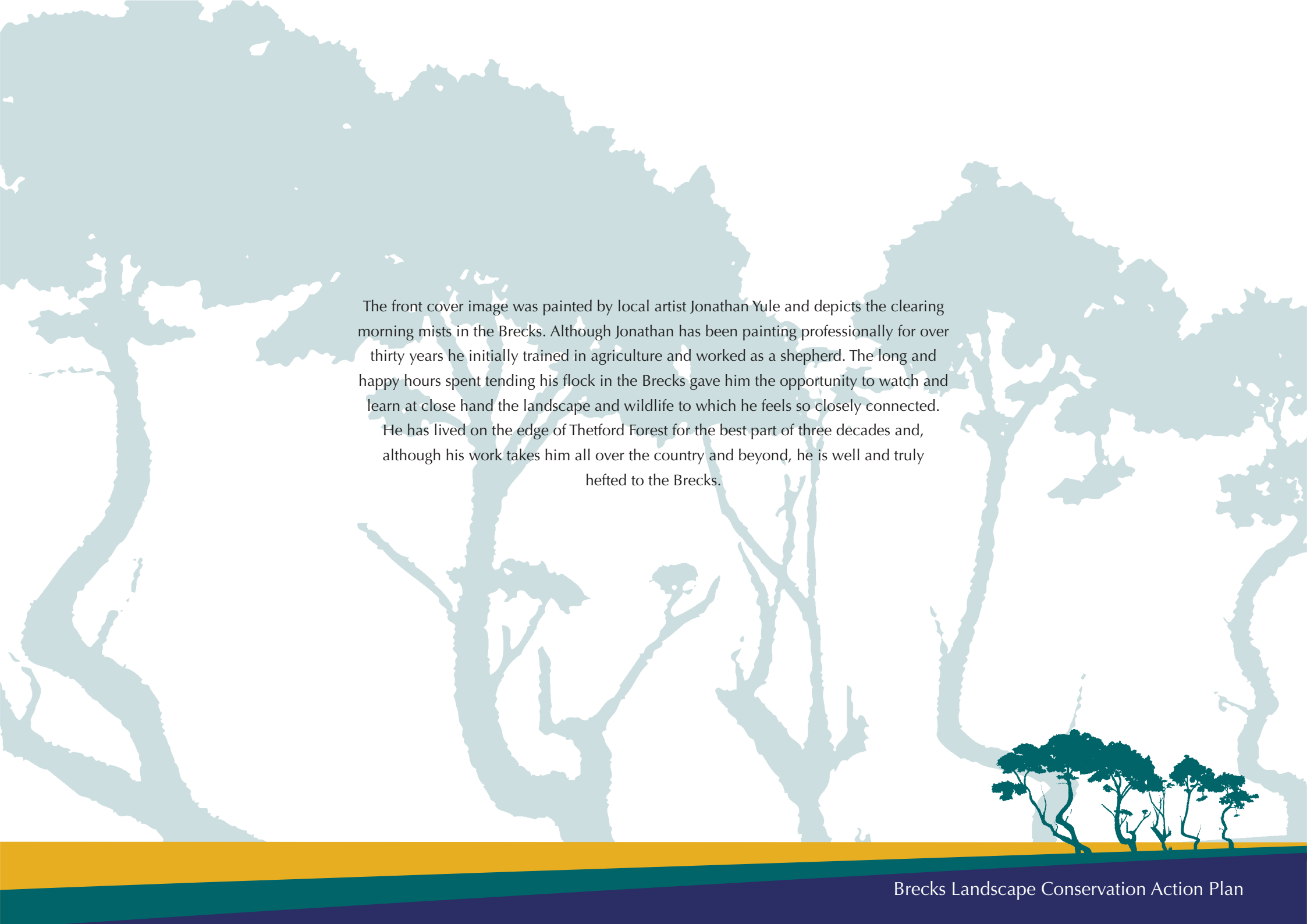


A watercolor painting of a landscape. In the foreground, a flock of sheep is grazing in a field of pink and purple heather. To the right, a cluster of tall, thin trees with green foliage stands. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with rolling hills. The overall style is soft and painterly.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

A Landscape Conservation Action Plan for The Brecks

....he who lives near the open heath thinks in miles....



The front cover image was painted by local artist Jonathan Yule and depicts the clearing morning mists in the Brecks. Although Jonathan has been painting professionally for over thirty years he initially trained in agriculture and worked as a shepherd. The long and happy hours spent tending his flock in the Brecks gave him the opportunity to watch and learn at close hand the landscape and wildlife to which he feels so closely connected. He has lived on the edge of Thetford Forest for the best part of three decades and, although his work takes him all over the country and beyond, he is well and truly hefted to the Brecks.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Famed for its dry, sandy landscape that conjured up visions of a wild desert to early travellers, the Brecks have been shaped by long human interaction with this marginal natural environment. Its very name commemorates the temporary fields that were 'broken in' from the area's extensive heaths.



The Brecks ©Nick Ford

The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme (BNGLPS) Area is situated in the heart of the Brecks, a unique landscape in Britain with an incredible and much overlooked heritage and biodiversity. The LPS area has been selected to be a representative core of the whole Brecks area and contains the three main landscape character types of the Brecks, the two main population centres, and the greatest concentration of heritage assets.

This approach has been adopted in order to deliver positive heritage and community outcomes in a recognisable landscape area identified by the

Landscape Character assessment while seeking to meet the Heritage Lottery criteria for permissible area of land for a Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Through extensive surveys, research, and consultation with local communities and organisations a narrative of the Brecks has emerged, leading to an agreed set of priorities for the area's conservation, restoration and long term care which are set out in Section 4: Aims and Objectives with long-term benefits and legacy outlined in Section 6: Sustainability .

The main priorities of the BNGLPS are connecting communities with the landscape through the conservation and restoration of the natural and built heritage features that make the Brecks landscape so

distinctive. To achieve this the BNGLPS will undertake practical conservation and restoration works and engage with, train and inform local communities to reconnect people with the landscape through access, learning and a celebration of the landscape. This will provide opportunities to ensure that the knowledge and skills are embedded within communities for the long-term care of the landscape along with an increased sense of ownership and responsibility.



Brecks volunteers

The new working partnerships, enthusiasm and momentum generated by the BNGLPS will provide a legacy for the scheme and ensure that the benefits will continue to be enjoyed into the future.



INTRODUCTION

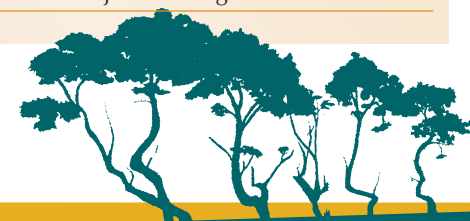
The Plan Author

The Landscape Conservation action Plan (LCAP) has been written by Nick Dickson, Development Manager for the BNGLPS, in summer 2013, for the second-round (development phase) of the Heritage Lottery's Landscape Partnerships grant scheme.

The inception of a bid to the HLF Landscape Partnership scheme was made by the Brecks Partnership and with members' support a successful Stage 1 bid was made in 2012. This second-round development phase and production of the LCAP was overseen by Neil Featherstone, Brecks Partnership Manager with the help of Michelle Turner Partnership Business Support Officer and was guided by the BNGLPS board, whose members contributed their time and expertise to the development of the scheme:

Name	Representing	Position
Cllr Lisa Chambers (BNG Chairman)	Suffolk County Council	Deputy Leader SCC
James Parry (BNG Vice-Chairman)	Breckland Society (Brecks Interest groups/societies representative)	Chairman Breckland Society
Cllr Ian Monson	Norfolk County Council	County Councillor
Neil Featherstone	Brecks Partnership ¹	Brecks Partnership Manager
Nick Dickson	Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership	Breaking New Ground Development Manager
Cllr Sarah Broughton	St Edmundsbury Borough Council	District Councillor
Cllr Warwick Hirst	Forest Heath District Council	District Councillor, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure & Culture
Nick Collinson	Suffolk County Council Natural Environment Service	Natural Environment Manager
Heidi Thompson	Norfolk County Council Natural Environment Service	Biodiversity and Countryside Manager
Andrew Blenkiron	Landowner representative	Estate Director – Euston Estate
Gareth Price	Education representative	Headmaster Thetford Grammar School
Mike Taylor	Forestry Commission	Business Manager - East of England
Catherine Weightman	Natural England	Senior Advisor
Julia Massey	Environment Agency/Anglian Water	Technical Officer Biodiversity
Neil Stott	Keystone Development Trust (Community representative)	Chief Executive
John Barker	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	
Jane Scarrott	Norfolk Association of Local Councils	NALC Parish Liaison Officer
Dr Will Fletcher	English Heritage	Ancient Monuments Inspector
Jo Pearson	Business representatives	Company Director
John Hiskett	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Senior Conservation Officer
Dorothy Casey	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Head of Conservation
Charlotte Lowry	RSPB	Brecks Projects Manager

¹ During the course of the BNGLPS development phase The Brecks Partnership board voted to end the partnership. The Brecks Partnership will therefore not have a role in the delivery of the BNGLPS which will be hosted directly by Suffolk County Council.



The BNGLPS Board has representation from across a wide range of local authorities, national and local organisations as well as other important stakeholders in the Brecks. The members contribute a wealth of expertise and experience; the BNGLPS Chairman is Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council and the BNGLPS Deputy Chairman is also Chairman of the Breckland Society. All board members hold senior positions in their respective organisations and are thereby able to ensure the long-term support and engagement in the successful delivery of the BNGLPS.

At the time of writing this LCAP Breckland District Council is not represented, but the BNGLPS board has confirmed its commitment to encouraging the District Council to take an active part in the delivery phase, and will keep open the offer of a place on the board should the District Council wish to get involved at any time.

In addition to the BNGLPS Board, a Project Development Support Group was established, and met regularly, with representation from all the partner organisations and those contributing to the delivery project proposals to provide specialist contributions and advice throughout the development period.

The development of the BNGLPS was hosted and supported by the Brecks Partnership. The delivery of the scheme will be hosted by Suffolk County Council at Brandon Country Park which is in the heart of the BNGLPS area and provides a convenient and accessible location for participants and partners and is the location for a number of public participation events. In addition this location will ensure continued access to information, guidance and opportunities created by the scheme long after the formal delivery period has ended.

Participation and consultation

Consultation and feedback on the proposals was also sought at every stage of the development process from all stakeholders, including the public, landscape professionals, local businesses and visitors.

Resources for Change (R4C) was contracted to identify the key audiences and carry out research to understand the needs and expectations of those audiences in relation to;

- Audience Development,
- Physical Access,
- Technological Access,
- Skills Training,
- Education and Learning
- Interpretation,

This was carried out with the help of interpreters provided by the Keystone Development Trust via extensive surveys carried out by phone, face-to-face in the project area, on-line and via Twitter. The results have greatly helped to inform this LCAP.



A public conference and exhibition was held in June 2013 at the Carnegie rooms in Thetford. This event was attended by 70+ delegates that included members of the public, and professionals from all sectors

Speaker	From	Subject
Neil Featherstone	Brecks Partnership	An introduction to the Brecks
Professor Tom Williamson	School of History, University of East Anglia	Breckland's Landscape history: Problems and Possibilities
Nick Dickson	Breaking New Ground Development Manager	The Breaking New ground Landscape Partnership
Kate Collins	Sheils Flynn	The Brecks Landscape Character
Steve Evison	Resources for Change	The Brecks Surveys and Audits
James Parry	Breckland Society	Forum Session

with an interest in the Brecks landscape heritage. Speakers included representatives of BNG partners and contractors working on the Landscape character assessment and the audits and surveys;

A public conference and exhibition was held in June 2013 at the Carnegie rooms in Thetford. This event was attended by 70+ delegates that included members of the public, and professionals from all sectors with an interest in the Brecks landscape heritage. Speakers included representatives of BNG partners and contractors working on the Landscape character assessment and the audits and surveys;

Name	Role
James Parry	(Chair of the Forum) Breckland Society Chair
Nick Dickson	Conference Speaker
Neil Featherstone	Conference Speaker
Steve Evison	Conference Speaker
Kate Collins	Conference Speaker
Peter Holborn	Landscape Professional (retired)
Bev Nicholls	English Nature
Paul Dickinson	Forestry & conservation, Elveden estate



The BNG conference © Michelle Turner



The Breaking New Ground Vision

Breaking New Ground is a response to the need for a dynamic impetus to move this unique landscape from the margins of public awareness to the mainstream.

This LCAP will set out a strategy to connect communities to the skills and understanding necessary to rediscover and sustain the Brecks' natural, archaeological and built heritage and enable them to explore and celebrate its distinctive features such as pine lines, flint buildings, forests and heaths.

The 'Breaking New Ground' scheme area is the heart of the area known as 'The Brecks' in South-West Norfolk and North-West Suffolk, centred on Thetford and Brandon.

The proposed projects to be delivered by the BNGLPS have been arranged into four programmes that will each contribute to the realisation of the vision and achieve the priorities for Landscape Partnerships:

- A. Conserve and restore the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character: 'Doing the Ground Work'
- B. Increase community participation in local heritage: 'Feet on the Ground'
- C. Increase access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage: 'Finding Common Ground'
- D. Increase training opportunities in local heritage skills: 'On Solid Ground'

"To understand the language of landscape, to be able to interpret the way in which people make places, offers insights and enjoyment beyond the ordinary".

Sir Neil Cossons in 'England's Landscapes : East Anglia' 2006.



Doing the ground work © Norfolk HES

The main aims and priorities of the BNGLPS

Aims:

- enhance, conserve and promote the natural and historic landscape, its archaeology, built heritage, wildlife and geodiversity and demonstrate their connectivity
- improve accessibility by overcoming physical, social, cultural and intellectual barriers to enable everyone to understand, enjoy and value this special area and to engage with its future
- develop a skilled and sustainable volunteer base through training and volunteering opportunities
- provide training and promote those skills necessary to record, manage and enhance the Brecks landscape
- engage with schools and young people to create active future custodians of the landscape
- enable residents and visitors to make a positive and sustainable contribution to the local economy
- engender pride and a 'sense of place' in the Brecks for residents and visitors alike

Priorities:

- connect people with the landscape through a range of projects and activities promoting greater understanding and ownership of the area and the issues it faces
- facilitate their involvement with opportunities for participation, learning and training
- make a difference to the landscape 'on the ground' through conserving the natural and built heritage develop partnerships with both professional and voluntary organisations to sustain and grow the outcomes of the Scheme



Key documents

A number of documents have been produced during the development phase to provide information for, and to support the production of this LCAP. The key findings of these documents will be summarised in the LCAP, but for those who want to know more or to understand the evidence base in more detail, the following documents will be useful and are available on the current BNGLPS website (www.brecks.org):

- **The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme Brecks Landscape Character Assessment**

An integrated Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) was commissioned by Breaking New Ground from Sheils Flynn. This LCA built on the National Character Area 85 study undertaken by Natural England completed in 2012 and the Regional Landscape Characterisation completed in 2011, as well as a range of local characterisations covering parts of the NCA. A copy of the LCA is enclosed with the Stage 2 application.

Additional funding was provided, by both Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, so that this work could encapsulate the whole of the Brecks NCA not just the BNG Scheme Area.

The LCA was written using research and field visits and was undertaken in parallel with Scheme development, and was completed in August 2013.

It identified three distinct landscape Character types within the BNG Scheme area that make up the distinctive character of the heart of the Brecks;

A draft document was presented to the public at the Breaking New Ground conference and feedback sought from community members and landscape professionals; the document is written to be accessible for a general audience. The Scheme intends for the LCA to be accessible as a tool for local communities, landscape professionals, developers and planners, and early feedback has been extremely positive.

The LCA describes the landscape types within the NCA and goes on to provide guidance, to conserve enhance and restore the distinctive landscape characteristics of the Brecks. This is the first detailed landscape characterisation of the whole of the Brecks that has been produced at this scale.

- The LCA clearly demonstrate the threats to the distinctive landscape of the BNGLPS area; the need for a better understanding of the area and the need for development of a mechanism for re-introducing traditional land management techniques (or modern equivalents) to create the conditions necessary for many of the Brecks specific species to flourish. In addition it identifies the threats to the distinctive landscape features such as the pine lines and pingos from changing land use, development or neglect.

- **The Brecks sources Directory**

A Sources Directory (SD) was commissioned by BNG from E. Martin & P. Holborn. The purpose of the Sources Directory was to bring together all known references and sources of information relating to the Brecks' natural, archaeological and built heritage into an accessible directory that is easy to use.

The information contained within the Directory was been gathered from a wide range of published and unpublished sources including the records and archives of private estates, within the scheme area. Particular thanks and recognition are given to staff and owners of the Euston, Elveden and Shadwell Estates for their assistance in compiling this Sources Directory.

The format used is a simple Excel spreadsheet that enables the user to interrogate and drill down sources of information using a filter tool.

This Directory has helped to inform the preparation of this LCAP and also acts as a stand alone reference source for communities, schools and Landscape professionals to inform future research, plan preparation and action on the ground.



- **The Breaking New Ground Audit and Survey report**

The Audit and Survey Report was commissioned from Resources for Change, (R4C). The consultant was asked to produce a report that would provide baseline information and identify gaps and opportunities in the scheme area relating to;

- Physical Access
- Technological Access
- Interpretation
- Education and Learning
- Skills Training
- Audience Development

The conclusions of this report demonstrate the need for reconnecting all the audiences and communities within the BNGLPS area with the landscape through physical and educational means as well by creating better resources for long-term engagement. It goes on to help inform how the BNGLPS could engage with a range of audiences to improve access, participation and learning through a variety of means and opportunities.

Other key documents

The following documents form part of the key resources for

- Brecks Biodiversity Audit
http://www.uea.ac.uk/~e313602/biodiversity_audit/wpimages/Breckland%20Biodiversity%20Audit.pdf
- National character Profile: 85. The Brecks
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4282581>

Gaps and Limitations

The nature of the Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnerships scheme restricts the physical area for the LPS. As a result the BNGLPS has had to concentrate its outputs into an area that constitutes the 'Heart of the Brecks' rather than the whole of the Brecks National Character Area (NCA).

Therefore the BNG project area boundary has been defined as the result of a combination of factors as set out in Section: 1 Understanding the LP Area, to ensure that the area meets HLF criteria and that the primary audiences are targeted in conjunction with the most important, and characteristic, biodiversity heritage and landscape assets within the Brecks NCA.

The great extent of man's influence on the landscape of the LPS area means that the volume of important heritage and its associated needs cannot all be addressed by the BNGLPS. The process of producing this LCAP has highlighted in particular the need to focus on conserving and protecting the known heritage; developing our understanding of, and creating new access to, the area's unrecorded heritage, and for the engagement of local communities in that process. This sets in place a local and sustainable means for the continuation of the delivery of the aims and objective of the BNGLPS into the future.



SUMMARY

The wild, unenclosed heathland encourages breadth of thought. The man who constantly dwells in a district where all land is enclosed and fields are small, thinks in acres; he who lives near the open heath, thinks in miles.

W G Clarke In Breckland Wilds 1925

The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme (BNGLPS) Area is situated in the heart of the Brecks, a unique landscape in Britain with an incredible and much overlooked heritage and biodiversity. The LPS area has been selected to be a representative core of the whole Brecks National character Area.

Through extensive surveys, research, and consultation with local communities and organisations a narrative of the Brecks has emerged, leading to an agreed set of priorities for the area's conservation, restoration and long term care.

From its inception by the The Brecks Partnership the BNGLPS Board has inherited a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference to the physical nature of the Brecks landscape and its understanding. With representation from across a wide range of local authorities, national and local organisations as well as other important stakeholders in the

Brecks, the members contribute a wealth of expertise and experience

Breaking New Ground is a response to a desire and recognised need for a dynamic impetus to move this unique landscape from the margins of public awareness to the mainstream.

The process of producing this LCAP has highlighted the need to focus on conserving and protecting the known heritage; developing our understanding of, and creating new access to, the area's unrecorded heritage, and for the engagement of local communities in that process

This LCAP will set out a strategy to connect communities to the skills and understanding necessary to rediscover and sustain the Brecks' natural, archaeological and built heritage and enable them to explore, understand and celebrate its distinctive features including pine lines, flint buildings, forests and open heaths.



1 UNDERSTANDING THE BREAKING NEW GROUND LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME AREA

A 'breck' is a traditional local term for a piece of land on the margins of the permanent agricultural land and the surrounding heaths that fluctuated between cultivation and reversion to heathland, depending on need, opportunity and sustainable fertility. This form of temporary cultivation was a response to the area's particular geology, soil and climate and market need.

INTRODUCTION

Famed for its dry, sandy landscape that conjured up visions of a wild desert to early travellers, the Brecks have been shaped by the long human interaction with this marginal natural environment. Its very name commemorates the temporary arable fields that were 'broken in' from the area's extensive heaths.



Brecks ©Nick Ford

The Brecks is one of the driest parts of Britain, a landscape of coniferous forest, grass heath and agricultural land, home to many unique or rare birds, plants and animals. The effects of the last Ice Age can be seen nowhere else in Britain and Ireland as extensively as the Brecks. Twelve thousand years ago, ice formation created pingos and the permafrost conditions made distinctive and still-visible ground patterns. Its human history stretches from that Ice Age to some of the earliest evidence for humans in Britain. Neolithic flint miners here

formed one of the first industrial landscapes in Britain. The earthworks of medieval rabbit farming and enclosure features of the 19th century landed estates have left their mark too, making this a landscape rich in historical and ecological interest.

UNDERSTANDING THE AREA

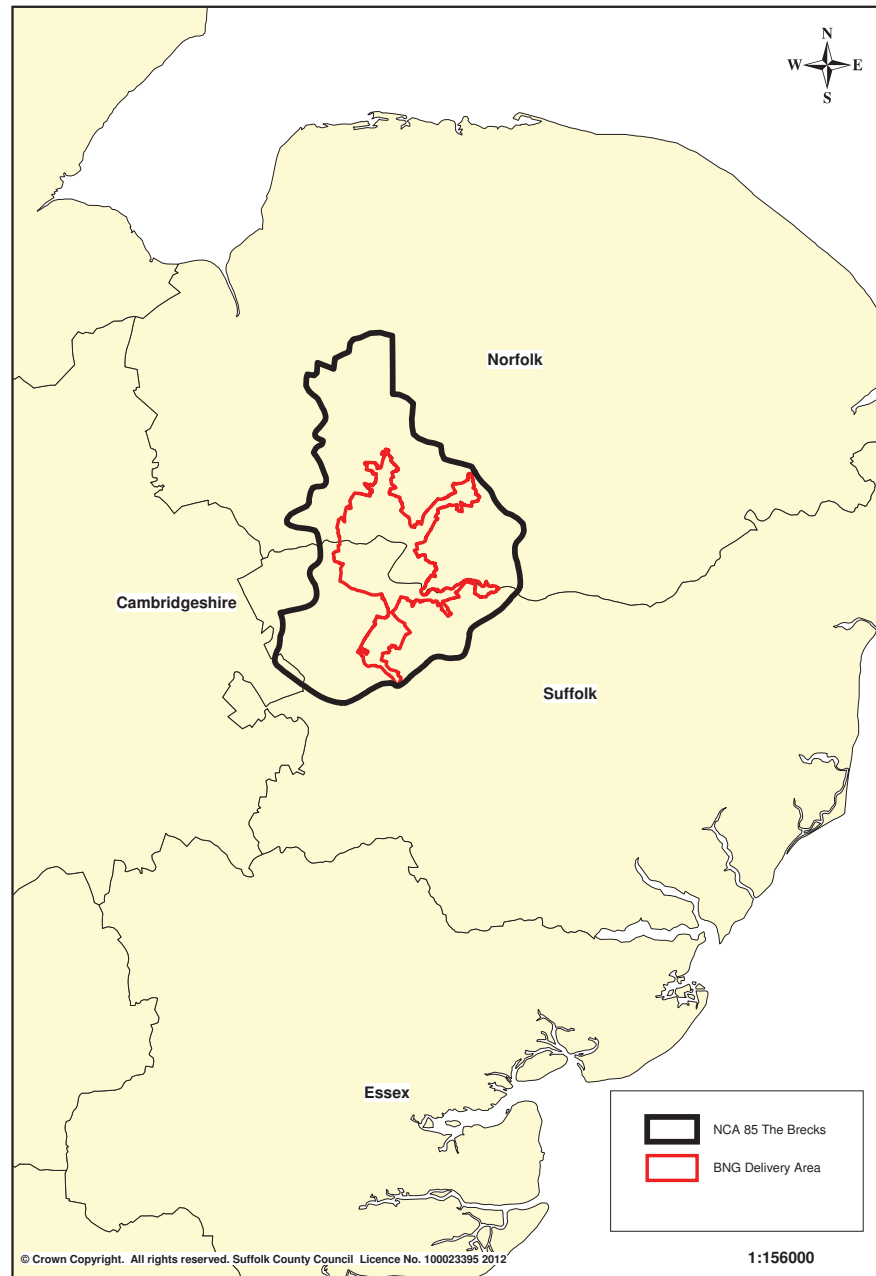
The 'Breaking New Ground' scheme area is the heart of the area known as 'The Brecks' in South-West Norfolk and North-West Suffolk, centred on Thetford and Brandon. It is the heart of the Brecks National Character Area (NCA) – it has the highest concentration of the NCA's heritage and biodiversity assets, and represents in microcosm, the threats and opportunities faced by the Brecks area as a whole.

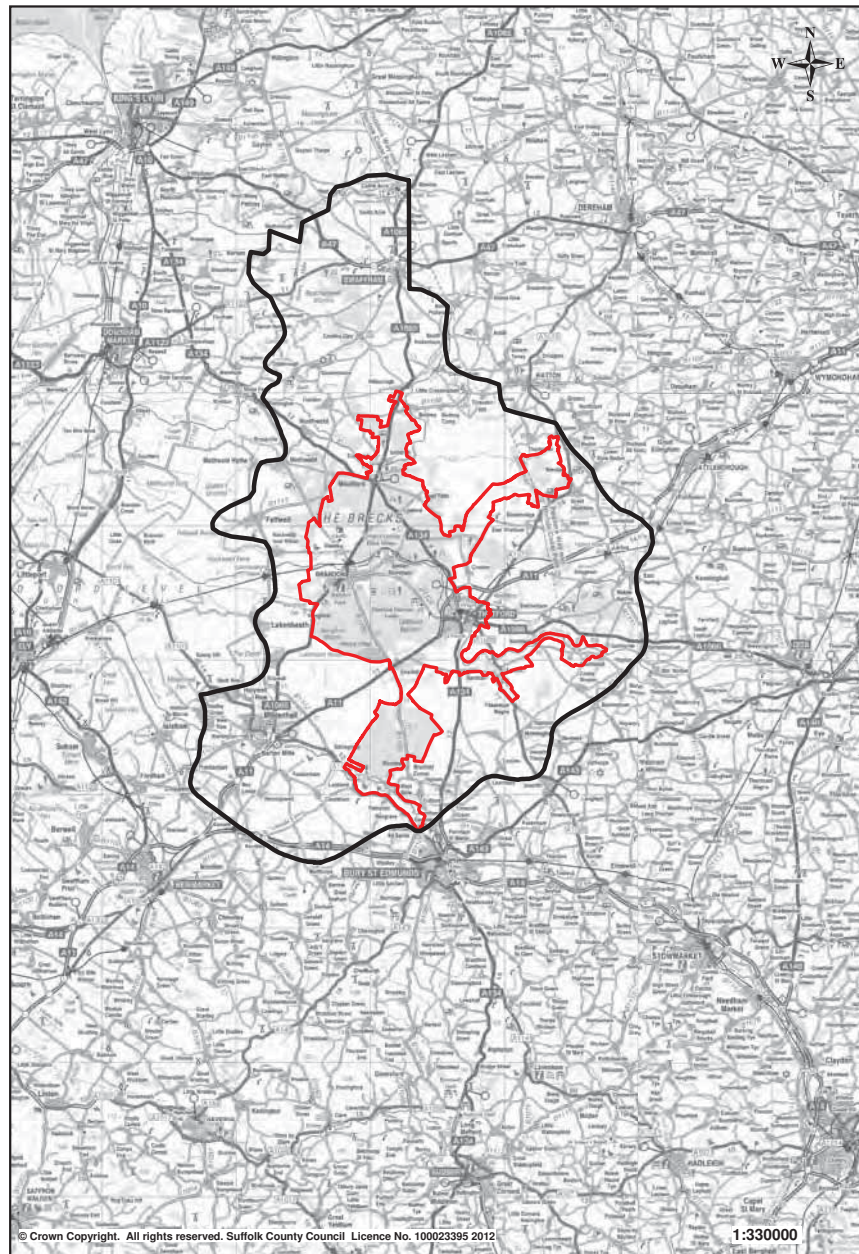
The approximate size of the BNGLPS area in square kilometres is 231km².

Thetford is the main town, located on the A11 in the centre of the Brecks. Brandon is the only other settlement of any size, though the larger towns of Swaffham to the north and Mildenhall and Bury St Edmunds to the south lie just outside the core area. Further to the south and west are Cambridge and Ely, both centres of significant population and with rail and road links to London. Along with Norwich 25kms to the east these areas provide a large percentage of current visitors to the Brecks.



BNG context





The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Area

- Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership scheme Area
- National Character Area 85: The Brecks



There are a number of major roads through the landscape – the A11 dual carriageway, A1065, A134, A1066, A1075, A1088. These roads bring a strong sense of movement to the landscape but also confinement as many roads are tree lined, obscuring the views of the wider Brecks.

Away from these transport corridors, much of the area has a quiet and peaceful character. In fact there remain some large tracts of land without any form of built development and very limited or no access routes.

The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Area was selected for the following reasons;

- It is based on the three core Brecks landscape types: Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, Brecks Plantation and River Valleys
- It includes the two centres of population and main areas of deprivation: Thetford and Brandon
- It comprises areas within the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and Breckland District, Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough
- It includes areas of the major estates including Elveden, Euston, Shadwell and Forestry Commission
- It includes the major development area of Thetford with potential links to measures for mitigation and the need to generate awareness of the landscape heritage of the Brecks with current and future communities.
- It includes the core area of the Brecks biodiversity as outlined in the Brecks Biodiversity Audit
- It includes areas representative of previous and current Brecks' land use; in particular flint production, warrening, forestry and farming
- It includes both the best examples and the full range of vernacular architecture
- It links to the national long-distance trail of the Peddars and Icknield Ways
- It links with the known current and planned delivery of the Water Framework Directive; Forest Design Statements; the Forestry Commission's Recreation and Access Strategy and the Thetford Growth Point Strategy.
- It includes the major designated sites significant for wildlife and heritage.

To address the profound disconnection between the majority of the population and the surrounding landscape and to properly understand

¹ Natural England, National Character Area profile: 85 The Brecks, January 2013

and address the needs of the landscape at the appropriate scale, 'Breaking New Ground' has identified this area as having the potential to benefit most from this scheme.

Summary of landscape character

The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) commissioned from Sheils Flynn by the BNG Development team received additional funding from Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils which enabled the LCA to cover the whole of the Brecks National Character Area (NCA 85)¹, bringing together and rationalising the previous work carried out by District and County Councils into one cohesive document that describes the landscape within the Brecks NCA.

During its development extensive consultation took place with landscape and heritage professionals from all the partner organisations as well as planning representatives from all the district planning authorities to ensure accuracy and the adoption on the LCA as a tool for informing landscape and heritage planning decisions for the life of the BNGLPS and beyond.

The study promotes the unique landscape character of the Brecks, the variety of different landscapes within the area and provides a record of what is distinctive and special within each landscape type, as well as landscape elements and features that are particularly vulnerable to change. It also provides an integrated assessment of the character and sensitivity of these landscapes, along with guidance for directing landscape change to conserve and enhance distinctive landscape character.

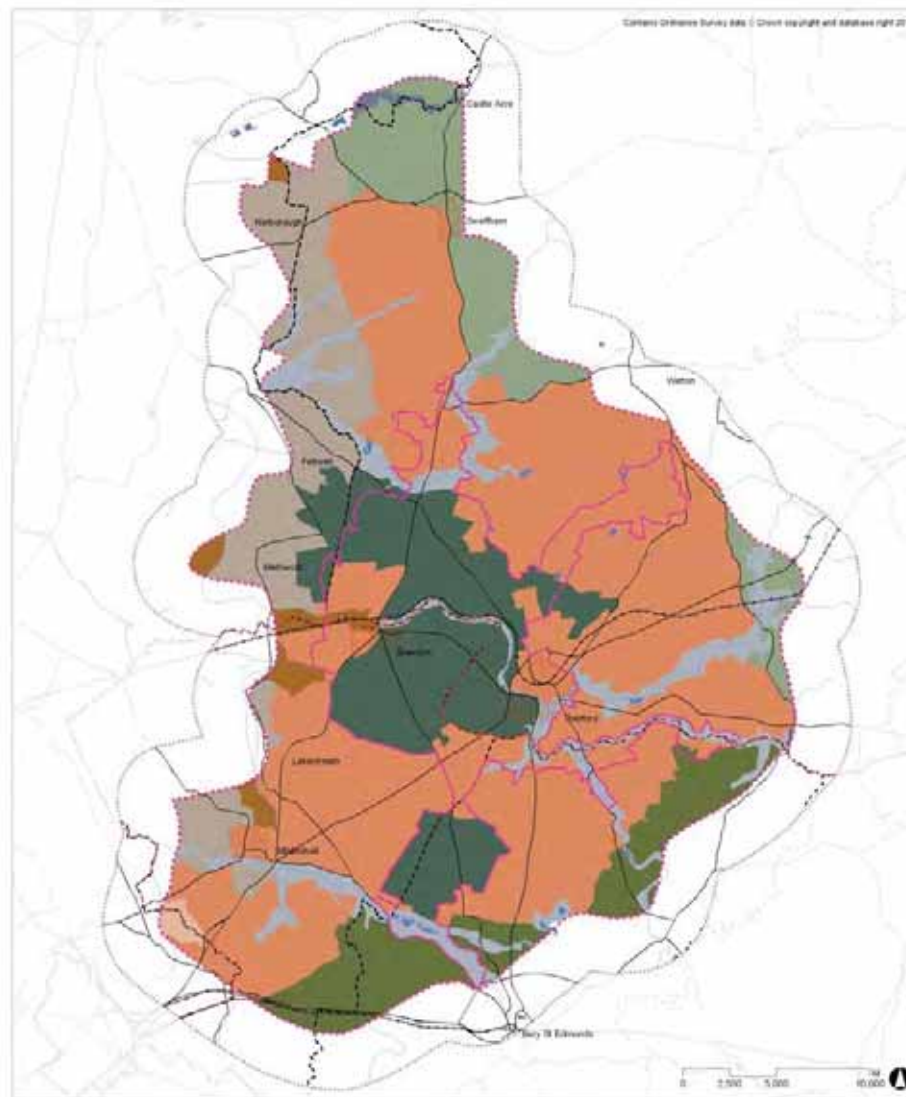
Taking the existing landscape character assessments as a starting point, the Brecks LCA identifies nine landscape character types, which together describe the landscape character of the Brecks NCA. The core distinctive landscape types of the Brecks are the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, the Brecks Plantations and the narrow River Valleys.

As the map (overleaf) shows, the area for the BNGLPS covers parts of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, the Brecks Plantation and the River Valleys.



'I know they're in Norfolk somewhere, I drive though/see signs when driving to university. However I don't really know anything about them.'

UEA student responding to consultation.



Brecks and/or Heathland
 Brecks Plantation
 Late Chalk Farmland
 Rolling Clay Farmland
 Pasture Estate Farmland
 Pasture Estate Chalklands
 Upland Fen
 River Valley
 Chalk River Valley
 sheilsflynn 2015/1/01

Landscape Character Assessment
 for the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks

Brecks Project Boundary
 NCA SS Boundary
 NCA SS Boundary Buffer
 County Boundary
 District Boundary
 A63 Road
 Railway
 River
 Watercourse
 Urban Area
 Brecks Boundary and
 Landscape Character Types

Map showing the BNG area in relation to the Brecks Landscape Character Types



The Breaking New Ground project focuses on the heath, forest and river valley landscapes at the heart of the Brecks, a richly distinctive landscape which has been shaped by its physiography and unique relationship with human activity.

BRECKS ARABLE HEATHLAND MOSAIC



Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic ©Sheils Flynn

- Flat or gently sloping plateaux underlain by chalk, but with free-draining sandy soils
- Large scale mosaic of lowland heath, mixed farmland, plantation and tree belts
- Juxtaposition of acid and calcareous soils contributes to distinctive and exceptionally rich biodiversity
- Belts of contorted Scots pine form a striking silhouette against the fields, defining the Brecks
- Strongly geometric structure of fields, tree belts, roads and tracks
- Virtually no villages, but a dispersed pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and estates
- Wealth of archaeological heritage charting continuity of settlement from Mesolithic times and including Neolithic flint mines, medieval priories and rabbit warrens, 18th century designed parklands and 20th century military defences and training grounds

The distinctive heathlands of the Brecks developed on the free draining, sandy soils of the chalk plateau. Much of the surface has a covering of acidic sands, but the sands often overlie a layer of chalky substrate and in some parts of the plateau the dominant soil type is formed from chalk. Occasionally the different types of soil are juxtaposed at a microscale creating areas of 'patterned ground' where contrasting stripes of chalk and acidic grassland/heather grow on slight ridges and troughs of sandy and chalky soils. Many examples have been 'lost' under encroaching tree and scrub cover but the phenomenon is visible on heaths and commons and from mapping imagery such as Google maps.

There are few watercourses on the plateaux of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, but scattered across the heaths to the north and east of Thetford, are rounded or fluctuating meres or dolines, where water levels vary according

to levels of saturation in the chalk bedrock below. Other, small-scale tightly clustered groups of marshy depressions and rounded pools are relic ice mounds now forming depressions



Pingo at Thompson Common © Nick Ford

which date from periglacial times. Predominantly, these are 'pingos' which formed when freezing ground-ice expanded to create a rounded mound, which subsequently collapsed to become a circular pond or wetland when the ice thawed as conditions warmed. These features usually occur where the underlying chalk bedrock is relatively close to the surface, mantled by shallow deposits. On the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic there are striking examples on and around Thompson Common and near the village of Great Hockham.



Pollen records from Hockham Mere suggest that a mosaic of heathy vegetation developed from Neolithic times, when early settlers first cleared post glacial vegetation. While permanent settlements were sited in river valleys, the higher, drier parts of the plateau were used for grazing, maintaining a fairly open landscape and encouraging the establishment of lowland heath. Relatively minor embankments would have been prominent in this open landscape and it is thought that the Bronze Age burial barrows sited along the upper margins of river valleys might have been prominent 'markers' in the landscape. There are many such tumuli throughout the central Brecks, but a good example is the Seven Hills on the ridge between the valleys of the River Thet and the Little Ouse near Brettenham – the line of barrows may have been visible from both valleys.

As the medieval economy developed, the dry, sandy soils of the upper chalk plateau were of marginal fertility and some were used as common land, for sheep grazing and as rabbit warrens. The layout of parishes was designed to provide a transect across a range of soil types, from the low lying silts of the river valleys to arable fields on the more chalky soils and grazing lands on the seasonally dry plateaux. The latter were farmed as temporary outfields or 'brecks' which were grazed or later ploughed for a period of time before being left to revert to heath. Sheep were systematically moved from the heaths to overnight 'folds' on permanent arable land, which benefitted from the dung. The least fertile – dry and acidic – soils were typically used as rabbit warrens, with rabbits bred for their meat and fur. Warrens were often enclosed by large turf embankments, which served to help keep the rabbits away from adjacent crops and to define ownership.

The lack of water on the sandy Brecks plateaux and the relatively infertile soils discouraged the development of settlements, a pattern which persists today. Villages are concentrated on the sides of the valleys that run through the Brecks, with scattered small hamlets and farmsteads on the drier central plateaux.

From the 15th century onwards, low land prices and a sparse population, reduced by recurring outbreaks of plague, provided opportunities for the amalgamation of landholdings. This trend gathered pace in the 18th and 19th centuries when the popularity of game shooting and the cheapness of the land offered an opportunity for 'new money' to acquire the status symbol of a landed estate, for instance at Kilverstone and West Tofts. Many of the warrens and heaths became

part of these shooting estates or were enclosed during the 18th and 19th century periods of agricultural improvement. The geometric pattern of fields, bordered by straight roads and tracks, that is so typical of the Brecks dates from the map-based work of surveyors at this time.

By the mid 19th century much of the Brecks was enclosed; the remaining extensive areas of common heathland and warrens were areas where the soil fertility was too low to merit investment. However during the agricultural depression of the 1880s and through into the early 20th century, much of the heathland that had been reclaimed during the enclosure was left to revert to heath, repeating the pattern of the local economy in previous centuries.

Written comments from travellers from the 17th century onwards suggest that the Brecks was a relatively barren, desert-like landscape, with vast tracts of sand and limited vegetation. Where overgrazing reduced the protective cover of vegetation, the sandy soils were subject to wind blow and sometimes formed dunes which moved across the landscape. The large landowners responded with an intensive programme of tree planting, initially on and around their mansions and parks, but also within the wider agricultural landscape. During the early 19th century, many landowners followed a fashion for planting Scots pine 'hedges' to enclose their fields. Scots pine grows successfully on the infertile, sandy Brecks soils and these early 19th century pine hedges, which have grown up to form pine trees with contorted, sculptural forms, are a distinctive feature of the Brecks today.

Today the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is a large scale, extensive mosaic of lowland heath, rectilinear plantation woodlands, tree belts and arable fields, with some remaining areas of parkland. In the 20th century the widespread use of irrigation has transformed the agricultural potential of the land and irrigated vegetable crops form part of the agricultural mosaic. Pig farming is also common and often prominent. Most vernacular buildings are farmsteads, barns or estate buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. Many are built of brick and a 'white' brick which is actually yellowish grey or cream in colour is common near Culford and Thetford.



While agriculture is an important part of the local economy, extensive tracts of lowland heath are conserved as nationally and internationally important habitats. The core habitats are the open dry heaths, areas of acidic and calcareous grassland, inland sand dunes and the wetlands associated with meres and periglacial depressions. The citation for the Breckland Area of Special Conservation states that the Brecks contains mosaics of heather-dominated heathland, acidic grassland and calcareous grassland that are unlike those of any other site. The Brecks heaths support rare flora and fauna including rare plants such as perennial knawel (found on dry heaths), the grey hair-grass (found on active inland sand dunes) and ground nesting birds such as stone curlew, woodlark and nightjar.



Stone Curlew ©Chris Knights

This landscape was historically far more extensive than it is today, but a large area of the heaths and estates was planted with conifers by the Forestry Commission from the 1920s and is described as a separate landscape type – Brecks Plantations. The flat landform, sparse population extensive scale of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic landscape proved suitable for the development of World War II airfields and the military presence remains on the extensive military training area at Stanford. This military range is cut off from public access, but has provided an opportunity for the conservation of an extensive area of rare and highly valued heath habitats.

This is a relatively open and very extensive landscape, with long views which are always framed by pine lines and plantations. The straight roads are busy noisy corridors of movement, but away from the roads the landscape feels remote and peaceful, with a touch of wilderness at times. The landscape has a richly textured, colourful and rather unkempt character – the smooth, cultivated arable fields contrast with the rough textures of the bracken strewn verges and pine lines alongside.

Overall the diverse and historic pattern of heath, fields, plantations and pine rows and the rich sense of history stretching right back to Neolithic times, combine to make the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic an exceptionally distinctive and evocative landscape.

Flat or gently rolling plateaux with free draining, sandy soils formed from a varied mix of glacial sand, clay and gravel deposits overlying a

solid chalk geology. The landform slopes gently towards the river valleys, but the subtle elevation change is not immediately obvious due to the almost blanket coverage of the plantations.

Much of the surface has a covering of acidic sands, but the sands often overlie a calcareous substrate and in some parts of the plateau the dominant soil type is a chalky rendzina. Occasionally the different types of soil are juxtaposed at a microscale creating areas of ‘patterned ground’ as previously described however most examples have been ‘lost’ under encroaching tree and scrub cover but the phenomenon is visible on some open land within the forest, eg near the Grimes Graves site at Lynford.

The underlying chalk on this part of the plateau contains flints and, in late Neolithic times this region was at the centre of an important trade for flint axes and other tools, which were manufactured from locally mined flint and traded along the Icknield Way. A deep, high quality seam of ‘floorstone’ flint was mined from shafts dug deep into the chalk. The Neolithic flint mines are thought to have been a well developed industry, covering a wide area; today the conserved site near Lynford is known as Grimes Graves.

What’s important and why?

The diverse pattern of land uses and varied backdrop of woodland and tree belts ensures that, from a visual point of view, this landscape can generally accommodate change, through carefully designed woodland planting. However, the wild character and perceived remoteness of the open heaths is sensitive to landscape change; any built development, signage or fencing could be visually intrusive in this natural landscape. The pine lines are also important and sensitive landscape features because they are the most distinctive characteristic of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, instantly recognisable as representing the Brecks. But they are all of similar age and are vulnerable to disease or general decline.



The international importance of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic for biodiversity must take precedence in judgements about this landscape's capacity to accommodate change so overall the landscape is exceptionally vulnerable to change which would disrupt the delicate balance of factors which govern its biodiversity. The most sensitive habitats within the landscape mosaic are the areas of lowland calcareous grassland, lowland acid grassland and lowland heath, which support many rare flora and fauna. Other sensitive elements include the fluctuating meres, periglacial wetland features and headwater fens (particularly of the River Wissey), which are particularly vulnerable to water extraction (from the underlying chalk aquifer) and climate change.

The heritage features of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic are nationally important and there is an exceptionally dense concentration of historic features and sites which date from Neolithic times to World War II. The historic sites and settings of these features are often not well conserved and the loss of their historic landscape context makes some sites difficult to understand.

Generally the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is in moderate – poor condition. The historic structure and features of the landscape, including the pine lines, thorn hedges, warren banks, roads and tracks are often in poor condition and many historic features are overgrown by woodland and scrub.

Landscape character sensitivity	Visual sensitivity	Landscape value
<p>The diverse patchwork of fields, heath, woodland and tree belts provides a robust visual structure for accommodating landscape change. Areas that are managed for biodiversity are in good condition, many historic features are overgrown, the pine lines are deteriorating and the uniform age structure makes this locally distinctive feature vulnerable to change. Locally distinctive and sensitive landscape features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pine lines • Open heathland with a richly textured micro-scale mosaic of heather, acidic and chalk grassland • Fluctuating meres and wetlands (of periglacial origin) • Diverse, balanced mosaic of land uses; open land predominates but is partially enclosed by tree belts • Historic features, eg tumuli, trackways, warren banks and lodges 	<p>Long views are always framed by woodland blocks and/or pine lines but there is nevertheless a long depth of view. Some areas of heathland are exceptionally open.</p> <p>Overall the landscape feels moderately open, and most areas have good opportunities to mitigate the visual impact of landscape change.</p>	<p>This is an internationally important landscape, of value for its rare and vulnerable biodiversity and for its exceptionally long time-depth and concentration of heritage features. Specific international and national designations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breckland SPA • Breckland, Waveney Little Ouse and Valley Fens and Norfolk Valley Fens SACs • Numerous Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including ancient trackways and defensive embankments, Bronze Age Barrows, Neolithic flint mines, archaeological excavations for a range of prehistoric sites, deserted medieval villages, the remains of medieval rabbit warrens and historic parklands including Euston Park. • SSSIs and national nature reserves – focused on heathland and mere habitats



Overarching principles and priorities

- Conserve and restore (through a programme of replanting) the distinctive Brecks pine rows (addressed in project A4).
- Extend and connect areas of lowland heath and dry acid and calcareous grassland habitat, together with the small-scale wetlands of meres, fen and pingos, actively managing these internationally important habitats to conserve biodiversity (addressed in projects A1, A2, A3).
- Conserve the setting and integrity of historic features so that they are visible and easily interpreted as part of the distinctive local character of the Brecks mosaic (addressed in projects A3, A4, A5, C14, C15).

BRECKS PLANTATION



Brecks Plantation ©Sheils Flynn

- Flat or gently sloping plateaux underlain by chalk, but with free-draining sandy soils
- Extensive plantation forestry is the dominant influence; small isolated areas of heathy grassland
- Simple, large scale landscape pattern, with homogeneous, geometric plantation blocks
- Densely enclosed character; views are contained by plantations and channelled down the long straight roads and rides
- Conifer species predominant, but broadleaves such as oak, beech and birch create a softer, more diverse woodland edge along many forest roads and along some former estate and field boundaries
- Belts and lines of contorted Scots pine are a distinctive feature
- Numerous historic sites, often 'hidden' within the forest, including Neolithic flint mines at Grimes Graves, Bronze Age barrows and medieval warrens and lodges
- Network of straight rural roads, with distinctive angular junctions
- Looking towards the plantations from adjacent areas, the skyline is defined by straight, continuous plantation edges, silhouetted against the sky

Before the Forestry Commission plantations (ie 1920's) the area currently defined as the Brecks Plantation landscape character type would have been part of the overall Brecks heathland mosaic, albeit a relatively dry part of the plateau. As with the Brecks Arable Heathland

Mosaic, much of the surface has a covering of acidic sands, but the sands often overlie a calcareous substrate and in some parts of the plateau the dominant soil type is a chalky rendzina. The different types of soil are occasionally juxtaposed at a microscale creating areas of 'patterned ground' where contrasting stripes of chalk and acidic grassland/heather grow on slight ridges and troughs of sandy and chalky soils. The underlying chalk on this part of the plateau also contains flints that were mined and traded over the centuries, as described in the previous section.

The Fosseditch is a defensive linear earthwork constructed in the Early Saxon period along what may have been the boundary between the Brecks and the Fens. This embankment and ditch is still visible, although it is now partially surrounded by trees and so is no longer legible in the wider landscape.

The Brecks was a regional centre for the rabbit trade and the rabbit warrens were protected from poachers by warreners based at fortified warren lodges, established on the high ground with panoramic views over vast areas of closely grazed heath and rabbit disturbed ground. The medieval stone lodge at Thetford Warren remains as an evocative ruin. The warren banks that enclosed the vast warrens are often still visible beneath the dense trees and scrub, for instance at Downham High Warren and Thetford Warren; the former has sections of parallel trapping banks and some banks are reinforced with flint facings.

Evidence for the poverty of the sandy heathland soils and their extreme vulnerability to wind erosion is provided by Thomaas Wright's 1668 description of the 'wandering' sands near Santon Downham. This and other descriptions by later Victorian travellers emphasise the barrenness and aridity of the Brecks plateau landscapes. However, the scrubby heathlands of the Brecks were well known as favourable land for hunting and in the early 17th century the open areas around Thetford became a royal hunting ground, used by both King James and King Charles. In 1636 a warrant was issued for the preservation of the king's game 'of hare, partridge and other wildfowl' within a 12 mile radius of Thetford.



Despite the scrub cover that would have been present for game, the overall lack of vegetation on the Brecks plateaux would have been one of the factors contributing to the 17th century 'sand blows'. The landscape became progressively more enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries, when landowners of the larger Brecks estates, such as Elveden, Santon Downham and Brandon planted vast numbers of trees, in part as cover for game, but also as part of the process of 'improving' their estates, in keeping with the fashion for parkland landscapes. The majority of the distinctive Scots pine lines were planted at this time, initially as hedges to control and shelter stock. Left to grow unmanaged, the lines of Scots pine trees developed contorted forms

There are remnants of the 18th-20th century woodland plantations and of field boundaries enclosed during the 19th-19th century Parliamentary Enclosure. For instance, the distinctive line of mature oaks along the A134 is part of the former West Tofts parkland. The landscape was fundamentally changed in character in the 1920s when, following the 1919 Forestry Bill, extensive parts of the Brecks estates were purchased on the open market and planted predominantly with conifers. The land was in a degraded state at this time, following years of economic depression. Today Thetford Forest is the largest lowland forest in the UK and its acidic and calcareous soils support a mix of coniferous species (including Scots pine, Corsican pine and larch) and broadleaf trees.

Two main silvicultural systems are used to manage the forest: just over 13,000 hectares are managed under a rotational clear fell system which is a key requirement to deliver suitable habitat for woodlark and nightjar; around 4,000 hectares are managed under a continuous cover silvicultural system (this includes over 1,000 hectares of broadleaf species); the remaining 1,000 hectares are managed open space where a variety of habitat management regimes are used (this includes 300 hectares of heathland recreation where grazing sheep and ponies are deployed).

Large blocks of conifers dominate the landscape, but the forest rides, roads and areas of open heath and farmland provide corridors and

patches of high biodiversity. Much of Brecks Plantations landscape falls within the Breckland Forest SSSI (and the wider Breckland SPA), which is important for populations of nightjar and woodlark, as well as flora and fauna which require the heathland and calcareous grassland habitats found within open areas within the forest.

Away from the principal settlements of Brandon and Thetford, there are only isolated, small settlements and the dense forest has an empty, tranquil character, although parts of the forest are managed for recreation, with a forest activity centre and a network of waymarked routes accessed from small car parks and picnic sites. Vernacular building materials include brick and thatch, but there is much modern infill development on the fringes of Brandon and Thetford. The long straight roads and rides create striking, channeled vistas, often fringed and framed by narrow strips of broadleaf woodland. Gorse, bracken and twisted Scots pine trees often create a highly textured and colourful foreground to the forest vistas.

What's important and why?

The dense tree cover ensures that this landscape can accommodate change, through carefully designed woodland planting and planned forest design (with the alignment and form of future coupes taken into account). The most sensitive areas of the landscapes are the roads and rides, together with the clear framed vistas along them and the isolated open areas of heath and farmland within the forest, which are valued for their heathland and calcareous grassland biodiversity. Sensitive landscape elements and features include the remnant distinctive pine lines and the many archaeological and historic sites, including well known sites such as Grimes Graves, but also many other examples of earthworks, buildings and industrial heritage that may be partially hidden by tree and scrub cover. The extensive and homogeneous forest cover makes the historic context for such sites difficult to understand.



Informal recreation in the forest



Thetford Forest is sustainably managed by the Forestry Commission seeking to achieve a balanced approach delivering Environmental, Social and Operational programmes. The Forest's Design Plans aim to deliver public benefits in the form of improved habitats for wildlife, attractive woodlands for people and rural employment for communities.

Since the majority of Thetford Forest is designated as a SSSI, the forest management work includes monitoring the condition of the SSSI, as well as plans for future work which will enhance its important woodland, heathland and calcareous grassland habitats. Given this intensive and strategic land management regime, the landscape of the Brecks Plantations is in good condition.

Landscape character sensitivity	Visual sensitivity	Landscape value
<p>The dense forest cover provides a robust context for accommodating landscape change. The forest is strategically and sustainably managed and is in good condition. However, many historic features are overgrown, the pine lines are deteriorating and the uniform age structure makes this locally distinctive feature vulnerable to change.</p> <p>Locally distinctive and sensitive landscape features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pine lines • Open heathland with a richly textured micro-scale mosaic of heather, acidic and chalk grassland • Framed vistas and roadside corridor landscapes • Skylines • Historic features, eg Neolithic flint mines, tumuli, trackways, warren banks and lodges. 	<p>Throughout the forest, there are good opportunities to mitigate the visual impact of landscape change, but publicly accessible views are directed to a few, specific elements within the wider landscape, namely the edges of roads and forest rides, the perimeter of forest blocks and the forest skylines, all of which are highly sensitive to change.</p> <p>In addition, long, straight vistas are always framed by woodland blocks and such views are channelled, but highly sensitive.</p> <p>The promotion and use of the forest for recreation ensures that parts of the forest are accessible to visitors, as well as local residents.</p>	<p>Most of Thetford Forest is designated for populations of woodlark and nightjar that contribute to the Breckland Special Protection Area, but nationally important assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates are also important interest features of the SSSI. Specific international and national designations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breckland SPA • Breckland Forest SSSI – designated for Nightjar and woodlark • Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including Neolithic flint mines of Grimes Graves, the Saxon earthworks of the Devil's Dyke (or Fosdyke), Bronze Age Barrows, the perimeter banks of medieval rabbit warrens and historic parklands.

Overarching principles and priorities

- Reduce fragmentation of heathland and calcareous grassland habitats by buffering, extending and linking existing biodiverse sites along roads, tracks and forestry coupes (addressed in projects A1, A4)
- Conserve the setting and integrity of historic features so that they are visible and easily interpreted as part of the distinctive local character of the Brecks Plantations (addressed in projects A3, A4, A5, C14, C15).
- Integrate new built and infrastructure development, including signage, lighting and road improvements, by carefully designed planting of local tree and shrub species and by the use of appropriate materials and forms (addressed through promotion of Brecks Landscape Character, through the Landscape character Assessment and improvement of awareness in planners and strategists resulting from the BNLPS)





The Little Ouse

RIVER VALLEYS

- Lush, small scale landscape defined by shallow river valleys with a subtle sense of enclosure
- A mix of peat, sandy and alluvium on flat valley floor; often drift deposits of sand and gravel on flat or very gently sloping valley sides
- Diverse mosaic of wetland habitats surrounding headwater springs and alongside river channel, including areas of reedbed, carr woodland, marsh and fen
- Small irregularly shaped floodplain pastures, divided by a network of ditches and dykes, contrast with surrounding arable fields
- Curving narrow rural roads and tracks often define the edge of the floodplain
- Concentration of historic sites, reflecting a long history of human settlement and intervention
- Settlements are sited on floodplain edge, often at historic crossing points
- Gravel extraction, resulting in extensive lakes and reedbeds
- Intimate, tranquil landscape

The Brecks river valley systems were formed by glacial meltwaters following the Anglian Glaciation, the last time that ice sheets extended as far as the Brecks. The glacial meltwaters carved shallow valleys into the chalk plateau, draining westwards to the fen basin from the more elevated clays of central Suffolk and Norfolk. Drifts of sand and gravel were often deposited by the glacial meltwaters on the valley sides and have had a strong influence on valley soils, on early colonisation and on the development of agriculture and mineral workings. In places the glacial drift material is overlain with peat dominated soils.

The river valley floodplains are predominantly pasture, although there are areas of wet meadow, fen, reedbed, alder/willow carr and wet woodland, which create a diverse, small-scale mosaic of valuable wetland habitats within the linear river valley corridor. The distribution of archaeological finds demonstrates that the Brecks river valleys have been the focus for human settlement since Mesolithic times, demonstrating the importance of proximity to water in the relatively dry landscape of the Brecks. Early settlers used the rivers for transportation and communication and benefited from the rich diversity of produce available on the fertile floodplains. The meadows were used for grazing

stock, with waterlogged areas left as fen or utilised as wet woodland or alder carr.

There are Mesolithic sites along the Lark and Little Ouse and pottery scatters from the Bronze Age suggest the edge of river valleys were favoured as sites for settlement. The pattern of scattered farmsteads along river valleys persisted throughout the Iron Age. Excavations at West Stow suggest a small self sufficient farmstead with animal husbandry based on cattle. The gravel river terrace deposits provided dry riverside sites for settlement at West Harling, where excavations revealed four enclosures on a gravel terrace overlooking the River Thet, and at Thetford, where an Iron Age fort may have been strategically sited to control the fords where historic routes crossed the rivers Ouse and Thet. Many clustered riverside settlements, such as Brettenham and Icklingham, originated as river fording or bridging points and other hamlets developed around medieval mills. Villages, farmsteads and halls were always sited on the higher land on the edge of the floodplain or on higher 'islands' of gravel within the valleys as at Santon House (and church) on the Little Ouse. A few medieval farmsteads, usually of manorial rank, were moated. Small stone or brick bridges are attractive landmarks throughout the River Valleys, often at the centre of historic villages. Traditional building materials are red brick and flint, visible in historic walls, churches, halls and farmsteads throughout the river valley landscapes.

During the 18th and 19th century, parkland landscapes were developed in many river valleys, for instance at Shadwell and West Harling (on the River Thet), Lynford, Hilborough and Bodney (on the River Wissey) and Culford on the River Lark. Lakes, woodlands and groups of specimen parkland trees are remnant features in many valleys.

The floodplain landscapes are defined by curving historic field boundaries and often by narrow roads and tracks. Floodplain meadows are divided by wet ditches or dykes that in places are lined by trees or scrubby hedges supplemented by post and wire fencing. The floodplain land is commonly subdivided by dykes set at right angles to the river channel, forming a distorted 'ladder' pattern.



The valley grassland usually forms part of a larger agricultural land holding, with larger fields on drier, elevated land and there are sometimes arable fields on land that has been drained on the upper fringes of valleys. Remnant former commons, heathland and medieval warrens such as Cavenham Heath (on the River Lark), Barnhamcross Common (on the Little Ouse) and Mundford Common (on the River Wissey) developed on free draining terrace gravels with acidic soils and suggest the diversity of historic land use within the river valleys.

The river valleys are relatively lush, with a naturally high groundwater. These spring-fed wetlands support rich aquatic habitats, with an exceptionally diverse range of species, including some that are rare and of national importance. These include the native white-clawed crayfish (in the Little Ouse), otters and water voles. Parts of the headwater fen habitats are of international importance, with aquatic flora and invertebrate species that are adapted to the nutrient-poor, chalky water and fluctuating levels of flow. Within the river valleys, the diverse mosaic of wetland habitats includes reedbeds, grazing marsh, floodplain meadows, carr woodland and unimproved grassland, all connected by a network of ditches, dykes, tributary streams and water courses.

Gravel extraction has been a significant influence within river valleys where there are extensive terrace gravel deposits, most notably in the valley of the River Lark, but also at Ickburgh (River Wissey) and near Thetford (Little Ouse). The resulting large pools and reedbeds form part of the mosaic of wetland habitats on the valley floor; at Lackford, the gravel pits are a local nature reserve.

All the River Valleys have a small, intimate scale which contrasts with the surrounding typically large scale landscapes of the Brecks, but the character of the individual river valleys varies. The valleys of the Thet and Little Ouse are well wooded and the western part of the Thet valley is dominated by the plantations of Thetford Forest. Away from the influence of the larger settlements of Brandon and Thetford, these river valleys seem narrow and secluded. The valley of the River Lark has a broader floodplain and a larger scale, particularly in areas where gravel extraction has expanded the river floodplain area. The Black Bourn has a deeply rural character, with attractive open views to the surrounding

farmland and parkland at Euston Hall. The valley system of the River Wissey also has a small scale character, but here the tributary river valleys are secluded, with a secretive, almost domestic scale.

What's important and why?

The narrow, secluded River Valleys that thread through the Brecks are exceptionally sensitive landscapes because their small-scale, diverse landscape mosaic can easily be overwhelmed by development and by local changes in land use or water quality/flow. This vulnerability is heightened by the narrow form of most river valleys and their subtle landform, which ensures that their intimate landscape character can be disrupted by changes in adjacent landscape types.

Sections of the River Valleys are in good condition, with an intact lowland river valley assemblage of natural water course and historic landscape elements, including alder carr, floodplain meadow and fen. However, in places the small-scale landscape pattern is disrupted by mineral extraction, linear built development and by the realignment and widening of adjacent roads.

The traditional land management system of the river valleys is cattle grazing, but many relatively inaccessible, small valley floor pastures are neglected and peripheral to any form of active agriculture and are in poor condition due to undergrazing and scrub encroachment or their use as horse paddocks.



Landscape character sensitivity	Visual sensitivity	Landscape value
<p>The intimate scale and diverse character of the River Valleys is vulnerable to change as the distinctive small scale pattern of these landscapes is finely balanced and can easily be overwhelmed by changes in the proportion or scale of individual elements. In addition, the typically narrow form and subtle topography of the River Valleys ensures that they are very sensitive to changes in adjacent landscapes. Locally distinctive and sensitive landscape features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small- scale, diverse mosaic of riparian and wetland habitats which contrasts with surrounding larger scale landscapes • Sinuous edges of floodplain, river and marsh, defined by curving tracks, roads and hedgerows • Historic bridges and villages at crossing points • Subtle landform and narrow form of river valleys 	<p>In general, the River Valleys have a secluded character which is distinctly more enclosed and smaller-scale than the surrounding Brecks landscapes. Views are typically enclosed by the hedgerows, woodland, carr woodland and groups of trees on the valley floor and along rural lanes. Churches and village buildings are often surprise landmarks in local views.</p> <p>There are strong contrasts in the visual character and accessibility of the different river valleys, depending on opportunities for views from local roads and bridges. Since the majority of Brecks settlements are sited on the fringes of the River Valleys, these landscapes provide the setting and focus for local views and corridors of movement for a relatively high proportion of residents and visitors.</p>	<p>Key components of landscape value are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptionally valuable spring-fed wetlands and headwater fen habitats, some of which are of international importance and included within the Breckland SAC • Concentration of semi-natural wetland habitats, including many SSSIs and County Wildlife Sites; • Numerous historic bridges and riverside settlements, mills and halls – conservation areas and clusters of listed buildings • Important archaeological sites, including Bronze Age, Romano-British and Saxon settlements • Remnant historic landscape parklands, eg Didlington and Shadwell.

Overarching principles and priorities

- Conserve the strong contrasts in scale and diversity between the River Valleys and surrounding farmland, heathland and plantation landscapes
- Buffer sensitive river valley habitats from damage caused by development or agricultural practices
- Conserve the characteristic proportions of the diverse mosaic of land uses within each river valley, encouraging traditional land use management, including grazing by cattle and sheep.

The BNGLPS does not directly address priorities for river valleys through project delivery. The promotion of Brecks Landscape Character, through the Landscape Character Assessment, and increased awareness of priorities resulting from the BNGLPS will benefit this landscape character type in the long term).



THE STORY OF THE BRECKS

Shaping the land

The Brecks lie on the broad band of chalk that extends diagonally across England from the Chilterns to north-west Norfolk. Generally the chalk is upstanding as a gentle ridge, but the Brecks lie on a slight depression between Newmarket and Swaffham where the chalk forms a low plateau, 15-30m above sea level. This plateau was scraped and shaped by the Ice Age glaciers, particularly the Anglian glaciation in which lobes of ice extended right across Suffolk to the northern edge of the London Basin. The glaciers gouged out the relatively soft, older Mesozoic rocks to the west of the chalk to form the fen basin and transported huge quantities of these clays to the east and south, where they were dumped to form the chalky boulder clays (Lowestoft Till) of central Norfolk and Suffolk.

The ice sheets left a relatively low, gently undulating chalk plateau, which rises to the north. The deposits of chalky boulder clay and outwash gravels left by the retreating Anglian glaciers vary in thickness and composition. On the Brecks the deposits are relatively thin and sandy; to the east they are very much deeper and more clayey. The thick boulder clays of central Suffolk have formed higher land and the main rivers of the Brecks – the Nar, Wissey, Thet/Little Ouse and the Lark flow westwards from these more elevated claylands, cutting through the low dry chalk plateau of the Brecks, before flowing into the fen basin.

After the Anglian, there was a further sequence of warmer interglacial and freezing glacial periods but the glaciers formed during the two subsequent glaciations did not reach further south than the Norfolk Coast. The Brecks were untouched by these later ice sheets, but the repeated freezing and thawing that occurred in the periglacial conditions suffered by areas to the south of the glaciers were particularly influential on the thin chalk soils of the Brecks. Here the surface layers of chalk and glacial till deposits were shattered by alternate freezing and warm conditions. Mildly acidic rainwater gradually dissolved and leached the chalk from the surface layers leaving an insoluble surface residue of sand – in many areas the sand layer is only 1-2cm thick, but in the Elveden area it may be as much as

5m deep! In places deep layers of sand may have been formed by wind-blown drifts.

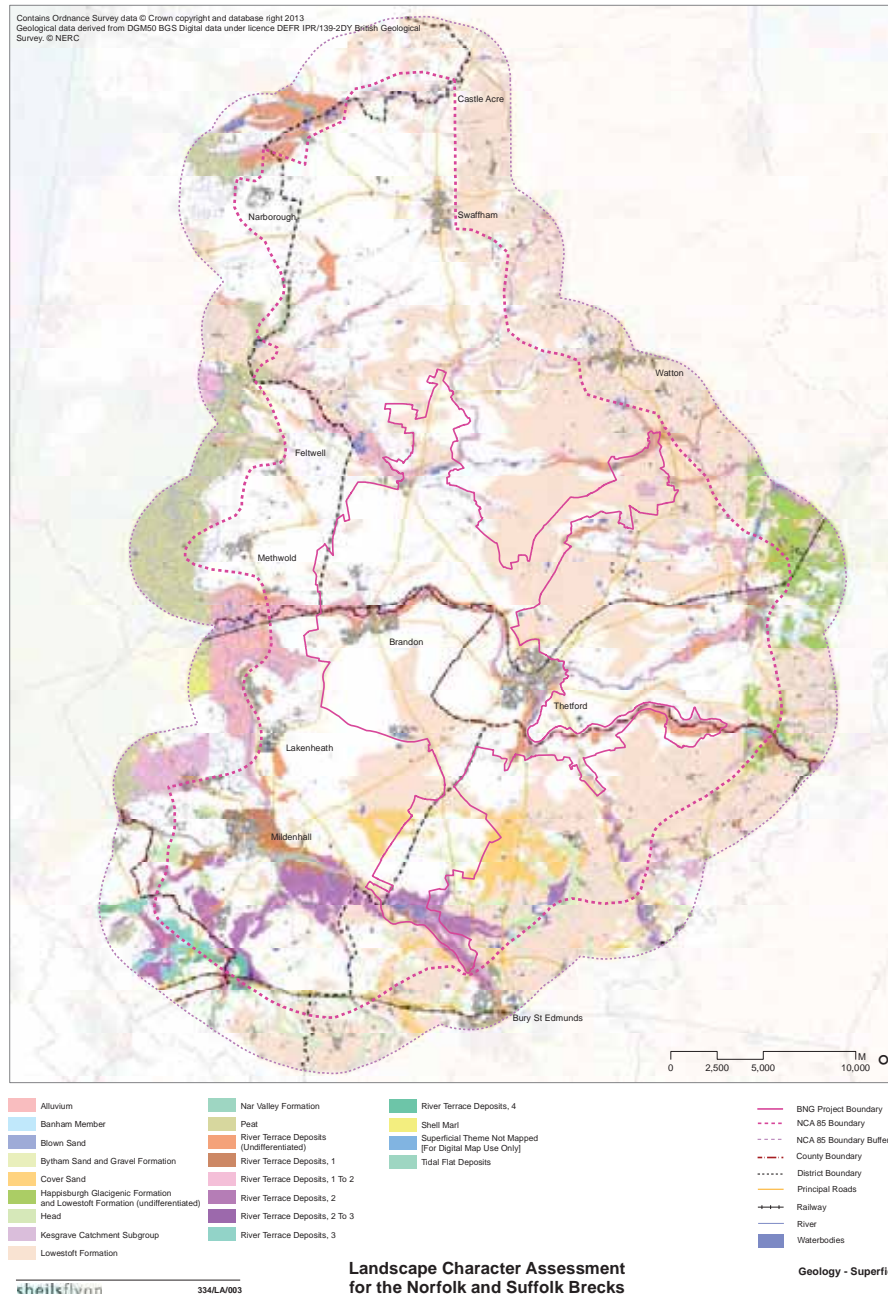
Local erosion (in part by wind) has created ridges of chalk alongside troughs filled with sand and the contrasting soil types often produce striking variations in vegetation, with bands of acid-loving heather separated by chalk grassland. Areas where these contrasts occur are known as the 'patterned ground' and the variations are even visible on arable land as crops grow more vigorously on the chalky, moisture-retaining soils.

The freeze-thaw pattern of the periglacial climate also led to the development of ground ice depressions, commonly known as 'pingos'. These circular hollows, filled with water or fen vegetation typically occur in clusters, as at Thompson, Foulden and East Harling Commons. Pingos developed when groundwater froze, expanded and heaved the ground's surface up to form mounds with a central core of ice. conservation concern.

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When the ice subsequently melted during the warmer inter-glacials, the mounds collapsed to leave circular water-filled depressions, sometimes with sandy ramparts around the rims. Fluctuating meres, such as those at Fowlmere and Ringmere, may also have formed during the post glacial period. They are karstic formations which are often fed by springs so that water levels fluctuate according to the degree of groundwater saturation in the chalk.





The geology of the Brecks



Biodiversity

With its unique mosaic of lowland acid and calcareous grassland, lowland heathland, wetland habitats, arable land, and forest habitats, the Brecks has a particularly high concentration of rare species. Overall, it was reported by the Breckland Biodiversity Audit² that there are more than 12,800 species in the Brecks, of which more than 2,000 are of national conservation concern.

Over 1,600 species are either present in the Brecks and nowhere else in the United Kingdom or form a significant proportion of a United Kingdom-wide population. 65 species found are rarely seen anywhere else in Britain. They included the plants Spanish catchfly, field wormwood, Breckland thyme and rare insects, such as the brush-thighed seed eater and the basil-thyme case-bearer moth. 28% of the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan species occur in the Brecks even though this area is only 0.4% of the UK's land area.

Significantly however, biodiversity records remain low for the BNGLPS area and addressing this is crucial to improving our understanding and the recognition of its importance

Lying at the centre of the BNGLPS area is Thetford Forest, the largest man-made lowland forest in the United Kingdom. Planted from the 1920s with Scots and then Corsican Pines, species suited to the sandy soils and dry climate, it is now valued for its recreational facilities and its wildlife as well as its timber resource. In fact, the whole of Thetford Forest is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its nesting nightjar and woodlark as well as supporting a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Interconnections between physical character and land use history

The unique biodiversity of the Brecks stems from the region's free-draining, nutrient-poor sandy soils and its micro-climate, which is relatively dry with extremes of temperature.

The combination of drought, low rainfall, hot summers and cold winters has led to the development of steppe-type vegetation and to an agricultural system that used the infertile soils for grazing and rabbit warrening while the alluvial river valley soils were used for more intensive cropping and fen products. The grazed dry vegetation of the plateau developed as grass or heather-dominated heathland. For years, the medieval open-field folding system maintained and developed the low heathland flora: livestock grazing kept the nutrient levels of the heathland low, while overnight folding of sheep flocks on arable land increased the fertility of these areas, transferring nutrients from heath to arable land.

The traditional fold course rotation produced large areas of fallow arable every year, encouraging flora that required open, regularly disturbed ground. During the 18th and 19th centuries, local agricultural rotations included the 'brecks', areas of heathland that were converted to arable and cultivated for a few years before being left to revert to heath again. This practice also broke up the ground, encouraging the development of the Brecks' distinctive biodiversity. Heathland was enclosed, marled and converted to arable throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, but the process was reversed in times of economic recession, in the 1870s and the 1920-30s for example, when arable land was abandoned, creating sandy fallow Brecks which were grazed, mainly by rabbits. From the 1920s, large areas of heathland and low value arable land were forested. At the same time, with the use of fertilisers and irrigation, arable cultivation on the better land became increasingly intensive. The diverse mosaic of fens, reed-beds, marshes and wet meadows within the river valleys has also been depleted as a result of drainage, reclamation, flood control and groundwater abstraction.

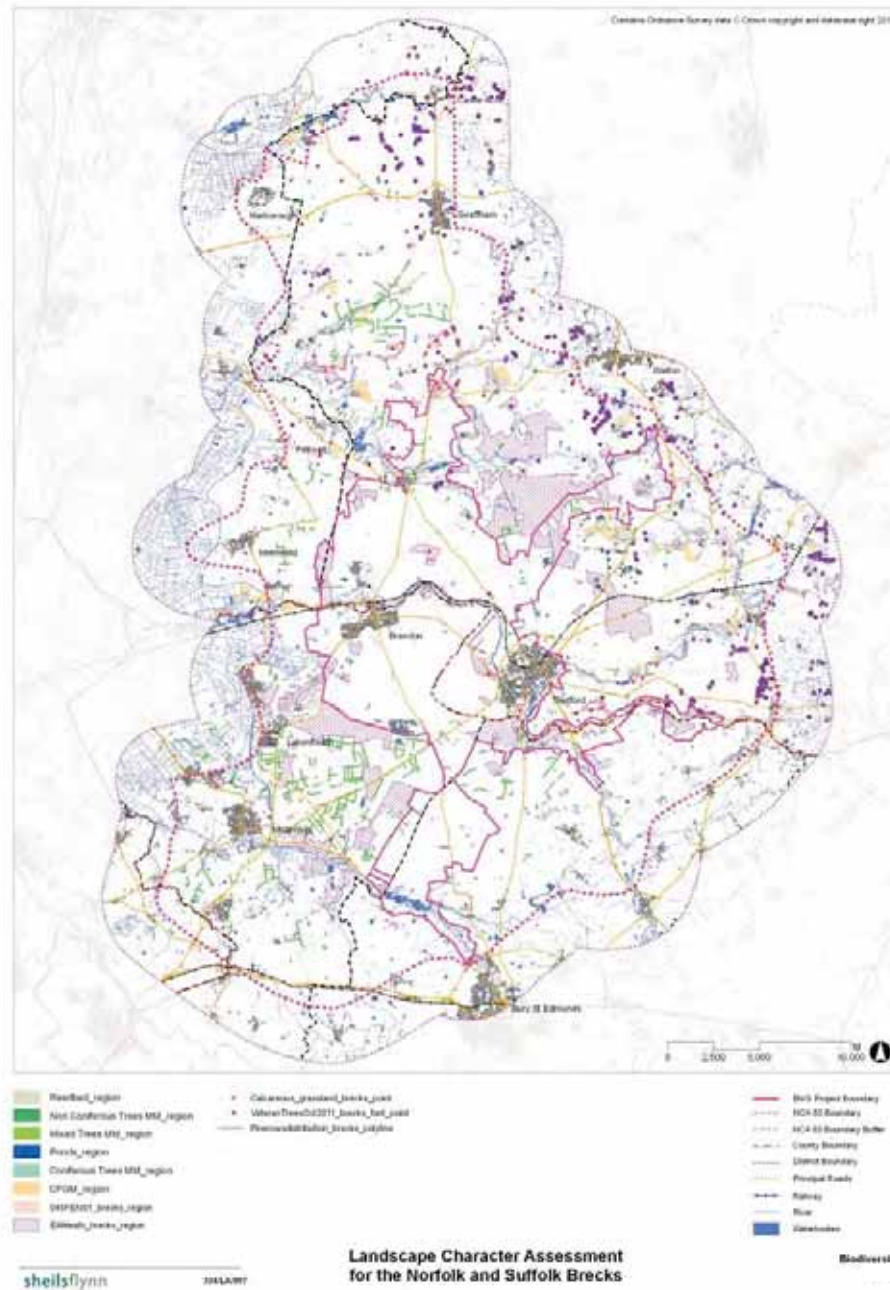
The scale and diversity of semi-natural habitats has been reduced, but the remnant areas of species-rich grassland, woodland, heathland, fen, marsh and reedbed form a valuable network, which sustains an exceptionally diverse flora and fauna.

"This is the first time we have demonstrated how incredibly important this region is It's not as famous as the New Forest, the Pennines or the Cairngorms but it probably should be I can now say it's as important, or more important, than those other places because nobody else has ever done that kind of study and looked at everything that's there." Dr Paul Dolman of the UEA's School of Environmental Science

² Dolman, P.M., Panter, C.J., Mossman, H.L. (2010) Securing Biodiversity in Breckland: Guidance for Conservation and Research First Report of the Breckland Biodiversity Audit. University of East Anglia, Norwich



The biodiversity of the Brecks





Time Diagram - Santon - Early



Time Diagram - Santon - Bronze



Time Diagram - Santon - Roman



Time Diagram - Santon - Saxon



Time Diagram - Santon - Medieval



Time Diagram - Santon - Post Medieval



Time Diagram - Santon - Modern

LAND USE HISTORY

Early settlers

The rich history of the Brecks has been shaped by the human response to a landscape of infertile, sandy soils and a relatively dry climate which is underlain by chalk bedrock. Significantly, parts of the Upper Chalk strata are packed with flints, which ensured the area was attractive to early settlers following the last glaciations.

Mesolithic (c.8300 – 4000BC)

Warmer climatic conditions allowed the development of pine-birch and then a mixed oak forest, roamed by herds of deer and boar. Small bands of hunter gatherers lived in temporary settlements which have left no archaeological evidence, but the sites used by these communities can still be traced from finds of Mesolithic flint tools, knapped flint and, from the later Mesolithic, flint axes. The distinctive flintwork from this period includes many small pieces of flint with sharp edges known as microliths, which were inset into the heads of wooden spears and arrows for use in hunting. The remains of at least eleven woolly mammoths found at Lynford Quarry date to the Middle Palaeolithic period. The site also contained numerous stone tools and is believed to show evidence of hunting by Homo neanderthalensis.

The Brecks is exceptionally rich in flint evidence from this period which suggests that Mesolithic communities settled along the river valleys, beside the meres and on the edge of the fen basin, for instance at Wangford. Scatters of flints and microliths on higher, drier land may relate to the sites of temporary hunting camps.

Neolithic (c.4000 – 2100BC)

The lighter soils of the Brecks were favoured by the early farming communities of the Neolithic period, but the distribution of flint artefacts suggests that settlement remained concentrated along river valleys and the fen edge. Communities lived in small farmsteads, clearing the surrounding woodland, cultivating wheat and barley and keeping pigs, goats, sheep and cattle. A sudden decline in the proportion of elm in the mixed oak-alder-elm woodland and a marked rise in grass, heather and herb pollens suggests that the landscape became more open at this time and that areas of heathland had developed.

The semi-sedentary lifestyle of these early farming communities placed pressure on resources and the environment, which led to the development of enclosures and ritual monuments. For instance the site at Fornham All Saints has two linked causewayed enclosures overlain by a 1.8km long cursus which has a cluster of hengi-form ring ditches at its end.



The flint mines at Grimes Graves were established towards the end of the Neolithic. Shafts were dug 13m down into the chalk, with radiating galleries to exploit a seam of fine, dark tabular flint known as 'floorstone'. The flint was extracted using antler picks. These extensive mines would have required a separate industrial community, supported by the agricultural economy. Trackways like the Icknield Way, an ancient trackway along the crest of the chalk ridge from southern England to Norfolk, are likely to have been used as trading routes from Neolithic times, supporting the trading economy at Grimes Graves.

Bronze Age (c.2100 – 700BC)

Woodland clearance continued as more land was cultivated and grazed by stock. Riverside sites continued to be favoured for settlement, but the land was less intensively used than in other more fertile parts of the country, where Bronze Age settlement was associated with land division. Items of metal, copper and bronze indicate trade links with continental Europe and the development of new more decorated styles of pottery may suggest the emergence of a more hierarchical society. Round Bronze Age barrows were highly visible burial chambers which sometimes contained high quality metalwork and gold items. Many round barrow sites in the Brecks are on higher slopes, away from the main settlements, indicating that they may have been used as territorial markers in the open landscape.³

Iron Age (c.700 BC – 43 AD)

The spread of iron technology led to the development of a more diverse economy. These communities could use the iron they made to develop more sophisticated, stronger tools, which allowed them to farm a wider range of soil types, and to make more effective weapons. Finds of decorated jewellery, weapons and chariot rein rings suggests a strongly hierarchical society and, towards the end of the Iron Age, the first coins were minted.

The Iceni tribe were dominant in the Brecks and the surrounding regions at this time and retained administrative and some political autonomy after the Roman invasion. However, the balance of power shifted after the death of the Iceni ruler (Prasutagus) when the Romans asserted their authority. In retaliation, Prasutagus' widow, Boudicca, led a famous revolt against the Romans – she was eventually defeated, but

not before her army had overrun several newly established Roman towns. Boudicca is still regarded an important local heroine in the Brecks.

The classic Iron Age hillforts on elevated ridges and summits did not exist in the relatively flat landscapes of the Brecks, but the distribution of Iron Age coins and other metalwork suggests that the Brecks was an important centre for the Iceni tribe. There were major defended enclosures at Thetford. Thetford Castle is close to the crossing of the rivers Thet and Little Ouse and may have had a control function over movements and trade. Excavations at nearby Gallows Hill suggest that this site was a tribal ceremonial centre (rather than a farming site) perhaps indicating that such defended sites were not only used for military purposes. Its abrupt demolition coincides with the date of Boudicca's rebellion and the Roman's destruction of any centres of Iceni power and prestige.

Romans (c.43 AD – 410)

Having overthrown the Iceni, the Romans established a regional centre at Caistor St Edmund in Norfolk. They established a network of roads which may include the Peddar's Way. Within the Brecks, local market centres at Icklingham, Threxton, Hockwold and Brettenham developed at road and river crossing points. Excavations at Icklingham have revealed a linear spread of features including a building with underfloor heating, two cemeteries (one at each end of the town), pottery kilns, a possible pagan temple and a 4th century church.⁴

Middle Ages

Anglo Saxon (c.410 – 1066)

Migration from north-west Europe led to the emergence of an Anglo Saxon culture, with new rituals, styles of pottery, metal work and burial practices. Evidence for the character of Early Saxon settlement is provided by excavations at West Stow, an Early Saxon settlement on the slopes of the Lark Valley. They indicate a farming community with seven groups of buildings, each centred on a timber 'hall' and each likely to represent a family unit.



³ Breckland Archaeological Survey 1994-6, Kate Sussams

⁴ Breckland Archaeological Survey 1994-6, Kate Sussams

The settlement is likely to have been self sufficient, growing wheat, barley, rye and peas and keeping sheep, cattle, pigs, horses and goats. Most Saxon settlements were close to rivers and the local economy would have been supplemented by fishing, wildfowling and some hunting of deer.

Much of the archaeological evidence from this period is from the excavation of Early Saxon, pre-Christian cemeteries, which indicate that a rich mixture of cremation and inhumation was practised and that grave-goods were often buried with the dead. The larger cremation cemeteries, such as that at Lackford, served several communities. A number of defensive boundary ditches are likely to date from the Early Saxon period, including the Devils Dyke to the south-west of the Brecks, the Fossditch and the smaller Black Ditches, which are aligned across the Icknield Way near the River Lark at Cavenham Heath. The exact purpose of these defences is not known as they face different directions, but they suggest that communities were living under the threat of attack and were keen to define the edges of their territories.

A significant change in settlement pattern occurred in the 7th century, possibly as a result of the introduction of Christianity, which saw communities move from more dispersed settlements to more nucleated settlements, often with a church. The new settlements are associated with finds of a more sophisticated wheel-made pottery known as Ipswich Ware. A wealthy settlement which dates from this Middle Saxon period has been excavated at Brandon on the edge of the Little Ouse. Over twenty timber buildings have been excavated, including large halls a church and two burial grounds. The finds suggest an aristocratic, literate community as they include metal styli for writing and a gold plaque depicting John the Baptist which is likely to have been part of the cover of a book. Evidence suggests that this was not a farming community and that it was served by produce from a separate village. The settlement was abandoned by AD 900, perhaps because of rising water levels or perhaps as a result of Viking invasion.

During this period, a rising population and increasing mobility led to the development of a more hierarchical settlement pattern. Viking raids became frequent and Edmund, the East Anglian king was killed in one of the conflicts. The Anglo Saxon Chronicle records how in 879 King

Guthrum, the Viking leader went from Cirencester into East Anglia and settled there and shared out the land. The Vikings adopted Christianity and the evidence from metal finds suggests the widespread influence of Scandinavian style and culture.

Thetford had long been an important local trading centre, but in the late Saxon period it grew and prospered, despite at least two devastating Viking raids. It was a centre for pottery production, clothmaking and leather working and had its own mint. In 1066 Thetford had 943 privileged burgesses and 13 churches and, by the early eleventh century, the town had become one of the largest and most important towns in England⁵. The East Anglian bishopric was relocated to Thetford from North Elmham in 1075, although, according to the 1086 Domesday Book, Thetford suffered a rapid decline as 224 house sites were recorded as empty in this year. The most likely explanation is that the town suffered as a result of an unsuccessful revolt staged by Ralph Guader, earl of Norfolk in 1075. Thetford's prosperity also seems to have suffered from relocation of the Bishopric to Norwich in 1094.

Medieval (c.1066 – 1550)

Farming communities in the medieval Brecks used an 'infield-outfield' system of cropping that was typical of that part of East Anglia, but quite different from the classic three field system used throughout the Midlands. Over most of East Anglia, arable land was rarely enclosed or segregated into a set field pattern. Instead there was a complex system of field units that varied from village to village. Soil fertility was the determining factor, with the better soils cropped more intensively. The drier land in the central Brecks had less arable land and more extensive areas of grazing and warrens than parishes on the eastern edge.

The presence of medieval watermills along the Brecks valleys suggests that grain was produced locally but maintaining soil fertility depended on careful management of sheep flocks. Sheep were grazed on the heaths during the day and then 'folded' on fallow arable land to manure it overnight.



⁵ Breckland Archaeological Survey 1994-6, Kate Sussams

This system required communal work and medieval foldcourses were often defined by markers and dykes. Rabbit farming was also an important part of the medieval economy and rabbits ran with the sheep on the heaths. Rabbits were particularly suited to the relatively dry climate and sandy soils of the Brecks and large numbers were sold at local markets. The larger rabbit warrens were protected from poachers by guards who were based at warren lodges. There was little woodland at this time, but local peasants had the right to cut fern and bracken for fuel on the heaths, though often this practice was regulated and only permitted at specified times of the year.

Overall, the settlements described at Domesday persisted and population densities in the Brecks were lower than in other parts of East Anglia, with an average of only 15 tenants per 100 acres, as opposed to over 30 in many parts of Norfolk and Suffolk⁶. The simple style and small stature of medieval churches in the Brecks suggests that the area was relatively poor, although larger churches within the fen edge villages may indicate more prosperity in this part of the Brecks. Population decline and economic recession in the 15th century led to the use of longer fallow periods on arable land, resulting in the rapid incursion of bracken and gorse and reversion to heathland.

Court records suggest that there was an active land market, particularly as rising population put pressure on soils that were of limited fertility. However the process of land division was halted by the advent of the Black Death and land holdings became increasingly concentrated in fewer hands. For instance, at Sturston the local landlord was accused of having seized arable land, pulled down several houses and converted the commons for his own use.⁷ The recurrent outbreaks of plague had a devastating effect on the local population and economy and there is much archaeological evidence of shrunken and deserted medieval villages in the Brecks, as at Roudham.

Thetford became a monastic centre, with a Cluniac priory, an Augustinian friary and a Dominican friary, together with a college of priests and six hospitals. However much land within the Brecks was controlled by absent landlords, principally the abbeys at Bury St Edmunds and Ely. The mid 16th century dissolution of the monasteries

resulted in another major shift in land holdings as these extensive monastic estates were sold off to lay owners.

Post medieval (c.1550 - present day)

The pattern of land holdings that defined the medieval landscape has been largely overridden by later large scale landscape change, from the 18th century by the large landed estates and in the 20th century by military influences and the development of post war conifer plantations.

Landed estates

The Brecks had a number of landed estates from the 15th and 16th centuries, but the subsequent increase in the popularity of hunting led to a proliferation of estates in the area. By the early 17th century the open heaths near Thetford were used for hunting, including by King James I, who bought King's House in Thetford for his use during hunting excursions. The major increase in landed estates came in the 18th century, when landscape parks and hunting became fashionable. The relatively low land prices, abundance of game and low population density of the Brecks attracted many new landowners at this time including Sylvanus Bevan at Riddlesworth and Stephen Payne Galway at West Tofts.

Shooting was an important pastime on the estates and Elveden was particularly well known. Trees were planted in vast numbers – as cover for game, but also to provide visible boundaries to the estates in a relatively open landscape. The construction of these parks obliterated the earlier medieval farming patterns and also sometimes led to the demolition of nearby villages as at Lynford.



Warreners

⁶ *A Marginal Economy? East Anglian Breckland in the later Middle Ages*, Mark Bailey, 1989

⁷ Sussams op cit (original source is Allison, *The Lost Villages of Norfolk*, *Norfolk Archaeology* 31, 1955)





Thetford Warren

The larger landholdings had advantages over the small-scale medieval field systems in that there was scope for economies of scale and for making use of the latest innovations, particularly new crops such as turnips and extensive marling techniques. The farmers were also able to rationalise sheep farming, providing more manure for soil improvement. Overall there was an increase in 'brecking' – temporary cultivation of heathland at this time.

The use of rabbit warrens increased throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and warrens were often enclosed by earth banks to define warren ownership and prevent damage to neighbouring crops.

Sand blows and pine lines

Large areas remained poor grazing land and Thomas Wright's 1668 evocative description of the 'wandering' sands at Santon Downham⁸ demonstrate the problems of an impoverished sandy soil in areas with limited vegetation cover. Diarist John Evelyn (1677) described 'the Travelling Sands about ten miles wide of Euston, that have so damaged the country, rolling from place to place, and like the sands in the Deserts of Libya.'⁹ Later travellers, including Francois de la Rochefoucauld, who visited the area in 1784, also highlighted the aridity of the Brecks. He described 'A large quantity of shifting sand in which the district abounds...covered with heather in every direction as far as the eye can see...everywhere sand, everywhere little clumps of reeds and bracken. A large portion of this arid country is full of rabbits, of which the numbers astonished me'¹⁰

The Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th and early 19th century encouraged landlords to enclose the open fields and heaths, although in practice many enclosed their land of their own accord. Large rectangular fields were divided by straight roads and enclosed by Scot's Pine shelterbelts and plantations. The pine lines that are now such iconic landmarks in the Brecks originated as pine hedges, planted in the early 19th century¹¹.

⁸ Published in *Philosophical Transactions* 3, 1668 722-725

⁹ In - *A Marginal Economy? East Anglian Breckland in the later Middle Ages*, Mark Bailey, 1989

¹⁰ In Bailey. Op. Cit.

¹¹ *The Breckland Pine Rows: History, Ecology and Landscape Character*, Tom Williamson, 2010

¹² Williamson op.cit.

¹³ *Thetford Forest Park: The Ecology of a Pine Forest*, 1996, ed. Philip Ratcliffe and Jenny Claridge, Forestry Commission Technical Paper 13

The method used was described by David Elisha Davy in 1829: *Within 2 miles of Brandon, I observed a mode, to me at least new, of raising a good fence in a very bad soil; a bank is thrown up, about 4 or 5 feet high, and of considerable thickness at the bottom; upon the top of this is planted a row of Scotch firs, as thick as they can stand; these seem to make rapid progress in this soil and branching out towards the sides, immediately from the ground, and have the additional very strong recommendation of affording the best shelter from storms to the sheep and cattle what are fed, or rather starved upon the land.'*

The fact that the pine rows were planted on both calcareous and acidic soils suggests that the practice may have been a fashion at the time¹², much like the trend for floated water meadows on the great estates, which allowed landowners to show off their improving techniques. Most pine rows were managed as hedgerows, although some may not ever have been cut, and most were subsequently left to grow out to form the lines of Scot's pine that are so characteristic of the Brecks landscape today.

Conifer forests

Despite the extensive planting on landed estates, the Brecks remained a relatively open landscape until after World War I, when a national shortage of timber led to the 1919 Forestry Bill. By this time persistent agricultural depression had reduced the price of land and much of the 'improved' land had been abandoned. Extensive blocks of land were acquired by the Forestry Commission at a relatively low price, including Brecks estates such as Elveden and Downham Hall. Early planting was predominantly Scot's Pine, but Corsican Pine was later more widely planted. Early plans for substantial broadleaf plantings were not fully realised as it was found that species such as beech, oak, American red oak and birch did not grow easily on the infertile soils and in the relatively harsh climatic conditions of the Brecks¹³.



Sandy Soils and Pine Lines



Santon forest landscape © Nick Cantel



'The real character of a region ... is also a consequence of patterns of contact'
Tom Williamson 'England's Landscapes: East Anglia'.

Military sites

The Brecks became important for military use in World War II, when the flat topography and relative isolation of the area led to the development of 'expansion period' airfields at Mildenhall, Feltwell, Honington and Watton. The large scale of the Brecks and the low density of population also made the area suitable for bombing practice. The military remains a major influence in the Brecks, with a vast area of heathland used for military training. Local village communities in the area that was to become the Stanford Training Area (STANTA) were initially told they were being evacuated on a temporary basis, but the use of live ammunition has meant that it is not safe for people to live there and the area has since been subject to compulsory purchase.

Industry

Whereas traditionally the areas of the dry, sandy soil of the Brecks were farmed for crops only for a short time before being allowed to revert to heath; now it is sustained by fertilizers and irrigation and a range of high value vegetable crops is produced and form a key element of many of the farm businesses in the area.



Intensive agriculture in the Brecks

In fact, the Brecks is a major producer of vegetables and cereals with nearly 68% of the area cultivated in 2009. Cultivation methods are intensive and harvesting is labour intensive. Much of their casual cultivation and harvest work was done by gypsies and travellers until quite recently but farmers have become more concerned about the

ability of the casual workforce to produce consistent results, while buyers have become increasingly demanding. European migrant workers have taken the place of the casual labour as they have demonstrated the appropriate skills combined with a maturity not widely available among local school leavers. They have also been able to contribute new cultural knowledge, experience and ways of thinking. Indeed, many in the migrant workforce have higher level skills that are not being utilised.

The impact of farming upon the Breckland economy is much greater than the 3,200 jobs in the agriculture sector. The majority of local food manufacture jobs are accounted for by the production and preservation of meat and meat products; this also impacts upon the Brecks' higher than average local concentration of specialist and non specialist food retailers and wholesalers.

There are also several hundred jobs which can be identified as associated with the farming industry, in such sectors as manufacture of animal feed, fertilisers, and agricultural machinery, wholesale of agricultural machinery, veterinary activities, and agricultural real estate and letting.

There are a number of food producers in the area, either small scale farm diversifications or traditional retailers who add further value by a degree of processing, as in butchers producing pies and sausages. There are also a number of shops and other outlets specialising in local foods. However, with a developing tourist and visitor offer and with enthusiastic producers, there are opportunities to assist the local food sector, as part of the tourist development and the assistance to small businesses. The Brecks Food and Drink Festival established by the Brecks Partnership in association with Vanessa Scott and the town council of Swaffham showcases all that is best from the Brecks

Finally, farming plays a vital role in conservation as 13,000ha of the Brecks is the Farmland SSSI – and part of the Special Protection Area. However there has been a lower take-up of the many agri-environmental agreements in the Brecks than other areas.



"Thetford; unloved and lovely"
a quote from a key informant interview

PEOPLE AND THE BRECKS

The Natural England Outdoors for All case study (2010) summarises the Brecks as located on the borders of Norfolk & Suffolk and includes the town of Thetford, one of the country's 10 per cent most deprived areas.

Thetford has a high proportion of young people, many of whom are agricultural immigrants from Poland, Lithuania and Portugal. Although the Brecks is a unique landscape with a rich assemblage of habitats and species, making it one of the most important biodiversity regions in the country, many of the residents of Thetford are unaware of how special the Brecks are, or what they can do to help preserve this special area.

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Local Development Strategy for the Brecks, 2008, summarised the population of the Brecks area (which is larger than the National Character Area and considerably larger than the BNGLPS area) as 137,767, of which 74.2% live in rural areas. Of these 23% live in sparse rural areas. In the East of England region 31% of the population live in a rural area.

Household deprivation in both rural and urban Brecks is very similar to the East of England figure, with figures for rural Brecks of about 30% not deprived; 38% deprived on one measure; 25% deprived on two measures; 6% deprived on three measures and 0.4% deprived on all four measures.

These overviews are clearly demonstrated by the socio-economic profile of the BNGLPS area set out in the R4C report.

THE PLACES PEOPLE VISIT

Part of the consultation process was to ask people to mark on a map of the Brecks the places they liked to visit and to give us their reasons why.

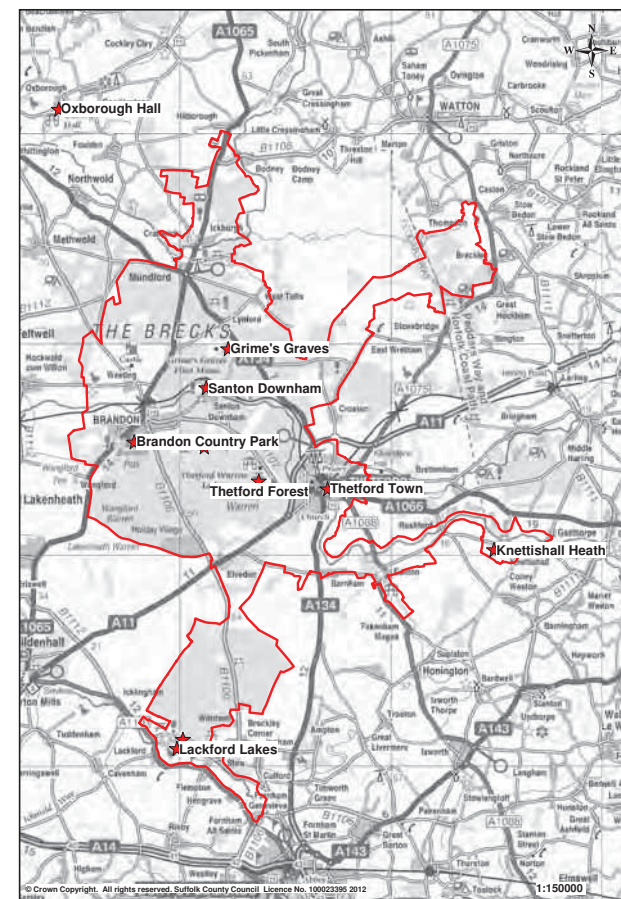
Most people interviewed had visited the Brecks, but this was often only once we had explained where the Brecks actually is. Those from surrounding towns were less likely to have visited the Brecks, but most had passed through.

In addition, many people's visits were restricted to key locations and attractions or the main settlements, especially the minority ethnic groups. However, it is important to recognise that many respondents valued the area for its buildings and settlements and the importance of the area for food and drink and other social activities was also clear.



Visiting the Brecks © Forestry Commission

"Brown Hares, space, quiet, softness of heath underfoot, passing of seasons from passage of birds and changes in flora, small lanes, little churches, tiny flowers, its hiddenness, like a secret world".
Anon.



Top 10 locations

- Brandon Country Park
- Thetford Town
- Thetford Forest
- High Lodge Forest Centre
- Oxenburgh Hall National Trust
- West Stow Anglo Saxon Village
- Knettishall Heath Nature Reserve
- Grimes Graves Flint Mines
- Stanton Downham
- Lackford lakes



When people were asked why they liked these locations the following reasons were given, in order of importance:

- Nature
- Wildlife/Birds
- Landscape/space
- Space & tranquillity
- Relaxing
- Walking:
 - along the river
 - in the countryside
- walking the dog
- Shopping
- Cycling

This is also borne out by extracts from the findings of a 2010 survey of recreation sites within the Breckland SPA as follows:

'... The country parks attracted the highest number of visitors and the locations with informal and less parking had a much lower numbers of visitors. ...Breckland SPA draws visitors from a wide radius – local and regional residents and holiday makers'.

'.... Visitor travelled furthest to High Lodge Visitor Centre with half of all interviewees travelling 24.7km....Visitors took longer routes during their visit at High Lodge, Brandon Country Park and Mayday Farm which is reflective of the cycling route available at these locations.....The highest percentage of visitors to High Lodge and Brandon Country Park were in the age group 18-40 and Emily's Wood and West Stow picnic area had the highest percentage of those aged 41-65.....Dog walking, walking and cycling accounted for 76% of visitor activities in the area and dog walking was the most popular activity...Holiday makers account for 9% of all visitors interviewed....Half of all visitors by car lived within 9.5km of the survey location at which they were interviewed....The most popular days to make a visit to Breckland SPA were weekend (with the number of visitors on a weekend day typically being around a third as much again as counted on a week day)'.

¹⁴ National Character Area Profile 85: The Brecks (NE385), (2012) Natural England

STRATEGIES

In December 2012 Natural England published National Character Area Profile 85: The Brecks (NE385). This profile includes a description of the natural and cultural features that shape the landscape, how the landscape has changed over time, the current key drivers for ongoing change, and a broad analysis of the area's characteristics and ecosystem services. Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) are suggested, which draw on this integrated information. The SEOs offer guidance on the critical issues, which could help to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future. These SEOs¹⁴ relate directly to the proposals of this scheme and were developed jointly with The Brecks Partnership at the time that the Stage 1 HLF Landscape Partnership Schemes application was being put together.

Surprisingly, despite its uniqueness and heritage and biodiversity value, the LP area does not currently benefit from any formal statutory landscape designation other than those for its considerable biodiversity.

Other than management implications relating to small scale designations of specific sites or features, the management of the landscape is dictated by planning legislation, agricultural stewardship schemes and the policies of landowning organisations and other landowners.

Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the RSPB and the National Trust are currently working together to develop a Suffolk Nature Strategy. Suffolk's Nature Strategy describes the challenges and opportunities our natural environment faces in contemporary Suffolk. It puts forward 25 recommendations that place the importance of our wildlife and landscapes in the context of economic growth and our own health and well-being. Although currently in draft form, many of its recommendations are reflected in the proposals but forward in this LCAP.



Until it was disbanded at the time of the Stage 2 submission the Brecks Partnership sought to bring the diverse landowners, local authorities and organisations together to create a unified approach to the promotion and management of the Brecks, but as a result of a loss of financial support, this positive input has now ceased.

The potential implications of the end of the Brecks Partnership are yet to be fully understood and it is therefore even more important that the BNLPS continues to provide a mechanism for bringing together the organisations and interest groups with the local communities. This will not only help to deliver tangible benefits on the ground, but create a long term means for enabling residents to remain informed and involved in the process of managing the Landscape and its heritage into the future.

In addition, this Scheme connects to and builds on Heritage Lottery Funded Projects such as Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage 1997; Mausoleum and Visitor Centre, Brandon Country Park; Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service 2004; Access to Nature 'Wild Norfolk'; Knettishall Heath Project.

Key National, Regional and Local Strategies and Policies

- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- The European Habitats Directive and European Birds Directive - 39% of the Brecks is designated either SPA or SAC
- The Strategic Framework for Tourism in England 2010-2020
- Visit England's Corporate Priorities 2011-2015
- Visit Suffolk Tourism Partnership
- Suffolk County Council Recognition for the Brecks: Securing a Sustainable Future 2006
- Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Thetford Area Action Plan
- Community Strategy for Norfolk, (2003 - 2023).
- Transforming Suffolk Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028 Suffolk Strategic Partnership
- Thetford Green Infrastructure Strategy
- St Edmundsbury Green Infrastructure Strategy
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) 2010
- Thetford Area Action Plan (TAAP)
- Breckland DC Adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document
- Forestry Commission: Thetford Forest Access and Tourism Strategy 2006
- Breckland District Council: The Sustainability Appraisal Report Local Development Framework
- Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Local Development Strategy for The Brecks 2007 – 2013
- Forest Heath District Council Cultural Strategy 2010 – 2015
- Keystone Development Trust: A Profile of Brandon
- Keystone Development Trust: A Profile of Thetford
- Moving Thetford Forward.



SUMMARY

The BNGLPS area has been carefully chosen to be representative of the varied and fascinating landscape of the Brecks National Character Area (NCA). The issues, threats and opportunities that affect the landscape within the BNG boundary are those of the wider NCA and represent the area in microcosm. The BNG boundary contains the main population centres of Thetford and Brandon in an otherwise sparsely populated landscape, along with the main natural and built heritage features within its 231km².

The unique combination of factors – geology, ecology, climate and very dynamic historical and contemporary land-use – has created a fascinating and unique, landscape unlike any other in Britain.

It is important at a local, regional and international level and it contains some of the earliest known evidence of man's interaction with his natural surrounds in Europe including that of flint extraction on an industrial scale.

Commenced in 1922 the establishment of the largest lowland Forest in the UK has led to the preservation of many unrecorded archaeological features relating to specialist land use carried out at a unique scale including flint mining and rabbit warrening.

Thetford is in the top 10% for many indices of deprivation in the country. There is a high proportion of young people and diverse migrant communities with and many of the residents of Thetford, Brandon and rural areas unaware of how special The Brecks is, or what they can do to help preserve this special area.

The Brecks has a very distinct character but it is little known and understood beyond professional circles despite being a developing tourism destination. The history and development of its special qualities are accessible in terms of subject and variety; however they are poorly signposted and interpreted with no coherent policy of interpretation and communication between site and venues.



2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

'I wish, too, that I could convey to you the incredible beauty of that vast and lonely country. For all its quietude there was in it nothing forbidding. It had space and freedom and the friendliness of growing things. The heaths and brecks had their gentle undulations so that in lanes and tracks one never saw too far ahead. And then again there would be great sweeps of open country. And even there the miles of bracken or heather would have no monotony for they would be broken by ancient woods or clusters of gnarled pines, and mossy pools with their silver branches, or the oases of silver sand which were the burrows of the teeming rabbits. Above would be the open sky, and across the clear stretches it would be hard to tell where the faint blue of the horizon ended and the sky began. Then there were the meres, as varying as the heath itself.'

Michael Home, Spring Sowing 1946

The coining of this distinctive name ('Breckland') indicated that some of its peculiar features had attracted scientific attention'. R Rainbird Clarke 'In Breckland Wilds' 1974.

INTRODUCTION

This section describes what is important about the range of heritage within the landscape of the BNGLPS area, why it's important and whom it is important to. There are many different ways in which the heritage of the Brecks is significant to people. It is through the understanding of this significance that the crucial heritage elements that define the landscape character can be identified, and priorities for the BNGLPS established.



Knettishall Heath © Nick Ford

LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The Brecks is one of the driest regions in the country, with a semi-continental climate reminiscent of the European Steppe. It has an underlying chalk geology, overlain with glacial sands and gravels and contains the largest collection in Europe of pingos (glacial craters, many now holding water) and fluctuating meres (lakes whose levels vary according to the aquifer).

The Rivers Lark, Little Ouse, Thet, Nar and Wissey cut through the plateau and their spring and water-surface fed fens provide a contrast to

the dry heather and grass heaths of the calcareous and acid soils. Sand storms were once a regular occurrence, with thousands of tons of sand moving across the area, blocking rivers and covering arable land and creating, at Wangford in Suffolk, the only known example of an active inland sand dune system.

Lying at the centre of the Brecks is Thetford Forest, the largest man-made lowland forest in the United Kingdom. Planted from the 1920s with Scots and then Corsican Pines, species suited to the sandy soils and dry climate, it is now valued for its recreational facilities and its wildlife as well as its timber resource. In fact, the whole of Thetford Forest is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its nesting nightjar and woodlark as well as supporting a wide variety of flora and fauna.

The landscape of the Brecks is defined by the strong geometry of its plantations, field patterns and boundaries, large farmsteads, estates and significant archaeological features.

Planted from the 1780s onwards and managed as hedges to halt soil erosion and provide shelter belts, the 'pine lines or deal rows' of twisted and knotted pines are a distinctive and iconic feature of the landscape. They are associated with the establishment of large private estates and their planned agricultural landscapes of rectangular fields, great houses, gardens and estate buildings.



Pine Lines © Peter Holborn



THE BRECKLAND BIODIVERSITY AUDIT (BBA)

The Breckland Biodiversity Audit (BBA) was commissioned in 2009 by the Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships, Plantlife, Forestry Commission, Brecks Partnership and Natural England, and undertaken by the University of East Anglia.

This paradigm work collated over 1m individual species records from over 90 taxonomic recorded and the expertise of more than 200 naturalists to find out:

- What biodiversity is there in Breckland?
- Where is it found?
- How can we manage and protect it?



Goshawk © Steve Knell

The BBA identified priority species for conservation, including large numbers of Biodiversity Action plan (BAP), Red Data Book (RDB) and range-restricted species and demonstrated the outstanding importance of the Brecks for UK biodiversity. It established that:

- At least 12,845 species have been recorded.
- Of these, 2,149 are priority species for conservation in the Brecks, many more than previously realised.
- 28% of all the priority BAP species in the UK occur in The Brecks.
- 72 species have their UK distribution restricted to or have a primary stronghold in The Brecks.

Although The Brecks has long been recognised for its distinctive biodiversity, this was the first time that the number of regional specialist species has been quantified. It showed that there have been worrying extinctions and recent declines in some priority species

Remaining habitat is fragmented, species are isolated in small sites, and the landscape is hostile to dispersal among these. Climate is demonstrated as already changing, with milder winters and increased winter rainfall in recent decades. Nitrogen deposition is a severe threat, as semi-natural habitats have received 1-2 tonnes of Nitrogen per ha over the last century.

15 species previously recorded in The Brecks are believed to be extinct in the UK or England.

The BBA collated recent records for 10 other species considered to be extinct nationally, giving hope that these may survive in The Brecks. These now need urgent survey to confirm their status.

A further 25 species are thought to have been lost from the region (locally extirpated) although they persist elsewhere in the UK.

For seven well monitored vascular plant taxa restricted to The Brecks, more than half of the populations (54%) have been lost (since 1985).

The ecological requirements of priority biodiversity

The BBA analysed the ecological requirements of the 2,000+ priority species for conservation in The Brecks to provide management guidance for their conservation.

The BBA has confirmed the importance of intensively grazed and physically disturbed habitats, as previously recognised.

However, more priority species for conservation in The Brecks depend on physically disturbed conditions in an ungrazed (or only lightly-grazed) context. These should be primarily conserved on farmland, on brown field sites, in the forest landscape and in large extensive heathland complexes.

Species of physically disturbed and ungrazed conditions were significantly more likely to be considered extinct, than other priority species.



Grass Heath and disturbed land at Weeting Heath © Bev Nichols



Open standing water, littoral margins and open fen habitats are vitally important to The Brecks biodiversity and support many more priority species than shaded wetland habitats (e.g. damp/wet woodland). Different priority species were associated with grazed and ungrazed fen conditions and a range of vegetation structures is required.

Current conservation management is not sufficient to support priority biodiversity

Recently fallowed brecks have been virtually entirely absent from the Brecks landscape for the last sixty years. The resource of early successional breck vegetation has aged, accumulating organic matter, nutrients and favouring closed sward vegetation.

Of the grass-heath resource for which the BBA obtained information, 43% of the sheep grazed area was managed by low intensity grazing, 70% of the area extent had no or few rabbits and disturbance treatments covered less than 1% of the grass-heath extent. This is not compatible with conserving the priority assemblages that depend on this resource. Approaches to management should be revised, and best practice followed.

BBA recommendations for management of dry terrestrial habitats
Large numbers of priority species require heavy and intense grazing; this should be implemented across large parts of most heathland sites.

Presence of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) should not be an obstacle to heavy grazing as retention of mature heather should not be an objective of management for priority species.

Physical disturbance should be applied to a substantial part of all terrestrial sites to provide conditions required by large numbers of priority species.

Physical disturbance is a key tool in mitigating deleterious effects of nitrogen deposition and eutrophication.

Heterogeneity, with areas of lighter grazing, structurally diverse swards, and the juxtaposition of ungrazed elements (including ploughed or cultivated ungrazed margins within or alongside heath sites) all provide for additional species assemblages.

Management should not be approached with the hope of keeping things from changing, rather management should be dynamic, episodic and disruptive as gradual recovery from grazing or disturbance provides conditions and structures not found on homogenously managed sites.

Important assemblages that require physically disturbed ungrazed vegetation, including bare ground and ruderal plant communities, are best supported on arable field margins, through cultivated margin prescriptions, in the forest landscape, along lightly grazed margins of large grazed heathlands, or in brown-field sites.

Large lightly grazed heathlands provide opportunities for recreation of breck arable and ruderal habitats through mechanical disturbance and cultivation.

Brown field sites require mechanical management to create exposures of bare sand, gravel and chalk.

BBA recommendations for management of wetlands: fen, pingos and meres

Scrub and woodland should be largely removed from fen and wetland sites.

A range of grazed and tall vegetation structures should be created.

On large wetland complexes this may be achieved by flexible extensive grazing, while on smaller or wooded sites mechanical management may be required.



A restored pingo © Nick Dickson



BBA Strategic recommendations

Sites should no longer be considered in isolation, but management priorities should be considered that strategically integrate across multiple sites in the landscape.

Adjacent sites should be combined into larger contiguous integrated units.

Biodiversity resilience of sites will be enhanced by developing connectivity networks that are best achieved by:

- Buffering existing track-ways and track verges with cultivated margins through agri-environmental agreements in the arable landscape.
- Creating broad ruderal and disturbed highways for invertebrate and plant dispersal (by percolation) through the forest landscape.

It should be noted that these recommendations predated but corroborate the findings and recommendations in the government commissioned John Lawton Report¹ that famously called for a 'more, bigger, better and joined' approach.

Ecological designations in the Brecks

The international significance of the Brecks has been recognised by the fact that 40% of the Brecks is covered by statutory conservation designations relating to Biodiversity, Geology and History. These include sites of international, national and regional importance.

- Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) totalling 7,548ha – for inland dunes with important open dry grassland habitats, dry heathland, semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland on calcareous substrate and habitats associated with the fluctuating meres

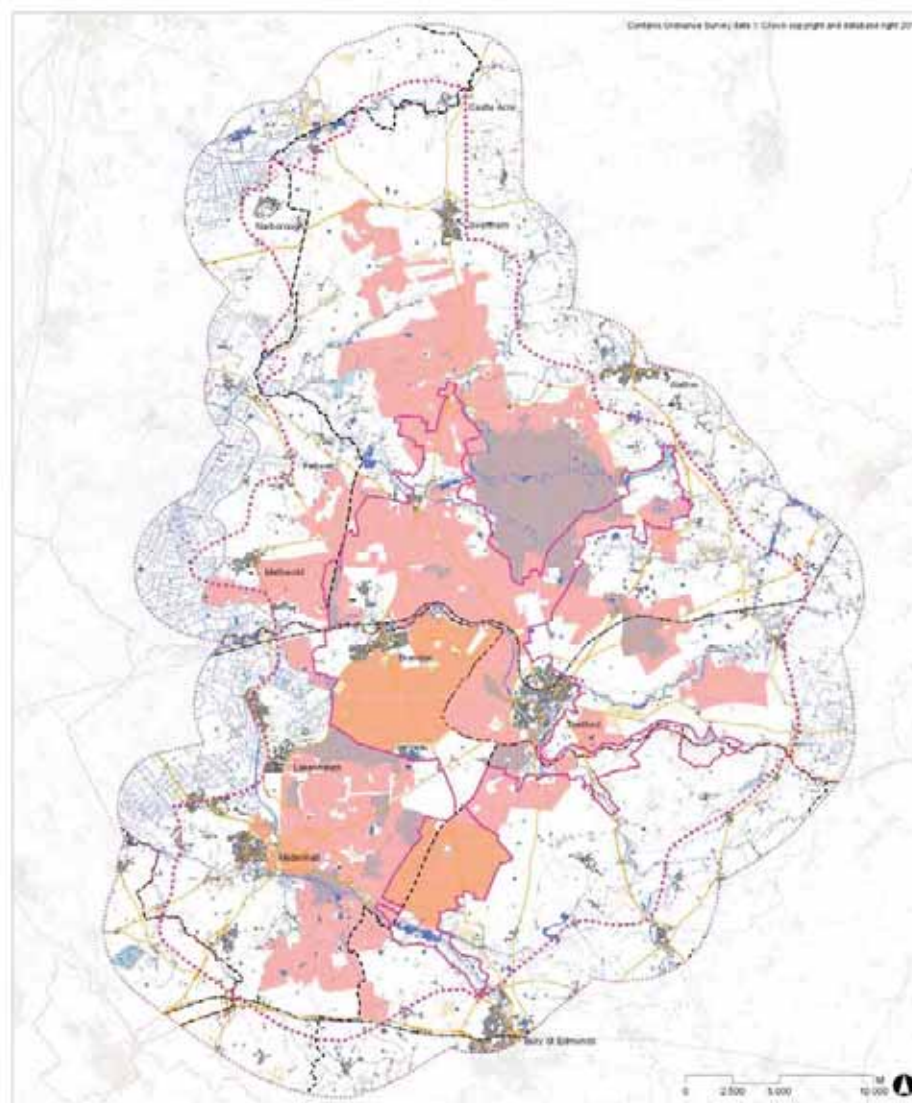
- Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, which includes Foulnden Common, Great Cressingham Fen and Thompson Common – for their calcium-rich spring fed vegetation and transitions to reedswamp and other fen and wet grassland types
- Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC, which includes Market Weston and Hopton Fens for their calcareous fen and purple moor grass vegetation on calcareous, peaty or clayey soils
- Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) for the conservation of breeding populations of woodlark, nightjar and stone curlew.

There are 55 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the Brecks of which 19 are in the scheme area. These sites are of national importance and many are also within the Breckland SPA. The largest SSSIs in the Brecks are:

- The Breckland Farmland SSSI – for breeding populations of stone curlew, but the arable land is also important for the flora and invertebrates associated with arable field margins
- Breckland Forest – for woodlark and nightjar, as well as rare plants and invertebrates
- STANTA – for its mosaic of ancient heaths and grass heaths, as well as areas of plantation and wetland.

¹ Professor Sir John Lawton (2010) DEFRA, *Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network*





SAC
 SPA and SSSI
 SSSI (additional areas within SPA)
 County Wildlife Sites

BOD Project Boundary
 NCA 95 Boundary
 NCA 95 Boundary Buffer
 County Boundary
 District Boundary
 Principal Roads
 Railway
 River
 Waterbodies

Designations

sheilsflynn

2016/10/08

Landscape Character Assessment
for the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks

Summary of Designated sites within the BNGLPS

Designation	Number of Sites
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	19
Special Protection Area (SPA)	1
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	2
County Wildlife Site (CWS)	57
Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)	66



SSSI

1. Barnham Heath
2. Barnhamcross Common
3. Berner's Heath, Icklingham
4. Breckland Farmland
5. Breckland Forest
6. Cranberry Rough, Hockham
7. Elm Road Field, Thetford
8. Grime's Graves
9. Knettishall Heath
10. Lackford Lakes
11. Lakenheath Warren
12. London Road Industrial Estate, Brandon
13. Stanford Training Area
14. Thetford Golf Course & Marsh
15. Thetford Heath
16. Thompson Water, Carr & Common
17. Wangford Warren & Carr
18. Weeting Heath
19. West Stow Heath

Special Protection Area (SPA)

1. Breckland SPA

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

1. Breckland SAC
2. Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

Suffolk

1. 79 Knettishall Heath Country Park
2. 37 Ashfen Carr Heath and Tracks

3. 128 Rushford Heath
4. 8 Thetford Forest Park
5. 65 Hengrave Wet Meadows
6. 15 New Middlegouch and Albermarle Plantations
7. 40 Ducksluice Farm Meadow
8. 4 Barnham Meadow
9. 34 River Blackbourn Meadow
10. 35 Euston Estate Grazing Meadow
11. 37 Ashfen Carr Heath and Tracks
12. 123 Euston Churchyard
13. 124 Flempton Churchyard
14. 8 Thetford Forest Park
15. 4 Wiltonhill Wood
16. 26 Culford Park and Lake
17. 36 Euston Park
18. 42 Place's Slip
19. 6 Barberry Hedge, Chalk Road
20. 7 Brandon Memorial Playing Fields
21. 41 Gashouse Drove Meadow

Norfolk

1. 682 Field Barn Meadow
2. 686 Reedlands Plantation
3. 691 Near Swaffham Gap
4. 700 South of Nuns' Bridge
5. 702 Land adjacent River Thet
6. 704 River Little Ouse
7. 706 River Little Ouse
8. 718 Adjacent River Wissey
9. 719 River Wissey

10. 721 Land in Little Langford
11. 725 Hollow Heath
12. 734 Clayden Covert
13. 740 Adjacent River Little Ouse
14. 741 Seven Hills Plantation
15. 742 Adjacent River Little Ouse
16. 743 Adjacent River Little Ouse
17. 821 Brick Kiln Covert
18. 822 Galley Hill
19. 824 Breckles Plantation
20. 826 Furze Allotment
21. 827 Part of Sandpit Plantation
22. 834 Stow Bedon Meadow
23. 2049 Thompson hall Meadow
24. 2083 Iron Carr
25. 2084 Brick Kiln Covert, West Tofts
26. 2088 Horseshoe Covert, West Tofts
27. 2089 North of Thompson Water
28. 2090 Langford Pastures
29. 2093 Thetford Rifle Range
30. 694 Adjacent River Wissey
31. 701 Alder Carr
32. 705 Adjacent River Ouse
33. 707 Adjacent River Little Ouse
34. 726 Hollow Heath East
35. 2085 Galleyhill Warren
36. 708 Adjacent River Little Ouse

Suffolk SAM

1. Roman villa sw of Weatherhill Farm

2. Middle Saxon occupation on Chequer Meadow
3. Settlement site w of Hengrave Mill
4. Rushford Bridge
5. Bowl barrow 380m south west of Santon House
6. Bowl barrow 580m north east of The Lodge, Brandon
7. Atomic bomb store on Thetford Heath
8. Bowl barrow 100m south east of Woodcock Cottage
9. Bell barrow known as White Hill
10. Bowl barrow known as Traveller's Hill tumulus
11. Bell barrow 420m North West of Park Farm
12. Bowl barrow in the garden of the old mill
13. Bowl barrow 230m south west of Little Lodge Farm
14. Bowl barrow on Hut Hill, Knettishall Heath
15. Bowl barrow in Brick kiln Covert, Knettishall heath
16. Bowl barrow 720m north east of East Farm
17. Bowl barrow in the King's Forest, 1.3km north east of Wideham Barn
18. Rushford Bridge
19. Sites nw and se of Fornham All Saints



Norfolk SAM

1. Site of Saxon town: car park to N of Anchor Hotel
2. Site of Saxon town including site of St John's churchyard on playing fields
3. Site of Saxon town: Nuns' Bridges open space
4. Devil's Ditch
5. Area of Saxon town N of Red Castle
6. Site of St Ethelred's Church and adjoining area to south
7. Bank and ditch NE of London Road
8. Leylands Farm Romano-British site, Hockwold
9. Mound Plantation round barrow
10. Site of Saxon town: plot on E side of Mill Lane 200ft (60m) N of Nunthorpe House
11. Caston Hall, site of
12. Blackfriars
13. Grimes Graves, including round barrow in Grimes Graves Plantation
14. Rushford Bridge See also NORFOLK 85
15. West Tofts deserted village
16. Site of Saxon town: primary school grounds, Hilary Road
17. Roman building E of Fengate Farm
18. 'Seven Hills' (tumuli), Rushford
19. 'Seven Hills' (tumuli), Rushford
20. 'Seven Hills' (tumuli), Rushford
21. Tutt Hill barrow, near Thetford
22. Melford Bridge
23. Site of Saxon town: Bury Road allotments
24. Castle Hill: motte and bailey castle, Iron Age earthwork enclosure and site of Augustinian friary
25. Castle Hill: motte and bailey castle, Iron Age earthwork enclosure and site of Augustinian friary
26. Bowl barrow known as Blood Hill with associated remains of a boundary bank
27. Thetford Cluniac priory
28. An Iron Age religious site and associated enclosures on Gallows Hill, Thetford, immediately to the north of Fison Way industrial estate
29. Site of town ditch: Icknield Way allotments
30. Devil's Dyke (Fosdyke or Fendyke)
31. Rushford Bridge See also SUFFOLK 242
32. 'Seven Hills' (tumuli), Rushford
33. 'Seven Hills' (tumuli), Rushford
34. 'Seven Hills' (tumuli), Rushford
35. Devil's Dyke (Fosdyke or Fendyke)
36. Mickle Hill
37. Red Castle medieval ringwork, church and Saxon settlement remains
38. Site of St Helen's Church with adjacent earthworks and holy well
39. Ruins of St Lawrence's Church
40. Two barrows, Flag Heath
41. Two barrows, Flag Heath
42. Weeting Castle moated site and 12th century manor house with post-medieval ice house
43. Pepper Hill bowl barrow, 400m north east of Mill Farm
44. Priory of the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre and part of Saxon town
45. Thetford Warren Lodge
46. Two bowl barrows 560m east of Emily's Wood
47. Santon moated site and associated medieval settlement



LAND USE

Industrial heritage

Some of the oldest evidence of human activity in the United Kingdom has been found in the Project area, including the earliest site (Lynford) where man's tools have been discovered along with butchered animal remains.



Grimes Graves © Skyscan (Source EH Photo Library)

During the late Neolithic period, the Brecks was a centre of flint production and its prehistoric flint mines can still be seen at Grimes Graves. The number of Bronze Age burial mounds already known, together with those still being identified as the original and now mature forest plantations are felled, suggests that the area is as significant as Wessex for that period of prehistory.

In the Iron Age the area seems to have been a tribal stronghold for the Iceni, with one particular site (Gallows Hill at Fisons Way, Thetford) being a probable ceremonial focus.

Along with the flint industry, it was medieval rabbit warrening, again on an industrial scale, which has contributed to the area's distinctive landscape character. Twenty six warrens have been identified, of which 19 have a documented medieval origin, the earliest in the 1280s. These were areas designated for the farming of rabbits for their meat and their fur, in which the rabbits, as highly-prized luxury items, were nurtured, protected and trapped by warreners.

Owned by monastic institutions and the nobility, these warrens covered thousands of hectares and were bounded by perimeter banks up to two metres high and ten metres wide and had a lodge, the warrener's dwelling, on the highest point.

No other area has such a concentration of medieval warrens, with the added significance in this case of most having been originally owned or leased to monastic institutions. Because of the nature of this ownership, extensive documentation about the warrens survives, shedding light on management practices and on the economy of rabbit production. Nowhere in Britain – and arguably in the world – has such a complex and extant system of earthwork perimeter banks, internal enclosures

and trapping banks, and medieval warren lodges as the Brecks. It is no accident that the areas of biodiversity concentration identified through the Brecks Biodiversity Audit process correlate closely with previous areas of warrening activity. Until the 70s rabbit fur and felt trade was active in and around Brandon, employing over 500 local employees at its peak.

In the post-medieval period, heathland came to be regarded as 'unproductive' and, though it was used to support game for the large landed estates, it was increasingly brought into permanent agricultural production. Since the 1880s, over 70% of heathland has been lost, primarily to agriculture and forestry and only small fragments remain outside the MOD Stanford Training Area.

Military heritage

Military sites, especially the USAF bases of Mildenhall and Lakenheath and the Ministry of Defence Stanford Training Area (known as STANTA) contribute significantly to the landscape. However, the military influence on the landscape goes back to the Roman period when the Peddars Way was constructed shortly after AD61 to enable troops to move through East Anglia for policing purposes, following the revolt and subsequent defeat of Boudica and her Iceni tribe.

Within Thetford itself are two significant medieval military sites: Red Castle is an 11th-century Norman ringwork, but is overshadowed by the contemporary but much larger motte and bailey castle on the other side of the town. Constructed within an Iron Age enclosure, its size suggests that it was the castle of the earl of East Anglia at a time when Thetford was also the seat of the East Anglian bishopric and among the six largest and most populous towns in the country.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Brandon flint-knappers held the contract to supply the British Army with gunflints and the remains of the flint extraction pits are scattered across the landscape. Not surprisingly, flint is the distinctive vernacular building material and was frequently combined with clunch (hard chalk) and locally manufactured bricks.





Trimming gunflints © Ancient House Museum



Captain Mainwaring, Thetford © Nick Ford

This ... he who has once vibrated with the thrill of the heathland is never quite the same again ... It fascinates but few, but those who have once come under its spell are ever after its slaves. W G Clark, In Breckland Wilds (1925)

The Brecks was the focus of military activity in both World Wars. The first tank trials were held on former warren land and a large number of operational and dummy airfields and army camps were located in the area, along with associated structures such as pill boxes, anti-glider ditches; gun emplacements and bomb ranges.

There was even a nuclear bomb store and maintenance depot at Barnham during the Cold War.

The Stanford Training Area (STANTA) is one of six principal training areas in the country, set up in 1940 in an area of dispersed settlement which nevertheless involved the evacuation of five small villages. Most of this area is grazed heathland used for a variety of training activities including live firing but the lack of agricultural disturbance has resulted in the survival of a high number of earthworks and one of the largest continuous areas of Brecks heath.

Cultural heritage

The cultural importance of the Brecks biodiversity and distinctive landscape character have been well documented and commented on by naturalists, diarists, poets and social commentators through the ages.

"The Travelling Sands ... that have so damaged the country, rousing from place to place, like the Sands in the Deserts of Lybia, quite overwhelmed some gentleman's whole estates." John Evelyn (1668)

Notable inclusions are the 17th century diarist John Evelyn; the 18th century poet George Bloomfield who wrote the poem 'Thetford'; Mary Mann, née Rackham (1848–1929) who wrote a series of gritty portrayals of local life and DH Lawrence called 'Norfolk's Thomas Hardy'; Michael Home, who was a prolific writer of fiction before writing a series of books on life in the Brecks during Edwardian and inter-war years; and W G Clark who wrote one of the seminal books on the Brecks entitled 'In Breckland Wilds'.

Virginia Woolf wrote in her journal *"Often in London shall I think of Thetford, and wonder if it is still alive,"* adding that *"No one would notice if the whole town forgot to wake up one morning."*

More recently Booker Prize double-winner Hilary Mantel set part of her novel *A Change of Climate* (1994) in the area, describing the

famous pine rows and how *"the bowed, arthritic pines that line the roads creep to the edges of the small towns ... they gather round the new housing estates, like witches at a christening."*

Thetford

*O Thetford! round thy flow'ry fields I've strolled,
From Tutt-Hill's eminence and Croxton's height,
Have view'd thine ancient ruins with delight,
Thy sloping hills and wooded vallies gay,
Whose silv'ry Ouse meand'ring winds his way.
George Bloomfield (1757–1831)*

More modern media have also had a lasting impact on the area. The television programme 'Dad's Army' was filmed in and around the Brecks and a statue of Captain Mainwaring sits in Thetford town centre, and is a popular attraction for visitors. Thetford and the wider project area is also home to a number of museums including the Dad's Army Museum, Charles Burrell Museum and Ancient House Museum who all make a significant contribution to the preservation, promotion and interpretation of the areas heritage.

It was in Thetford that Thomas Paine, the radical writer much celebrated in America and France, was born. The son of a corset maker he was born in Market Street and went on to write a number of 'papers' including *Common Sense* that was said to sway American opinions in favour of independence, and *Rights of Man* which called for a democratic republic. He was, as a result, forced to leave England, receiving a hero's welcome in France and there helped to draft the 1793 French constitution.

Local groups such as the Breckland Society, the Thetford Society and various local history groups are active within the scheme area and are either already enthusiastic partners in the scheme or eagerly awaiting the engagement opportunities the Breaking New Ground hopes to deliver.



"The oldest populated place in Britain and in the iron age the most populated, now a ghost of its former self"
A quote from a key informant interview

Significance to local communities

The Brecks has a distinct but little understood character. In fact the area contains a number of landscape areas, and is heavily dominated by forest plantation, though the projected image of Brecks is of specialist wildlife refuges and heathland. In view of the landscape being so man-made and the forest being a significant part of this, perhaps the focus on the specialist elements of the Brecks misleads people?

The area is often only experienced by many as tree lined avenues as they cross it by road or rail to other destinations and is often thought of by people from the settlements and from outside the area as the 'Thetford Forest area'. This is not helped by a myriad of brands, information points, historic pamphlets and no common message.

Equally, the history and many of the special qualities of the Brecks are accessible in terms of subject and variety, however they are poorly signposted and interpreted and there is no joining up between site and venues to help build a story. Therefore, the Brecks is only now in development as a coherent place in the public consciousness.

Part of the problem appears to be the lack of a coherent and overarching tourism / visitor management strategy. There was a very strong common message from almost all stakeholders that the lack of Local Authority involvement / commitment to tourism is seriously limiting the opportunities and this is felt by many of them to be a fundamental part of the problem.

Probing why people do what they do and where they go revealed that lack of information and poor transport and access links are important factors in people's choice. The work of the Brecks Partnership in developing the area as a responsible tourism destination has increased participation by tourism businesses but this is limited by the lack of infrastructure to support it.

Car ownership was a significant factor in people's ability to visit beyond the towns. Most people used their own car. Though walking and cycling are popular, this seems to be mainly for those living in the area for very local routes or for those who drive to a location to then walk or cycle. Use of public transport was very low and this was often raised as a key limiting factor in the area generally, especially for the elderly and young.

Heritage sites are visited, but the numbers visiting the iconic sites are surprisingly low considering their national importance. A good example of this being Grimes Graves with only 16,000 visitors a year. This amazing site is poorly signposted from other sites and generally has a very low profile. Even local school visits are low, though schools and colleges come from other locations, such as Cambridge.

It consistently emerged that the main attraction of the Brecks is its rural tranquillity and a place to walk, picnic and just enjoy being outdoors.

However, it was also clear that many people just drive through the area and do not visit at all, whilst others tend to only go to the main settlements and key attractions, of which perhaps the most common is Thetford Forest.

Walking, wildlife watching and outdoor activities tend to be important, but it was also evident that with the exception of High Lodge, children's play and activities is not significant. The impression is generally of an older or 'specialist' audience outside of the main attractions.

Equally clear is that the main attraction of the Brecks for the minority ethnic groups is work, and their visits tend to be to places where they can socialise with friends. Their local knowledge tended to be poor and focused on the settlements. They also tend to work long hours for low pay so their recreational opportunities are more limited.

As set out in the Surveys report, the views expressed through our on-line feedback, consultations and face-to-face surveys it is evident that there is a great need for, and interest in, the provision of opportunities for people learn more about, and get involved in the care of the Brecks landscape. There are a great number of people already engaged in landscape and Brecks heritage volunteering through groups already involved with the BNGLPS, and the surveys have shown a wealth of potential from engaging with schools and developing new audiences to ensure a ready pool of participants in all aspects of the delivery of the BNGLPS.



"The Brecks is a bit of mystery – not very well defined geographically or in people's minds"
A quote from a key informant interview

SUMMARY

Although the Brecks has nationally unique landscape and history along with nationally and internationally important wildlife, sites these features have only recently been effectively signposted and marketed to either residents or those from outside the area

The Breckland Biodiversity Audit has produced a number of recommendations and demonstrated an urgent need for work to establish management techniques to conserve the special biodiversity of the area and to confirm the status of species, some of which were considered to be extinct nationally.

These recommendations predated but corroborate the findings and recommendations in the government commissioned John Lawton Report that called for more bigger better and joined approach.

Importance of grazed and disturbed habitats for biodiversity with a

focus on structures and processes within areas across the whole Brecks.

The need to integrate conservation delivery, to restore pingo sites, to develop grazing as a land management practice, undertake physical ground disturbance and increase the connectivity of habitats within a more sustainable management system

We need to understand and establish the significance of historical and more contemporary human influence and industry in effecting the development of the modern landscape

There is a need to reconnect communities with the landscape through awareness understanding, engagement and participation and to engage with the wider communities including 'hard to reach' audiences to develop a sense of place and pride.



3 RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

To the casual observer journeying through the Brecks, it soon becomes apparent you are in a different landscape from those outside it with a repeating pattern at the core of the Brecks, of arable, heathland, forest and river valley and it is precisely this diversity that characterises it as a whole. However, such diversity and the lack of understanding, changes in agricultural practices, deprivation, immigration and pressures from tourism and development bring a range of issues, threats and opportunities. Some of these affect a range of heritage types, whereas others are more specific.



Changing land-use © Chris Knights

This section will identify these risks and threats but also highlight opportunities to address them. It will also consider some of the risks to the delivery of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE

Unlike many other areas of highly distinctive landscape in England that have National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status, The Brecks has no such national landscape designation or protection. A significant number of individual sites within it totalling over 40% of its area are protected, as SSSIs, SACs and SPAs but the Brecks as a whole is not formally recognised as a special landscape. Compounding this problem is the fact that there are two county administrations and four district councils, each with their own priorities.

We shall disseminate the result of new research undertaken by the BNGLPS as well as Natural England's Statements of Environmental Opportunities arising out of the Brecks National Character Area. Along with implementing the recommendations of the Breckland Biodiversity Audit through training, engagement with communities and schools, and through joined up on-line and on-site interpretation the LPS area, the Brecks can rightly be promoted as an internationally important landscape area. The Brecks Partnership successfully added the Brecks to the list of areas for 'boundary review' by Natural England in order to reconsider it for formal landscape designation and this is something that the BNGLPS will seek to build on.

The Brecks Biodiversity Audit identified the need to re-establish suitable management techniques for the special biodiversity of the Brecks and to halt the alarming decline in the specialist flora and fauna of the area. The BNG scheme will also look to take forward the Lawton Report recommendations in providing more, bigger, better and joined network for biodiversity to ensure its conservation management well into the future for both water based and terrestrial species.

Older arable fields in the Brecks are often bounded by Pine lines (or Deal Rows) of Scots pine hedgerows, originally planted and managed as wind break hedgerows to protect the topsoil in the early 19th Century and to promote game shooting. Traditional hedgerow management has been abandoned but has left behind the iconic distorted lines of pine trees which are distinctive and characteristic features that help create a strong sense of place.

However, replanting windbreak pine hedgerows where they have been lost and positively managing and maintaining those which have become neglected would strengthen the landscape character of the area and bring ecological benefits.



CHANGES IN LAND MANAGEMENT

The Brecks' heaths were once widespread and it is largely the use of modern farming techniques which have drastically changed the ancient character of the landscape, turning many permanent and 'Brecks' heaths into permanently cultivated agricultural land.

Changing agricultural practices in the Brecks have seen crops established under irrigation with the creation of large reservoirs, the use of plastic and fleece, and increasing production of outdoor pigs and poultry (72% and 40% respectively between 2000 and 2009) - all recent developments that challenge the traditional landscape character of the Brecks.

The light soils are ideal for vegetable production as they are easily worked and accessible throughout the year. However this high value cropping requires chemical fertiliser and irrigation poses major sustainability challenges for the future.

Modern farming methods can put the historic landscape and biodiversity features at risk but informed landowners and tenants respond readily to its conservation. The engagement and education of landowners in all aspects of the BNGLPS will promote sensitive management practices, and the research and development of appropriate land management guidance will provide a long term legacy and bench mark for best practice. The BNG scheme will also provide the opportunity for local communities to be re-connected with their landscape and increase the awareness of the significant contribution that farming practices make to the local economy and conservation.

The principal threat to the remaining areas of 'brecks' habitat now is lack of appropriate grazing management leading to scrub invasion, from the lack of grazing flocks of sheep and the skills needed to husband them. By researching and promoting the history and importance of grazing, as well as the skills and crafts necessary to manage small and therefore mobile grazing flocks some of this may be addressed, while at the same time seeking to help conserve rarer breeds.

The reduction of ground disturbance and bare earth has also been shown to be having a detrimental impact on many species. A wide range of priority species require ground disturbance to provide the right conditions. The location, soil type, intensity and frequency of disturbance are often critical.

Historically a variety of natural and cultural processes operated in the Brecks at a landscape and local scale creating the necessary disturbed soil and bare ground. Amongst these processes were the cultivation of the temporary 'brecks'; wind blow; excavation of pits and flint mines and moving of livestock across the landscape. These processes are now severely compromised by changes in land use and farming systems so that modern alternatives have to be introduced to ensure the survival of many species.

These issues can be addressed by developing and promoting more sustainable management including an appropriate mechanism for creating disturbed ground and thereby enhancing the management of dry habitats, especially acid and chalk grass heaths and heather heaths. Together with afforested land, and expanding and creating new habitats and ecological networks to provide better opportunities for the range of rare, scarce and characteristic species typical of the Brecks. The integration of Roadside Nature Reserves into the BNGLPS proposals also provides an ideal opportunity for creating these linking ecological corridors and developing a system of ground disturbance that encourages and enables the movement of species throughout the area



HERITAGE AND SKILLS

Within Thetford Forest, the main coniferous plantation blocks and numerous smaller coniferous plantations and shelter belts vary in size and shape and often follow old farm, estate or medieval warren boundaries. They form a strong pattern of enclosure and create points of focus. However, the Forestry Commission nationally has been moving away from rigid boundaries in favour of more 'naturalistic planting'; here, such a policy would remove a historic landscape component. By researching and raising awareness of the historic patterns of warren boundaries in the landscape their role in creating the distinctive landscape character of the area can be reinforced, conserved and retained.

Farmsteads, churches and other vernacular buildings (and views to them) of traditional knapped flint, clunch and 'white' brick, have a strong impact in this landscape of sparse settlement. The skills to maintain these buildings are being lost. Modern housing developments threaten the distinctiveness of the vernacular architecture and impact adversely on the historic landscape.



King's House, Thetford © Graham Portlock

The 18th – 19th century estates' buildings are particularly distinctive in character and include model estate villages with unifying architecture which were built to house estate workers, notably at Euston and Elveden.

Such unification is destroyed by modern, unsympathetic development. Even in the town centres of Brandon and Thetford, traditional buildings are overshadowed by unsympathetic 1950s/1960s development and a complete lack of awareness of vernacular building materials and historic settlement character and street patterns.

Already the BNG Landscape Character Assessment has recognised the importance of the vernacular architecture in defining the local landscape character at a strategic and planning level. By celebrating these aspects at a community level through skills demonstrations and have-a-go events, as well as by creating opportunities for practical learning, the public, and in particular, owners and managers of built heritage assets can be given the knowledge, confidence and skills to conserve and protect these features in the long term.

A JOINED UP APPROACH

Thetford is designated as a 'Growth Point' with significant future expansion of 5000 new homes by 2021 and is surrounded by internationally designated nature conservation sites that are both an opportunity and a constraint.

The Local Development Framework Core Strategies of Local Authorities also include some expansion of Bury St Edmunds, Mildenhall and Brandon. Population increase has the potential to increase disturbance to sensitive bird species, unless appropriately mitigated, as well as impacting upon other habitats and species, and the landscape character of the area. In all 51,000 homes are forecast to be built within 1 hour travel time of the Brecks before 2025

The Brecks, because it straddles two county and four district council areas, has lacked coordination and consistency of approach in planning and economic development, including tourism that dedicated resources would allow and which might be found in a formally designed landscape. There is low recognition of the significance of the area and its need for integrated management by public policy makers and, as the Brecks encompasses six local authorities, it can receive fragmented treatment from them.

The BNGLPS can provide a fundamental role in bringing all the organisations currently involved in managing the landscape and heritage of the Scheme area together. This is particularly important in view of the closing of the Brecks Partnership and consequently the BNGLPS will be the only mechanism for developing this key element in ensuring a joined up approach for future heritage management in the area. The new working partnerships established by the Scheme will establish a different approach to heritage management and identify cross-sector opportunities for funding and long term sustainability.



COMMUNITIES

According to the Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004, around 52% of the population lives in the market towns; 43% in parishes of more than 300 inhabitants and the remaining 5% in parishes of less than this. Since the mid 1990s, there has been a significant increase of migrants from the European Union countries; 3,000 Polish, 2,000 Lithuanian and approximately 25,000 Portuguese.

Consultation during the preparation of this LCAP has shown that even the concept of the Brecks' as a geographical entity is little recognised, with many residents and visitors unsure of its location and characteristics. There is limited local engagement with the landscape and surprisingly little access made to information in the public domain about the landscape of the Brecks and particularly how it reflects human interaction with the natural world over millennia.

Thetford Forest has 14,320 ha of accessible land for over 1.5 million people who visit the forest each year for anything from a quiet daily dog walk to horse riding, mountain biking, regional sports events, schools visits and the 'Go-Ape' adventure course. (There are 4412 ha of Thetford Forest as leasehold land, where the access rights have been retained by the land owner). Thetford Forest therefore provides a valuable resource to a regional population of 5.5 million people within a 2 hour drive, with another 8 million within the greater London area. The forest is therefore well placed to act as a major accessible green space that benefits the wider region, and is a central component of local authorities' green infrastructure strategies.

The Public Right of Way network in the Brecks is sparse in relation to its size and in comparison with the surrounding areas. This is the result of the historic pattern of land ownership (particularly the creation of large estates in the 18th and 19th centuries), land use and settlement patterns. Of the 16,991 ha of open access land (17% by area), much is closed February – November to protect rare ground-nesting birds such as the Stone Curlew. A lack of clear information about this has given rise to uncertainty about the availability of access throughout the year. In addition, the absence of sufficient, clear and cohesive way-marking and distance signage on footpaths contributed to this lack of confidence, particularly for infrequent visitors.

Giving greater recognition to the services and benefits provided by Thetford and King's Forest and developing ways to increase the contribution that the Forest makes, particularly as a regional and national recreational resource and in its role in climate change adaptation and mitigation would help address many of the area's social and economic needs.

Contact with local schools has demonstrated a lack of knowledge of and engagement with the area, mostly due to a lack of knowledge and confidence in their abilities to engage with the resources. Whilst there is a lot of information for the visitor on where to go and what to do, education and teaching resources are limited and schools have tended to go outside the area for their field trips to locations where educational support is provided or the educational value is clearly defined.

By connecting schools and learning to the resources available, the profile of the area is raised with new audiences and schools become able to benefit from and contribute to all aspects of the area's heritage. There are also great opportunities to raise awareness in local communities to the recreation and informal learning resources by creating and promoting opportunities

Research undertaken during the development of this LCAP has shown that wildlife conservation is an area in which people are most interested in volunteering, although there is a fairly broad range of interest areas available. The low level of current volunteer involvement tends to be in wildlife, community and cultural activities. It was also significant how few people are involved in volunteering to do with traditional crafts, though equally, many of survey interviews, including the BNG conference workshop, suggested people were not very clear what heritage skills and traditional crafts were associated with Brecks.

The main barrier to volunteering seems to be a lack of clear opportunities and publicity about what is available. Another significant barrier to the minority ethnic groups are language issues and it was suggested volunteering could provide a way of overcoming this and bringing communities together, actually helping with language learning at the same time.



By creating and promoting new opportunities across the range of heritage interests there is an opportunity to engage the public, and also to help integrate the new communities and foster a mutually inclusive approach to caring for the area. One opportunity is through the investigation and promotion of the role played by foreign workers and military over the centuries in defining the character of the area.

The audits and surveys also highlight the extent to which immigrant communities are part of the audience for this LPS, and as such, the importance of suitable language provision within the delivery of the scheme. It is an important element of the BNGLPS that where possible immigrant community groups are engaged and the need for a multilingual approach is considered by the delivery partners.



Engaging with communities © Michelle Turner

The quality of the Brecks' environment is a factor that feeds into the economic prosperity of the area. Strengthening the rural economy in turn helps mitigate many of the social issues. 'Breaking New Ground' has an opportunity to seek to address some of the social and economic issues that affect the people who live in the area by contributing to improvements to quality of life, and by helping give them the tools whereby they can not only enjoy but also contribute to sustaining the natural and built heritage into the future.

SURVEY AND AUDIT

Physical Access

The long distance footpaths such as Peddars Way and Icknield Way provide valuable links to interpreting the area. This requires improved provision of clear routes for both bike and foot access which link between key sites, Country Parks and settlements. This should include a more obvious link from Peddars Way making it accessible from Thetford, and links between key locations such as Thetford and Brandon.

This link between sites needs improvement in signage, its coordination, digital information and easily available interpretative information and maps.

Improved links for cycling and horse riding from the Forest to other areas. Significantly more could be made of the rivers and particularly

canoeing, with routes better identified and publicised locally, rental availability and potentially even the locating of a rental enterprise in the middle of Thetford for trips to and from Brandon and further afield.

Interpretation

There needs to be an increase in awareness of the area, building on the work of the Brecks Partnership with a stronger brand built around the developing sense of place. This can then be developed to build understanding, engagement, and eventually participation.

Interpretative materials need to be more readily available and link between sites, developing joined up messaging, which also supports a developing a sense of place.

Interpretation needs to be supported by linked routes using key centres, settlements and destinations as hubs.

Education and Learning

The use by local schools of local sites is variable. This could be improved through provision of:

- Better schools orientated learning materials
- Dedicated outreach staff
- Teacher training

As well as by raising awareness amongst those involved in training through outreach as to what is available and how to use the Brecks as a resource, the provision of supported transport (but only if supported by other forms of outreach) and partnership projects between schools and local landscape and heritage organisations.

Active Heritage Learning ©
Graham Portlock



Digital Access

There is a good web presence for the Brecks through the Brecks Partnership's www.brecks.org site, which receives an average of 5000 IP visits per month, but on the whole there is limited ITC based learning or other interpretative materials and there is a lack of joined up provision, both technological and physical access linked to other forms of information. In view of the uncertainty over the future of this web facility BNG will provide a central hub with links to Brecks related information in addition to the content generated by the Scheme itself. In addition it will also have the capacity to take on a holding role for elements of the Brecks Partnership site while alternative provision is identified, should this prove necessary.

Skills training

There are a good range of courses already available with a number of opportunities for formal and informal development, however many are located a significant distance outside the area and transport links are poor.

It would be beneficial to create more informal opportunities to encourage greater interest to new participants. This could be developed through informal 'have a go' activities to try and encourage interest and new participants, focused at local day visitors, families and volunteers.

In addition there is a need to provide longer term opportunities for people to develop skills towards work, raise awareness amongst those involved in training as to what is available and how to use the Brecks as a resource and the development of a small number of very specialised courses relating to the particular significant aspects of the Brecks, such as rabbit warrening.

LIMITATIONS

Public transport for the villages of the Brecks is a perennial problem. For a minority of village residents, usually teenagers, the elderly and those on low incomes, a bus service is regarded as essential, securing access to education, training, and employment, as well as to shopping and entertainment. However only larger villages or those on a convenient routing are currently served by the bus network and on many routes the level of usage tends to be too low to support a full

commercial service. Most bus routes therefore have to be grant aided and demand responsive, with difficult decisions to be taken on the possible level of support per passenger mile.

Community bus initiatives may provide a more cost effective solution. In terms of the local community and social and economic environment, many village residents see the retention of a village shop, a pub, a primary school and community facilities and a post office as a key to community sustainability. While improving public transportation links is outside the scope of this project, there is an opportunity to improve the promotion of existing facilities alongside promotion and interpretation of the area.

While the improvement of public transport is outside the ability of the BNGLPS, the partnership will seek to contribute to strategic planning for the long term improvement of public transport provision in the area as well as other forms of sustainable access to the Brecks.

PARTNERSHIP AND DELIVERY RISKS

The Brecks Partnership and its relationship with BNG

Regrettably on 30th September 2013, the Brecks Partnership's Principal Management Group made the decision to dissolve it. After 20 years of work, and great achievements including the delivery of some high profile activity, the Partnership will close in early 2014. The doubt about ongoing local authority funding for the project had made the future untenable, with the only real certainty for future partnership funding beyond April 2014, coming from Suffolk County Council, the host authority. As such the decision, although extremely difficult, was a unanimous one. The Brecks Partnership conceived the BNGLPS as a means of making a substantial difference to the landscape of the Brecks, recruiting the BNG Development Manager and overseeing the LCAP development and Stage 2 submission.



Perhaps one of the greatest legacies for the Brecks Partnership is the opportunity now presented by Breaking New Ground, which, if successful at Stage 2, will see a greater investment in the natural and historic environment of the Brecks, and people's enjoyment and understanding of its significance, than ever before. Indeed Breaking New Ground now presents an opportunity for a renewed level of partnership working in the Brecks, with former Brecks Partnership funders all pledging significant sums to match fund the project. Suffolk County Council and other local authorities formerly associated with the Brecks Partnership remain committed and together are providing c. £100,000 in match funding.

The BNGLPS board reflects the diverse interests in the Brecks, and illustrates the degree of excitement and promise that exists in the potential for the delivery of Breaking New Ground.

Indeed the LPS Board is now well formed, cohesive and effective, with a strong appetite to take ownership of and deliver 3-years of fantastic activity. There are many on the BNGLPS Board who were on the former Brecks Partnership and much skill and expertise about the area, particularly from organisations like the Breckland Society, FC, SWT, NWT, RSPB, is still there to support the project. Suffolk County Council and other local authorities formerly associated with the Brecks Partnership remain totally committed to a successful scheme

Suffolk County Council will host the BNG project directly, rather than the Brecks Partnership, albeit given the Brecks Partnership was hosted by SCC anyway, contractually for staff there will be no difference. Their contracts will be with SCC, as the Development Manager's is now. SCC will also provide all HR, ICT, Finance and Managerial support to the project, as well as cash-flowing the project, as grant payment is in arrears. SCC will also accommodate the staff at Brandon Country Park, absorbing that cost as further in-kind support.

The move to SCC's Brandon Country Park can only be a positive change to the project, with the Park offering much higher profile to BNG as a base location. Furthermore some of our highest profile projects are located at the Park, such as the Engine House restoration and the end of project celebratory event. The Park also offers a real legacy for the project, as a place where project activity took place and therefore somewhere where we can really build people's association with the Brecks.



Brandon Country Park

Whilst in stage 1, the Brecks Partnership was seen as the main custodian of the projects legacy, we have altered the stage 2 submission in light of the changes described above. The legacy elements are more clearly embedded in each of the projects, and of course the ability to build a tangible project legacy at Brandon Country Park, through the project being based there and coming into greater contact with the public on a day to day basis because of it, is also clear.

The closure of the Brecks Partnership is deeply regrettable, and the commitment to the conservation of the area will be missed. The Brecks Partnership's work with tourism businesses particularly, is an area that others are keen to continue in another form and Breaking New Ground will seek to engage with any new organisation that may be established to continue this work, perhaps within the private sector, and will support activity wherever it can, particularly in enabling visitors to the area to better understand its significance.

The overheads, scheme staffing and running costs have had to adapt to adequately reflect this change in circumstances for the delivery process, and this is reflected in the scheme plan and costs. The quality of delivery by project delivery partners and the continuing 10 year management and maintenance can be ensured by the proper management of the BNGLPS scheme, through SCC procurement regulations and Environmental Management Systems and Contractor requirements as well as appropriate delivery agreements that guarantee the project delivery outcomes and long term maintenance and benefits of the scheme.

The BNGLPS has a strong focus on community engagement through volunteering. The scheme partners all have a very strong track record of working with volunteers, and have all expressed confidence in engaging with a greater number of volunteers that set out in the scheme details. In addition to this surveys have demonstrated the need to engage with the 'hard-to-reach audiences, schools and families which it is hoped will encourage volunteering in a whole new group of people.



SUMMARY

The Brecks Partnership conceived the BNGLPS in an attempt to bring much needed and tangible benefits to the special landscape of the Brecks that has undergone substantial periods of change throughout history. After a 20 year history of achievement in the Brecks in coordinating activities across the environment, economic and social sectors, a fitting legacy of the Partnership would be to ensure that this scheme is successful and all BNG partners commit themselves to a Brecks landscape with a truly sustainable future.

Historic land-use in the area resulted in the development of nationally significant heritage assets but prevented access to, and engagement in the landscape for local communities. Today there is a significant disconnect between people and the landscape as a result of the lack of accessibility and the resulting lack of awareness of the heritage value and opportunities. This is apparent with all audience types and needs addressing to generate engagement leading to better understanding and protection of the heritage assets. A joined-up approach to interpretation, heritage promotion and volunteer engagement as well as engagement with schools is critical for the future of the landscape and will create knowledgeable future custodians.

Over time species diversity and habitat has been lost through arable conversion, inappropriate management, afforestation and urban development. The Brecks Biodiversity Audit preceded The Lawton Report in identifying the need for a more, bigger, better joined approach to reduce fragmentation of habitats and to provide a more robust ecological network for Brecks species and specialities.

There is a lack of appropriate management including grazing livestock and techniques along with the skills needed to husband them and there is a clear need for more sustainable management of brecks heaths including an appropriate mechanism for creating disturbed ground. Traditional hedgerow management has also been abandoned in many areas and there is a need to conserve existing and produce characteristic pine lines using modern management techniques

Brecks landowners and tenants are willing to conserve Brecks species but need the support and advice to help them to do so. This opportunity is demonstrated by the fact that uptake of environmental stewardship in the area is currently below the national average

The cross-boundary nature of the BNGLPS area has proved a constraint for joined up strategies and promotion. The BNGLPS can continue the fundamental role of bringing all the organisations currently involved in managing the landscape and heritage of the Scheme area together. This is particularly important in view of the closing of the Brecks Partnership and consequently the BNGLPS will be the only mechanism for developing this key element in ensuring a joined up approach for future heritage management in the area. The new working partnerships established by the Scheme will establish a different approach to heritage management and identify cross-sector opportunities for funding and long term sustainability.

The delivery outcomes and legacy of the BNGLPS are guaranteed by the procurement and contracting processes put in place by SCC procurement to which the scheme will conform.



4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES TO DELIVER THE BNG LP PROGRAMME OUTCOME

INTRODUCTION

The BNG vision as set out in the Executive Summary and Introduction is the result of the extensive partnership working and consultation undertaken as part of the initial Stage 1 application and the subsequent development phase. The following section sets out the BNG aims and priorities for delivering the BNG vision through a series of projects set out under the four programmes;

- Programme A - Doing the Groundwork: Conservation & Restoration
- Programme B - Finding Common Ground: Developing Participation
- Programme C - Feet on the Ground: Connecting with Communities
- Programme D - On Solid Ground: Providing for Sustainability

BREAKING NEW GROUND AIMS AND PRIORITIES

Aims:

- conserve, enhance and promote the natural and historic landscape, its archaeology, built heritage, wildlife and geodiversity and demonstrate their interconnectivity
- improve accessibility by overcoming physical, social, cultural and intellectual barriers to enable everyone to understand, enjoy and value this special area and to engage with its future
- develop a skilled and sustainable volunteer base through training and volunteering opportunities
- provide training and promote those skills necessary to record, manage and enhance the Brecks landscape
- engage with schools and young people to create active future custodians of the landscape
- enable residents, businesses and visitors to make a positive and sustainable contribution to the local economy
- engender pride and a 'sense of place' in the Brecks for residents and visitors alike



An identity for the Brecks

Priorities:

- re-connect people with the landscape through a range of projects and activities promoting greater understanding and ownership of the area and the issues it faces
- facilitate their involvement with opportunities for participation, learning and training
- make a difference to the landscape 'on the ground' through conserving and enhancing the natural and built heritage
- develop partnerships with both professional and voluntary organisations and interest groups to sustain and grow the outcomes of the Scheme

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND LEGACY

In order to deliver the aims and priorities identified above, the BNGLPs will seek to undertake work in a number of specific areas. The outputs identified below will provide physical benefits to the landscape and heritage in response to the threats and opportunities identified by the development research and other relevant documents and strategies. The specific objectives for each programme type will also seek to engage with the relevant and varied audience types to ensure that land managers and communities gain a better understanding of the area and are more able to make effective long-term contributions to the future restoration and conservation of the landscape.



Programme A - Doing the Groundwork: Conservation & Restoration

BNGLPS will;

- Work with a range of partners, including Natural England, the Forestry Commission, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and Norfolk County Council, to increase biodiversity and the understanding of traditional management through the re-creation of temporary Brecks. By experimental ground disturbance of more than 10 ha of land, monitoring, analysis and collation of evidence we will identify the best practice management techniques to increase and support biodiversity in the Brecks. Through the incorporation of another 8 Roadside Nature Reserve sites this work will also address the need to connect habitats and develop a sustainable approach to continuing this type of management into the future. The information gained from this work will be presented as 'best practice guidance' for land managers to create a legacy of continued ground disturbance, vital for the continued viability of most Brecks specialist biodiversity.
- Create an Environment Opportunity Map to inform land managers of optimal ground disturbance sites, prevent damage to heritage assets and increase opportunities for improved Brecks disturbance management and the linking of sites to create ecological corridors.
- Identify new County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in the BNG area and carry out restoration works and condition assessments in order to develop a series of management statements for implementation by landowners to ensure continued delivery into the future.
- Work with landowners to survey and assess pingo sites in the BNG project area (c.64 pingos) and carry out significant conservation management and restoration work on c.24 pingos on 3 priority sites. In particular, the scheme will focus on restoration of pingos on Thompson Common to facilitate work with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Amphibian and Reptile conservation to re-introduce the native pool frog to the restored pingo sites.
- Facilitate improved understanding of the role sheep have played and can continue to play in habitat creation and management and make a difference to the landscape 'on the ground' by raising

awareness of the value of sheep in habitat management and the implications for ecology and biodiversity.

- Research management techniques and identify methodology for establishing & managing pine lines to enable the creation of management guidelines and then work with public and private landowners and communities to plant, manage and monitor 2km of new pine lines in appropriate landscape settings and conserve and restore a further 8 km of this key landscape feature.
- Work with students of a local Training College to design and undertake the restoration of the Engine House at Brandon Country Park estate to restore a threatened heritage asset and create opportunities for heritage building skills development and preserve a rare example of its type. Ultimately this work will provide a high level of heritage interpretation for the public and giving the building a new lease of life as a volunteer centre to enable long-term conservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage in the scheme area.



Brandon Engine House



- Conserve an area of warren banks and interpret it to promote a better understanding of the impact of warrening on the Brecks landscape
- Conserve and improve access to Lingheath Gunflint mine and provide interpretation to promote a better understanding of the importance of the flint industry in the Brecks
- Offer significant grants of up to £5,000 to support local organisations, and communities to undertake practical heritage and landscape conservation projects within the BNG area

Programme B - Finding Common Ground: Developing Participation

One of the main priorities for the BNG project is reconnecting communities with the landscape. As a result of its unusual history and evolution of its landscape, settlements developed in river valleys and the 'upland' heaths remained largely unpopulated. In conjunction with the development of relatively few but nonetheless large private estates with low levels of access, the relatively recent forest planting and increases in farmed areas has caused a significant disconnect between the heritage and those living in the area. Only by improving the knowledge, awareness and sense of ownership will a sustainable legacy of responsible engagement by local communities be achieved.

In addition to this, the relatively recent changes in land-use and agriculture have resulted in a large immigrant communities being established in the BNGLPS area who, to a large extent, remain isolated from more established communities, and the landscape.

The Breaking New Ground Scheme will focus delivery on projects that engage with families, the diverse range of communities and schools across all the programmes. It builds on the identified need to know more about the landscape and its heritage by supporting and encouraging communities to engage in that process.

The BNGLPS provides opportunities for all audience types to be inspired and supported to volunteer as well as by creating improvements to interpretation, access and education.



Teaching the Teachers

BNG will;

- Give families the opportunity to come together and enjoy outdoor space and celebrate all that the Brecks has to offer by breaking down barriers to participation by offering free transport to a range of free activities for families who would otherwise find it difficult to engage.
- Bring school students into contact with the nature of the Brecks through the creation of habitats and growing areas within school grounds. This will create opportunities for outdoor learning, raise attainment levels and increase well-being, increase the biodiversity of school grounds within the Brecks and teach school students how to propagate trees from seeds and cuttings.
- Engage with schools and train teachers to give them confidence to use the resources of the Brecks for teaching and engaging students with their landscape
- Transform Brandon Country Park into an Enchanted Forest for an event to bring to life its history, showcasing the work and outcomes the BNGLPS in a fun, interactive way and offering a range of educational opportunities for families, schools and community groups to engage with.
- Support individuals, communities and organisations living within the Barnham Cross area to 'adopt-a-plot' and engage with the conservation management of its common.

Programme C - Feet on the Ground: Connecting with Communities

Through Access and Learning BNG intends to empower communities by giving them greater knowledge of their landscape and to make a meaningful contribution to research and understanding. In addition the scheme will create new interpretation, trails and other facilities, including on-line, to better access the physical landscape and its heritage in the long-term.



BNG will;

- Give communities the confidence to explore the landscape by connecting the market towns of Thetford and Brandon to the surrounding landscape Brecks with a 13 km multi use trail with interpretation and signage, and by giving further opportunities for information recreation by creating 5 additional loops.
- Create a series of 10 heritage trails across the BNG area, of with each trail fully interpreted and designed specifically to highlight a particular theme or aspect of the area's heritage
- Create and promote a long distance (25 km) trail for cycling, walking and horse riding from north (Brandon) to south (West Stow) to utilise and promote, for the first time, a safe crossing of the A11 and thereby increase safe and easy access between communities. This trail will also raise awareness of the Brecks as a distinct destination for outdoor leisure activities.



Interpreting aspects of the Pleistocene heritage © Beverly Curl

- Introduce people to the unique geological heritage of the Brecks through the creation of a Geological Heritage Trail via 18 publicly-accessible points of interest, interpreted using digital and other media.

- Give Brecks residents and visitors the chance to understand and learn about some of the key species within Thetford Forest by providing virtual access opportunities to existing and many new audiences via live 'nest cams' and displays to create a unique access to the rare birds that are considered iconic Brecks species and features of its SPA status.
- Work with parishes and individuals to document and raise awareness of the dramatic transformation of the Brecks' landscape which took place from around 1700 onwards, to promote understanding of the creation and development of Thetford Forest, to aid conservation of the heritage within it. This will be complemented by the creation of an oral history database 'The People's history of Thetford Forest' to document and create an archive of social history relating to the creation of the UK's largest lowland plantation forest in the early 20th century.
- Use LiDAR to survey hitherto unrecorded forested areas of the Brecks and create a resource for heritage understanding and protection in the Brecks that will become as significant in our interpretation of the landscape as the first edition Ordnance Survey. In conjunction to this work the scheme will broaden knowledge of and engagement with Brecks' heritage assets by making historic Aerial Photos of sites in the BNG scheme area available digitally for the first time and by undertaking aerial photographic assessment, mapping and interpretation of key areas of the Brecks.
- Introduce new audiences to previously unseen collections and archives which illustrate and generate awareness of the distinctive story of the Brecks and exemplify ways in which objects and documents contribute to understanding of the landscape and its history and can also help inform its present and future management.





Youth engagement

- Introduce young people living in the Brecks to the wonder and beauty of their local landscape and its rich wildlife habitats through engaging them with outdoor hands-on activities, to gain knowledge and learning about the importance of the biodiversity and heritage of the area.

- Promote the on-going work to restore and conserve the natural and man-made heritage of the Brecks through an illustrated technical Journal covering a wide range of subjects related to the projects undertaken within Breaking New Ground.

- Explain, enhance, conserve and promote the impact of flint in terms of the natural and historic landscape, its archaeology, built heritage, social history and geo-diversity. To facilitate improved understanding of the surviving flint heritage of the Brecks and of its local and regional significance by engagement, volunteer opportunities and interpretation and to communicate the geological heritage dimension present in churches and church yards in the area.

- Work alongside the restoration work in programme A to identify the internal features of medieval warrens in the Brecks, including the sites of their lodges, explain them and their purpose, place them in the wider context of warrening in the Brecks and extend understanding of how warrening functioned as a rural industry and had an impact on the cultural and natural history of the area

- Connect people with the history of sheep and shepherding in the Brecks and provide people with opportunities for participation, learning and training in various aspects of the sheep-farming heritage to promote a greater understanding of the crucial role played by sheep in the area's history and land management by documenting, explaining, conserving and promoting the role of sheep and shepherding in the natural and historic landscape of the Brecks, including with regard to related archaeology, built heritage and geodiversity.

- Research, document and promote the history of military activity in the Brecks, between 1900 and 1949, using archival research to aid the identification and location of former military establishments and

reconnect communities to this element of Brecks Heritage aiding the long-term recognition of their importance and enabling future safeguarding.

Programme D - On Solid Ground: Providing for Sustainability

Opportunities will be provided for students, specialists, project volunteers and interested members of the public to learn a diverse of practical heritage skills to create a sustainable legacy for heritage conservation and restoration work.

- BNG will provide opportunities for craftsmen engaged in the heritage building and renovation industry to come together and showcase their skills. It will provide a stage on which crafts can be demonstrated to the public, and the importance of traditional building skills in the Brecks can be promoted. The public and other non-specialist builders will be presented with opportunities to learn more about the skills and make new connections to create a legacy of better understanding leading to more sensitive management.
- Provide local communities' knowledge and understanding of their heritage and give volunteers the skills and experience necessary to investigate and record all aspects of their heritage.
- To provide a suite of web-based and hard-copy resources for those interested in investigating the archaeological heritage of the Brecks and support a continuing programme of community archaeology in the Brecks including a one-day conference celebrating community archaeology in the Brecks



Flint knapping © Ancient House Museum



- Deliver a series of one-day workshops at local community venues in the Breaking New Ground LPS area to help people living in or associated with heritage properties to understand the importance of maintaining and repairing their local built heritage and provide them with the self confidence, motivation and skills to get engaged in this process.
- Establish and train a group of volunteer wildlife recorders for the future who will regularly record in a structured way at a number of sites across the BNG area through a tiered approach to the network, with a beginner's aspect for those that are new to biodiversity recording, and the opportunity for more skilled and interested recorders to take part in structured species surveillance sites throughout the scheme area. This will increase local communities' knowledge and understanding of biodiversity. It will also provide volunteers with the skills and experience necessary to investigate and record their local biodiversity, provide a set of resources and support for those interested in recording the biodiversity of the Brecks and support a continuing programme of volunteer biodiversity recording.
- Create a number of work experience placement opportunities within the BNG partner organisations to provide invaluable first-hand experience of landscape and heritage work and encourage the next generation of Brecks land managers.
- Improve the understanding the geological heritage of the Brecks by Landowners and managers and the skills to incorporate this new understanding in the way that they manage their land.
- Facilitate a series of 'creative interpretation' events for participants to discover new ways of looking at the landscape of the Brecks, teach the skills to interpret them through art and promote this to wider audiences.
- Achieving these objectives will result from focusing on engagement with the wide variety of audiences in the Brecks. The BNGLPS will target it's engagement at those audiences that will benefit the most

from the provision outlined above, including those not currently aware of the Brecks and it's story; youngsters and students who will be the next generations of custodians of the landscape; those for whom the health benefits of engagement and access to the Brecks will make a significant difference; the landowners and managers who will benefit from an increased understanding of the area and the benefits that will translate to the manner in which they manage the land.

CLIMATE CHANGE

BNG will increase public understanding of how the Brecks is ever changing and in need of active management. It will incorporate that understanding and the results of the delivery projects into land management and strategic plans for the future

- Promote the improvements to the green infrastructure created by BNG, by encouraging sustainable travel and working with the County councils to continue to identify opportunities for further gains in the BNGLPS
- Use the interpretation created by BNG to highlight public transport options for reaching heritage sites as well as enjoying the Brecks on foot or bicycle.
- Use and promote local produce and suppliers whenever possible.
- Work with the partners, communities and schools to encourage the reduction of environmental Impacts and minimising waste through the sharing of resources



MAINTENANCE

The requirement for ongoing maintenance in line with HLF requirements is built in to each project. It will be the responsibility of the delivery partner and will be assured through formal delivery agreements to be completed prior to commencement.

- Digital information will be maintained by the project partners responsible for its creation and will continue to be accessible via a linked provision of Brecks specific information through a Brecks website
- Way-marking and signage will be linked to web information using Quick Response (QR) codes making them updatable and renewable as required. Their physical condition will be monitored by volunteers or employed staff depending on the organisation responsible for their upkeep.
- Interpretation boards will be designed to a standard that will ensure their continued effectiveness and if appropriate, additional funds will be sought by the responsible partners for their replacement in due course.

MANAGEMENT

The BNG projects will be designed to ensure that they encourage visits to those most able to cope with high profile activities and increased numbers and in consultation with partners. Appropriate interpretation will be created for those sites that are more sensitive and where access must be managed more closely.

- The creation of online resources and interpretation will enable access by more people and will help to reduce visitor impacts while still making the heritage accessible to new audiences and as schools resources
- Project partners have excellent training in heritage and people skills and volunteers will undergo induction training as part of their engagement with each partner organisation.

- All projects will comply with any and all heritage/biodiversity legislation and required management standards. Expertise is on hand from all project partners including Norfolk CC and Suffolk CC, Natural England and English Heritage and they will continue to be involved through the BNG board in the development and execution of all BNG projects

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Significant new work to interpret historical data about the Brecks will be carried out by the BNGLPS.

Part of the focus of this scheme is to ensure that even more becomes known about the Brecks, its heritage, biodiversity and best-practice land management techniques through volunteer led research and practical works and experiments, and that this carries on beyond the life of the LPS

- BNG will ensure that the work is formally recorded, promoted to the public, used to train the professionals, and shared with the decision makers, planners and politicians
- Heritage information will be made available on-line via the projects and links to partners' websites. Specialist data will be held by specialist partners including the Norfolk Biological Records Office, Suffolk Biological Records Centre, Norfolk and Suffolk records offices, and other appropriate archives such as the Breckland Society and the Forestry Commission. All records will be freely available subject to the needs sensitivity screening and included in the Brecks Sources Directory
- All materials produced by the BNGLPS will include information explaining where further resources may be found.



- Social media including Facebook and twitter will be used alongside more traditional press releases and posters (placed at partners' sites throughout the project area) to inform the public of events, opportunities for involvement, and the availability of other resources. BNG intends to support this promotional mechanism as a one-stop-shop beyond the life of the scheme
- Internal project information will be disseminated to all project partners electronically and sensitive data will be handled according to Suffolk CC data handling protocols
- All BNG delivery partners work at a highly professional level and to nationally recognised standards. Internal (Suffolk CC) policies relating to environmental management systems and environmental checks as well as presentation on the BNG by EA, NE ensures continued high level oversight and consistencies with existing local, regional, national and international standards
- The BNG Support group ensures technical input from all partner organisations and has the flexibility to include new contributors from the formal partnership or externally as required.

SUMMARY

BNG's over-arching aim is to improve understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the Brecks, to develop what is known, establish best practice approaches through research, and ensure its continuation by informed landowners and a skilled and enthusiastic volunteer force to make a sustainable difference on the ground.

It will use the practical works to research, conserve and restore landscape and heritage assets to increase understanding and develop the connection of people with and to, their local environment.

It will also achieve that aim by delivering a range of projects which will inspire people about the story of landscape and history of the area and show how this has been influenced by the climate, geology, culture and biodiversity. BNG will help Brecks communities interpret

the past, be inspired to learn the skills and take part in the conservation and recording of present biodiversity and heritage, and to play an active and informed part in influencing the future.

It will seek to develop ways in which the new partnerships can be sustained in the long term and the BNGLPS area and the Brecks as a whole can be understood, managed and enjoyed as a single significant landscape area with a unique heritage

The BNG Partnership has a wealth of experience and expertise in public engagement, heritage and landscape management skills and will ensure that these skills and resources are used to make the outcomes of the BNGLPS delivery accessible to as wide an audience as possible.



5 SCHEME PLAN AND COSTS

INTRODUCTION

This section shows how the scheme's vision, aims and objectives will be delivered. The projects set out in the stage 1 application were indicative, and have now been fully developed in partnership with the scheme's delivery partners.

It provides a clear description of the BNLPS plans and costs and sets out changes resulting from feedback received following the round 1 application, and the results of research and consultation work undertaken during the development process, as well as additional project opportunities identified through that process. These projects were then reviewed and formally selected for inclusion in the scheme by the BNG board.

One of the significant conclusions of the development process was that much of the preservation of the natural and built heritage relies on improving the recognition of the area's importance both locally and nationally. To do this requires improving our knowledge of the area's natural and built heritage through creating a mechanism for long-term surveying and recording and then communicating this to communities and decision makers.

The Landscape Character Assessment and Brecks Biodiversity Audit outline the main threats and opportunities to the natural heritage of the LPS area and have helped to guide the development of the delivery objectives – in particular the need to research and develop a sustainable method for achieving ground disturbance; preserve and connect priority habitats including disturbed ground and pingos; preserve pine lines and establish proper management guidelines for the future.

BNG Development Phase Surveys identify the need to address the disconnect between local communities, both old and new, and the Brecks landscape (resulting from the unique landscape history set out in the LCA), is a clear opportunity for improving conservation of the

natural and built heritage of the area and was a key part in the development of the Scheme Plan. The opportunity to engage, educate, enthuse and inspire creates the means for instand result on the ground, particularly in the area of surveying and recording using local 'eyes and ears', but more importantly builds social capital and enables more informed decision making in the future as well as long-term sustainable involvement by communities.

SCHEME COST COMPARISON

BNLPS costs	Stage 1 application	Stage 2 application	Difference
	£1,989,519	£2,163,782	+£174,263

The BNLPS has increased by 9.2% as a result of additional outputs made possible by the identification of increased in-kind and volunteer contributions to those identified in the stage 1 application. The HLF grant amount requested remains the same as that in stage 1.

BREAKDOWN OF SCHEME COSTS

Total	HLF Grant	In-kind	Volunteer	Cash	10yr Maintenance costs
£2,163,782	£1,416,700	£291,212	£300,350	£122,520	£33,000

Notes

The increase in total project costs reflects an increase in outputs and additional projects (including a new grant fund) identified during the stage 2 development process. All the additional costs are met by increased in-kind and volunteer contributions, which demonstrate the commitment of delivery partners to the scheme and enable the HLF grant element to remain the same as at stage 1.



Cost comparison by Programme

Programme A:					
Conserving or restoring the built and natural features		Stage 1 application	Stage 2 application	Difference	Explanation
A1	Ground Disturbance Project				Addition of the BNG Grant fund to enable a flexible approach to funding additional conservation and restoration projects
A2	Conserving the Brecks County Wildlife Sites				
A3	Pingo Project and Pool Frog Reintroduction Project	£537,748	£551,149	+£13,401	
A4	Pine Lines and Pine Connections				
A5	Brandon Engine House Restoration				
A6	Breaking New Ground Grant Fund				
Programme B:					
Increasing community participation		Stage 1 application	Stage 2 application	Difference	Explanation
B1	People's History of Thetford Forest (Forest Bark)				Increased engagement of volunteers
B2	Enchanted forest (Family Celebratory event)	£192,105	£212,984	+£20,879	
B3	Family Fun				
B4	Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow				
Programme C:					
Increasing access and learning		Stage 1 application	Stage 2 application	Difference	Explanation
C1	Brecks Forest Way				Additional projects resulting in increased outputs and volunteer engagement
C2	Brecks Earth Heritage Trail				
C3	Brecks Rides				
C4	Wings over the Brecks				
C5	The Brecks Heritage Trail				
C6	Revealing the Landscape - Lidar				
C7	Digital Access to the Brecks				
C8	The Brecks from Above				
C9	Connecting the Landscape with its Archives	£750,407	£756,891	+£6,484	
C10	Journal of Brecks Studies				
C11	'Beastly Brecks' (Arts: Educational Performance)				
C12	Upon this Rock' Geology Day School				
C13	Brecks Vernacular Materials & Craft Skills				
C14	Flint in the Brecks				
C15	Brecks' Warrens and Lodges				
C16	Sheep in the Brecks				
C17	Brecks Military History				
C18	Creatively Interpreting the Brecks				
C19	Landscape Revolution				



Programme D: Increasing training opportunities		Stage 1 application	Stage 2 application	Difference	Explanation
D1	Discovering the Archaeological Landscape of the Brecks Training Programme				
D2	Caring for the Built Heritage of the Brecks (Day Schools)				
D3	Heritage Skills work placements				
D4	Geological Landscapes – the Brecks for Land Managers' Workshop / Day School	£177,359	£181,312	+£3,953	Additional opportunities for training created
D5	Communicating the Ice Age Brecks' Day Schools				
D6	Breaking New Ground in the School Grounds				
D7	Brecks Uncovered				
D8	Barnham Cross Common - Skills for the Future				
Programme E: Overheads, scheme staffing and running costs		Stage 1 application	Stage 2 application	Difference	Explanation
E1	1 fte Project Manager				
E2	1fte Project Officer				
E3	1 fte Business support officer	£331,900	£461,446	+£129,546	Reflects a change in delivery proposals and is the result of a change to the proposed staffing and increased costs
E4	Running costs for scheme office				
E5	Evaluation and Monitoring				
E6	Professional services and consultants				
E7	In-kind contributions				
E8	Other scheme costs and overheads				



The table below shows the programme to which each project budget is allocated, but also demonstrates how the project outputs also contribute to other the other programmes. The delivery period for each project is also indicated – the delivery of the BNLPS will run from April 2014 until the end of March 2017.

Project		Programme (Budget)				Programme (Contribution)				Delivery Years		
Ref	Title	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	1	2	3
A1	Ground Disturbance Project	✓				•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
A2	Conserving the Brecks County Wildlife Sites	✓				•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
A3	Pingo Project and Pool Frog Reintroduction Project	✓				•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
A4	Pine Lines and Pine Connections	✓				•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
A5	Brandon Engine House Restoration	✓				•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
A6	Breaking New Ground Grant Fund	✓				•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
B1	People's History of Thetford Forest (Forest Bark)		✓				•	•	•		✓	
B2	Enchanted forest (Family Celebratory event)		✓				•	•				✓
B3	Family Fun		✓				•	•		✓	✓	✓
B4	Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow		✓			•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
C1	Brecks Forest Way			✓			•	•		✓	✓	
C2	Brecks Earth Heritage Trail			✓			•	•		✓		
C3	Brecks Rides			✓			•	•			✓	
C4	Wings over the Brecks			✓			•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
C5	The Brecks Heritage Trail			✓		•		•	•			✓
C6	Revealing the Landscape - Lidar			✓		•		•	•	✓		
C7	Digital Access to the Brecks			✓			•	•		✓	✓	✓
C8	The Brecks from Above			✓		•		•	•	✓	✓	
C9	Connecting the Landscape with its Archives			✓			•	•			✓	
C10	Journal of Brecks Studies			✓			•	•				✓
C11	'Beastly Brecks' (Arts: Educational Performance)			✓			•	•	•		✓	✓
C12	Upon this Rock' Geology Day School			✓				•	•	✓		



Project		Programme (Budget)				Programme (Contribution)				Delivery Years		
Ref	Title	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	1	2	3
C13	Brecks Vernacular Materials & Craft Skills			✓			•	•	•		✓	
C14	Flint in the Brecks			✓			•	•	•	✓		
C15	Brecks' Warrens and Lodges			✓			•	•		✓		
C16	Sheep in the Brecks			✓			•	•	•		✓	
C17	Brecks Military History			✓			•	•				✓
C18	Creatively Interpreting the Brecks			✓			•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
C19	Landscape Revolution			✓			•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
D1	Discovering the Archaeological Landscape of the Brecks Training Programme				✓	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
D2	Caring for the Built Heritage of the Brecks (Day Schools)				✓	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	
D3	Heritage Skills work placements				✓	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
D4	Geological Landscapes – the Brecks for Land Managers' Workshop / Day School				✓			•	•	✓		
D5	Communicating the Ice Age Brecks' Day Schools				✓		•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
D6	Breaking New Ground in the School Grounds				✓	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
D7	Brecks Uncovered				✓	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓
D8	Barnham Cross Common - Skills for the Future				✓	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	

Delivering the BNGLPS

A key element of the BNGLPS is that it brings together an array of local and national organisations to deliver a single scheme to the BNGLPS area. In order to do this the delivery team will ensure that the engagement of participants, including communities, volunteers and schools as well as the promotion and publicity happens in a joined up manner and is well managed.

At the start of the delivery phase partners will be formed into 3 delivery sub-groups according to areas of delivery to ensure that BNG opportunities are presented as a single programme of events and opportunities (Schools, Volunteers and Interpretation). This will ensure that schools

have a central point of contact for the different areas of engagement; that the extensive volunteer engagement opportunities are promoted and publicised as a cohesive series of exciting events across a wide range of interests; that publicity, scheme information and event booking happens centrally; and that the digital and interpretative elements are consistently linked and presented in a cohesive format across all the projects with unified branding to promote the HLF and the BNGLPS. This will not only ensure that public awareness of the scheme is properly developed and continues to grow, but that it has the potential for continuation beyond the scheme delivery period.



SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

This section provides a summary of each project proposed and is presented in the context of the Programme under which it is budgeted. Further details for each project are set out in the appendices. As the table above and the project outputs demonstrate however, each project does not sit in isolation and will deliver outputs and benefits across multiple programme objectives. The Programme placement is the result of selection based on the primary purpose.

It should also be noted that the projects are specifically intended to complement each other, and utilise and build on outputs from other project where appropriate. A number, while appearing to have overlapping training elements, will engage with different audiences and deliver different but complimentary outputs that when viewed 'in-the-round' will deliver a cohesive series of benefits to the natural and built heritage as well as to the participants and communities within the BNGLPS area.

Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
A1: Ground Disturbance	Natural England (Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Forestry Commission, Suffolk CC, Norfolk CC, University of East Anglia)	Opportunity mapping and recreation of areas of traditional 'Brecks' by various methods of Ground Disturbance on selected areas, leading to a better understanding of management requirements for Brecks species diversity.	Landscape and Heritage Professionals Landowners, Land managers, volunteers, interest groups	Development of detailed Historic Environment Opportunity GIS mapping	Ensures that all BNG projects can be undertaken successfully without damaging landscape.	Project total £134,868 HLF: £86,390 (64%) In-kind: £35,978 (27%) Volunteer: £4,250 (3%) Cash: £8,250 (6%)
		This is a (literally) ground breaking project to establish and disseminate best practice guidance for land management throughout the Brecks		10+ Ha of new ground disturbance treatment undertaken at 15 sites including SSSIs, Roadside Nature Reserves and agricultural holdings 15 community events and volunteer engagement, Legacy event held to share best practice Best practice guidance Consultation with landowners / managers On-line guidance document produced	Provides guidance to enable future work to be undertaken in full knowledge of historic importance of sites Populations of characteristic Brecks plants, invertebrates and birds expanded and secured. Landscape scale habitat links created Long-term volunteer engagement in bare ground creation Increasing collaboration between professions. Involving volunteers in historic environment work and visits. Dissemination of knowledge and best practice guidance which will inform land management techniques throughout the Brecks and nationally	Historic Environment work (£23,918) Ground Disturbance: Weeting Heath (£33,538) Brecks Heath Partnership sites (4) (£21,350) Stanton Street (£20,703) Roadside Nature Reserves (£20,100) Monitoring (£13,200) Best Practice Guidance (£2,059)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
A2: Conserving the Brecks Wildlife Sites	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	The project to ensure the conservation of the County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in the BNG Project area which will survey and develop management statements for each site and identify new sites, especially those which connect the ecological network. It will provide advice and support to landowners to manage the sites including practical management works	Landowners and managers of CWSs, interest groups	<p>Condition of 30 CWS within the project area assessed</p> <p>Identify, survey and create management statement for 5 new CWSs</p> <p>Management plans written for 14 existing CWS</p> <p>Management takes place on 12 CWS</p> <p>2 CWS management training workshops</p>	<p>Database of CWSs condition statements</p> <p>Creation of 5 new CWS contributing to the conservation of Brecks Biodiversity</p> <p>Management objectives identified for CWSs</p> <p>Practical management works carried out and condition improved</p>	<p>Project total: £48,425 HLF: £33,775 (70%) In-kind: £10,150 (21%) Volunteer: £4,500 (9%)</p> <p>Surveys, assessments and management statements (£14,625)</p> <p>Advice and engagement with managers and landowners (£4,900)</p> <p>Practical site management works (£28,000)</p> <p>Training workshops (£900)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
A3: Pingo Project	Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Private Landowners)	<p>The Pingo Project will take forward the findings of the Norfolk Pingo Mapping Project (2008) by carrying out surveys and assessments of pingo sites in the BNG area and will include the creation of management plans and advice for landowners.</p> <p>Practical restoration management work will take place on 3 priority sites with c.24 pingos including Thompson Common, which has been identified as a second Brecks re-introduction site for pool frog.</p> <p>Restoration work at Thompson Common will ensure that they provide suitable habitat for pool frog. Volunteers will be involved in the restoration work and there will be provision for public access and interpretation which will highlight the value of pingos for biodiversity</p>	Landowners and managers, Volunteers, interest groups, general public	<p>Surveys and assessments of 8 (c.64 pingos) known sites and the identification, survey and assessment of 3 (c.24 pingos) new ones</p> <p>Creation of management plans with engagement and advice for landowners/managers.</p> <p>Restoration of pingos and surrounding landscape at 2 priority sites identified during the assessment process</p> <p>Scrub clearance and emergent vegetation removal around Thompson common pingos</p> <p>Reintroduction of Pool Frog at Thompson Common over 2 years</p> <p>Post release monitoring</p> <p>Volunteer engagement</p> <p>Interpretation panel</p>	<p>Better information on extent and condition of pingos in BNG area</p> <p>Creation of an extended network of restored pingos in BNG area</p> <p>Creation of suitable Pool frog habitat at Thompson Common pingos</p> <p>Pool frog population established at Thompson Common</p> <p>Data recording on project success</p> <p>Education and public engagement</p> <p>Formal guidance for landowners and managers on pingo restoration and management</p>	<p>Project total: £73,851 HLF: £50,401 (68%) In-kind: £20,350 (28%) Volunteer: £3,100 (4%)</p>
						<p>Pingo surveys and assessments (£5,075)</p> <p>Landowner engagement and advice (£1,400)</p> <p>Practical site management works (£6,000)</p> <p>Management guidance & report (£700)</p> <p>Pool frog reintroduction: Preparation of reintroduction plan (£24,250)</p> <p>Habitat management works and release programme year 2015/16 (£19,509)</p> <p>Habitat management works and release programme year 2016/17 (£16,917)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
A4: Pine Lines and Pine Connections	Farm Conservation	Pine lines contribute significantly to the landscape character of the Brecks and to the biodiversity, fulfilling an important habitat connectivity role.	Landowners and Land managers, interest groups, volunteers, general public, schools	Create 2 km and restore 8 km of Brecks pine line.	Creation of 2km of new pine lines to connect additional habitats and support biodiversity	Project total: £63,105 HLF: £51,705 (82%) In-kind: £1,800 (3%) Volunteer: £9,600 (15%)
		<p>This project will research historic management techniques and identify the most appropriate methods for creating, restoring and maintaining pine lines. It will engage with the public and landowners to promote Pine lines, their management and creation.</p> <p>Practical restoration work will engage schools conserve 8km of Brecks Pine lines</p> <p>Suitable locations for new pine lines will be identified using the data assembled under the University of East Anglia's 'Brecks Pine Lines Report 2010, and information from advisory visits to farms and estates and 2km of new pines planted.</p>		<p>Run 6 planting days to involve 150+ school children and volunteers in pine line creation.</p> <p>Train 40 volunteers to monitor pine lines.</p> <p>Report outlining pine line management techniques.</p> <p>Production of 15 pine line management plans for landowners in the core area.</p> <p>Production of a pine line information guide for the general public.</p> <p>Project report to summarises the achievements of the project,</p> <p>Creation of an online recording facility</p>	<p>Restoration of 8km of pine lines ensuring habitat and biodiversity connectivity</p> <p>Public engagement to educate and enthuse, encouraging volunteers to take ownership of pine lines</p> <p>Guidance and support for long term future management for the pine lines in the BNG area.</p> <p>Long term public involvement in recoding and the ability to monitor changes over time</p>	<p>Pine line research, advisory visits and creation of management plans (£16,180)</p> <p>Pine Line creation and restoration (£27,880)</p> <p>Planting events (£11,940)</p> <p>Surveys and monitoring (£2,100)</p> <p>Interpretation, information guide, on-line recording system and report (£3,505)</p> <p>Ongoing landowner support and maintenance (£1,500)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
A5: Brandon Engine House Restoration	BNG delivery team	Restoration of a mid 19 th C flint pump/engine house and secondary building for the creation of a centre for long term use as a volunteer centre. The planning and construction work will be carried out primarily by Students from West Suffolk College with additional opportunities for heritage skills training for interested people. Space will also be made available for extensive interpretation relating to the park, Brecks landscape and Heritage and the restoration project	Students, volunteers, interest groups	<p>Restoration of engine house/pump house and related building with the creation of a linking structure using traditional heritage building skills to facilitate its use as a volunteer centre for use by BNG partners and community groups</p> <p>Engagement and training of students and volunteers in heritage building skills</p> <p>Brandon Park heritage display and interpretation facility</p>	<p>Brecks Heritage asset restored and interpreted</p> <p>Heritage building Skills and training opportunities</p>	Project total £185,000 HLF: £170,000 In-kind: £15,000 Volunteer: £0
						<p>Design, planning and permissions (£7,695)</p> <p>Site prep, fencing and drainage (£24,000)</p> <p>Renovation of existing buildings (£93,550)</p> <p>New link building (£39,375)</p> <p>Electrics and fit-out (£15,380)</p> <p>10 year maintenance (£5,000)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
A6: BNG Grant Fund	BNG delivery team	The Grant fund will offer grants of between £500 and £5000 for projects that will conserve, enhance, celebrate and increase understanding of the historic landscape of the scheme area	Community organisations and interest groups	Minimum of 6 grants awarded Minimum of 6 heritage & landscape features conserved and enhanced	Conservation and enhancement of key heritage features of the BNG LPS Local community groups and interest groups engaged in decision making about their heritage and landscape Improved understanding of, and engagement with the local heritage and conservation	Project total £45,900 HLF: £30,000 In-kind: £8,400 Volunteer: £0 Cash: £7,500
		Project criteria will include a 25% cash match funding requirement to ensure value and commitment from the applicants Applications will be assessed and grant awarded by a sub-committee of the BNG Board				



Programme B: Increasing community participation

Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
B1: People's History of Thetford Forest	Forestry Commission (Friends of Thetford Forest)	This project will create an oral history database of the creation of Thetford Forest which is the largest lowland land use change in Britain.	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers	Research into the creation and development of Thetford Forest	Community and volunteer engagement in Brecks Heritage research	Project total: £20,184 HLF: £6,184 (31%) In-kind: £6,500 (32%) Volunteer: £7,500 (37%)
				Creation of an Oral History Archive Dedicated Web-pages Illustrated Report Leaflet	An increase in information in the public domain Preservation of oral histories for posterity	Volunteer led research and fieldwork (£6,450) Production of report, leaflet and web text (£3,484) Training events (£1,500)
				Training of 10 volunteers in oral history interviewing skills	Improved skills base for local history research and oral history recording	Archival creation, collation and maintenance (£3,700)
				Training for 5 volunteers in archival cataloguing skills	Increased public awareness of the important role of Thetford Forest in shaping the landscape of the Brecks	Equipment (£1,150) Project publicity and celebration event (£900) Long-term Project support (£3,000)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
B2: Enchanted Forest	Forest Heath District Council	The project will transform Brandon Country Park into the most amazing Enchanted Forest which will bring to life it's history, showcasing the work and outcomes of the BNG LPS for families in a fun, interactive way. The event, which will be held over a weekend during the summer in the final year will offer a range of educational opportunities for schools and community groups to engage with.	Local Communities, Schools, Families, children	<p>A two day celebratory event for 100 families (2250 children)</p> <p>Opportunities for BNG partners and volunteers to showcase the results of the BNG projects</p> <p>Music, Performances, Story-telling, Promotion of Local crafts, food and products</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the Brecks heritage</p> <p>Children and families encouraged to enjoy the outdoors and signposted to regular formal or informal activity</p> <p>BNG outcomes celebrated and new engagement opportunities promoted</p>	Project total £28,300 HLF: £24,000 (85%) In-kind: £2,300 (8%) Volunteer: £2,000 (7%)
						Performances (£10,500) Equipment (£8,000) Marketing (£2,000) Professional services and event staffing (£7,800)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
B3: Family fun	Forest Heath District Council	The project aims to give 'hard to reach' families the opportunity to come together and enjoy outdoor space and celebrate all that the Brecks has to offer. Breaking down barriers to participation by offering free transport and free activities for families who would otherwise find it difficult to engage.	Local Communities, Schools, Families, children	3 annual events engaging 50 families (150 children) in Forest Schools Activity	Bring the Brecks to life to an audience that would otherwise not engage	Project total (£14,250) HLF: £8,250 (58%) In-kind: £4,500 (31.5%) Volunteer: £1,500 (10.5%)
				Showcasing BNG projects Story Telling Interactive Family Activities		Professional services and Marketing (£6,750) Transport for participants (£4,500) Activities (£3,000)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
B4: Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow	Norfolk Biological Information Service	<p>The overall aim of the project is to increase the number of volunteer wildlife recorders in the Brecks</p> <p>The project will operate at 3 levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Beginner: This level aims to provide training and encouragement to those new to recording wildlife. 2) Species surveillance: This level aims to help people take the next step into more serious recording of site. This will allow a number of important sites in the Brecks to be monitored and will also help to ensure sustainable long-term monitoring of sites where work is taking place as part of other BNG projects. 3) River corridor survey – Little ouse headwaters to Brandon: A survey of the Little Ouse river, from its headwaters at Redgrave and Lopham Fens to Brandon. This is the only major river in Norfolk which has not yet been fully surveyed for non-native species and this type of survey is well suited to volunteers 	Volunteers, interest groups, local communities, Landscape and biodiversity professionals	60 volunteers engaged in biodiversity recording and a long term recording network established	Improved local biodiversity knowledge and skill base. Brecks sites better recorded. Local people involved in recording biodiversity	<p>Project total £150,250 HLF: £31,800 (21%) In-kind: £8,200 (55.5%) Volunteer: £110,250 (73.5%)</p>
				<p>At least 10 Brecks sites selected and biodiversity fully recorded with an additional 40 sites monitored</p> <p>Little Ouse surveyed annually for non-native invasive species from source to Brandon</p> <p>BNG project sites recorded and monitored</p> <p>2000+ biodiversity records per year being entered on-line</p>	<p>Biodiversity benefits of projects documented</p> <p>Data available for use by local authorities, national conservation bodies and future Brecks projects</p>	<p>Volunteer training and venue hire (£15,000)</p> <p>Equipment pool (£5,000)</p> <p>Volunteer co-ordination and support (£10,800)</p> <p>Professional services for project development, (£6,450)</p> <p>Online recording system (£1,750)</p> <p>Site monitoring and data recording (£108,000)</p> <p>Verification and validation of data (£2,250))</p> <p>Project end and legacy development event (£1,000)</p>



Programme C: Increasing access and learning

Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C1: Brecks Forest Way	Norfolk County Council	This project will create a multi-use route (walking, cycling and horse-riding) with short sections and circular paths connecting Thetford to Brandon along the Little Ouse valley as well as the connecting Thetford Forest Park. It will provide a free local resource for community activities, schools and others to engage with the environment and learn about their heritage as well as taking exercise and addressing health issues related to obesity and poor lifestyle.	Local communities, visitors, volunteers,	8 miles of walking trail to Norfolk trails standard.	Improved links between the two main communities in the BNG area, to the wider rights of way network and Open Access land	Project total £100,000 HLF: £80,000 (80%) In-kind: £10,000 (10%) Volunteer: £0 Cash: £10,000 (10%)
				5 circular paths established		
				Upgrade of Bridges to multi-use specification	Increased confidence in new users by improved surfacing and guidance	Audit, consultation and production of walks info (Maps & web material) (£17,000)
				Improved signage and path furniture to enable multi-use	New opportunities for use by multiple user types (walking, cycling, horses)	Surface improvement works and bridge upgrades (64,000)
				Surface improvement works	Improved feedback on use of the resource adding to a better understanding of the needs of visitors	Interpretation, gates and benches (£6,000)
				Installation of counters, monitoring and inspections		Monitoring and maintenance (£13,000)
				Downloadable mapping and route information		



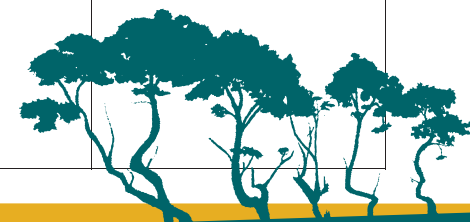
Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C2: Brecks Earth Heritage Trail	Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership	The Trail aims to introduce visitors, students and local people to the area's little-known wealth of Earth heritage features through a Trail interpretive project. Eighteen publicly-accessible points of interest are chosen for their geology, landforms, and links with earliest human settlement, and may be visited in any order. There will be no installations on the ground, e.g. way-mark posts. Interpretive details of Earth Heritage features will be communicated using a publicity leaflet supported by more detailed information in Web pages, EPUB format and a Smartphone application.	Local communities, interest groups, visitors	Digital Earth Heritage trail detailing 18 sites of geological interest	Increased understanding of the underlying geology of the Brecks and its relationship with the current landscape	Project total £17,727 HLF: £16,527 (93%) In-kind: £1,200 (7%) Volunteer: £0
				23-page website		
				3-fold A3 Publicity leaflet	Multi format access to trail information	Research and development including landowner liaison (£4,200)
				e-Pub information for e-readers		Mapping (£1,040)
				Printed Booklet		Monitoring and evaluation (£330)
				Augmented reality Smartphone application		Smartphone development (£8,040)
						Website design (£1,120)
						EPUB Book (£600)
						Leaflets and illustrations (£2,397)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C3: Brecks Rides	Suffolk County Council	The Brecks Rides will be a 15.5 mile (25km) long-distance linear trail (south to north), between West Stow and Santon Downham.	Local communities, visitors, cyclists, walkers and Horse riders	Route survey to identify points of interest	Improved connections between communities, the wider rights of way network and areas of open access	Project total £11,019 HLF: £3,500 (33%) In-kind: £7519 (67%) Volunteer: £0
		<p>The route will use existing public rights of way to explore the heathland and forest landscape of the Brecks and connect visitor attractions, tourism destinations and open access sites across the area.</p> <p>The project will comprise of developing a hand-held guide “The Brecks Rides” to promote the route with waymarkers on the ground and distance signage between key destinations to indicate the route to users.</p>		<p>Way-mark and distance signage</p> <p>Brecks rides leaflet (5,000 copies) and on-line guidance</p> <p>Launch event and promotion</p>	<p>Increased opportunities for sustainable travel through the area</p> <p>Increased awareness of the heritage of the Brecks through interpretation</p> <p>Increased offer for informal recreation and sustainable tourism</p>	<p>Brecks Rides Survey (£7,019)</p> <p>Waymarkers and distance markers (£1,500)</p> <p>Brecks Rides leaflets design and print (£2,000)</p> <p>Year 5 leaflet reprint (£500)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C4: Wings over the Brecks	Forestry Commission (RSPB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust)	<p>The unique landscapes of Thetford Forest and Brecks heaths are home to many species of interesting and charismatic birds, although some are elusive, well camouflaged or sensitive to disturbance and are not easy to see, particularly during the nesting season.</p> <p>This project will connect the local community, school groups, and visitors to the Brecks with some of these distinctive species and their habitats via a series of 'nest cams' installed in the Forest and heaths.</p> <p>Live footage of nesting birds such as goshawks, stone-curlews, hobbies and woodlarks will be streamed to the High Lodge and Weeting Heath Visitor Centres where teams of trained volunteers will interpret the images to the public.</p> <p>Regular events and displays will be held over the lifecycle of the project at High Lodge, Weeting Heath and in Thetford and Brandon. The project will offer existing and new audiences opportunities to learn about the wildlife and heritage of the forest and heath.</p> <p>The project aims to create a legacy of learning and communication skills and resources, as well as achieve greater ownership of and pride in the area's unique natural heritage.</p>	Local communities, schools, visitors, interest groups	<p>Three cameras set up to film different bird species over the nesting season.</p> <p>Footage displayed on monitor at Visitor Centres. 130,000 people will view the images.</p> <p>20 volunteers recruited, trained and managed to cover busy periods at High Lodge to talk to members of the public about the wildlife and interpret the nesting bird footage.</p> <p>We will aim to have 10 regular volunteers and 10 more casual volunteers throughout the project.</p> <p>Display panels and visual aids.</p> <p>10 outreach events to raise awareness and engage with around 500 people.</p> <p>Launch event to attract around 500 people, press coverage and other publicity.</p> <p>Create a roaming display for 4 locations in Thetford, Brandon and project area including a display and web activity.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of wildlife in the Brecks, focussing on forest and heathland birds, amongst visitors to High Lodge and Weeting Heath Visitor Centres. With estimated audience of 130,000</p> <p>Increased participation of local people in the conservation work of the Brecks, and increased sense of local identity and community ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for the Brecks wildlife and heritage</p> <p>New audiences reached who do not normally go out to places such as Thetford Forest and the Brecks heaths. More awareness of the Brecks wildlife and heritage amongst local residents</p> <p>Increased knowledge and understanding of the wildlife and heritage of the forest, heaths and the Brecks amongst 10 local schools.</p>	<p>Project total £99,600 HLF: £48,950 In-kind: £29,400 Volunteer: £21,250</p> <p>Project development, management and promotion (£24,300)</p> <p>Equipment £23,698</p> <p>Annual deployment and nest location £14,250</p> <p>Interpretation, static and roaming displays (£5,200)</p> <p>Launch and engagement events, (£6,612)</p> <p>Volunteer recruitment, training, management and travel (£23,440)</p> <p>Education package (£2,100)</p>



				<p>Other venues with existing suitable equipment will also be encouraged to host the display.</p> <p>Create a self guided information package for schools with 10,000 school pupils engaged with 'Wings Over The Brecks' project.</p> <p>Recorded footage packages made available for the othe BNG schools engagement activities</p>		
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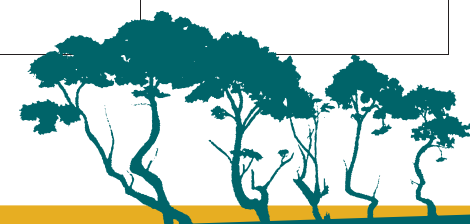
Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C5: Brecks Heritage Trail	Breckland Society	<p>This project will create a series of 10 heritage trails across the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.</p> <p>Collectively the trails will feature over 40 sites identified for their historical and natural heritage interest.</p> <p>The trails will use existing rights of way, including bridleways and cycle paths, to provide 'on the ground' circular routes of differing lengths and each based on a specific heritage theme.</p> <p>The trails will also promote other places to visit. Each trail will have an associated leaflet (both hard copy and web-based) explaining access and points of interest; in addition, each parish hosting a trail will have an interpretation panel outlining relevant history, wildlife and other information, with local communities contributing to the research and content of the panels.</p>	Local communities, volunteers, interest groups and visitors	<p>Flint Heritage Trail</p> <p>Warrens Heritage Trail</p> <p>Brecks Heritage Rivers Trail</p> <p>Churches Heritage Trail</p> <p>Wildlife Heritage Trail</p> <p>Prehistoric Heritage Trail</p> <p>Great Estates Heritage Trail</p> <p>Heathland Heritage Trail</p> <p>Architecture Heritage Trail</p> <p>Forest Heritage Trail</p> <p>Interpretation Panels</p> <p>One interpretation panel for each community/parish featuring in the ten trails</p> <p>Each waymarker post, existing and new, badged with the heritage trails logo</p> <p>60 way-marker posts to supplement existing posts.</p> <p>Leaflets and on-line guidance/ interpretation</p>	<p>One heritage trail centred on Brandon.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Thetford Warren Lodge and Downham Warren.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on the Little Ouse Valley.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Icklingham.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Lakenheath Warren.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Weeting.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Lynford.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Cranwich.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on Croxton.</p> <p>One heritage trail centred on High Lodge Forest Centre.</p> <p>Improved understanding of Brecks Heritage features.</p> <p>Engagement with Parishes to create the trails</p> <p>Improved access to the heritage of the Brecks</p>	<p>Project total £69,453</p> <p>HLF: £49,353 (71%)</p> <p>In-kind: £12,600 (18%)</p> <p>Volunteer: £7,500 (11%)</p> <p>Volunteer led project design research and delivery (£10,100)</p> <p>60 Way-mark posts and signs/discs (£10,500)</p> <p>25 interpretation panels design and manufacture (£31,250)</p> <p>Produce leaflet and web design (£7,603)</p> <p>Legacy maintenance (£10,000)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C6: Revealing the Landscape - LiDAR	Forestry Commission	<p>In recent years Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) has become an established method of assessing heritage at a landscape scale as it can pierce the canopy of the Forest Plantations and reveal hitherto unrecorded features in the landscape</p> <p>Thetford Forest is considered to have had a relatively benign effect on the extant features imposed on the landscape by previous land uses, but experience with ground-based surveys show it can be difficult to identify them.</p> <p>This project will provide a new resource for the Brecks that will enhance knowledge and appreciation of archaeological features at a landscape scale, and aid with their future conservation management.</p> <p>Its results will contribute to an understanding of the Brecks landscape as a whole, enabling professional archaeologists to prioritise protection of features and helping landowners to understand the importance of managing some sites. It will also enhance and focus volunteer ground-based survey work, providing the opportunity to learn to interpret LiDAR images.</p>	Heritage and landscape professionals, interest groups	Acquisition of LiDAR data for 150KM ² of Brecks plantation	LiDAR GIS layers available to project group for initial interrogation	Project total £59,272 HLF: £49,312 (83%) In-kind: £9,960 (17%) Volunteer: £0
				<p>Interpretation of data and image enhancement</p> <p>Training workshop for landscape and heritage professionals</p> <p>Web published LiDAR data resource</p>	<p>LiDAR derived images available to all for field interpretation</p> <p>Attendees understanding the potential applications for the</p> <p>LiDAR data, and how to interpret images.</p>	<p>Professional Services (£7,372)</p> <p>RAW data acquisition (£15,000)</p> <p>Construct LiDAR data terrain models (£20,000)</p> <p>Review and production of LiDAR representations for Heritage projects (£7,650)</p> <p>Training workshops (£1,000)</p> <p>Online publishing and data management (£4,750)</p> <p>Legacy database maintenance (£3,500)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C7: Digital Access to the Brecks	BNG delivery team	This project will provide the public facing gateway to the BNG LPS and the rich variety of engagement opportunities, access improvements and information resulting from the delivery projects and beyond	Local communities, visitors, schools, interest groups, landscape and heritage professionals	BNG Web content	Creation of a central point to access information about the landscape and heritage of the BNG LPs area	Project total £45,800 HLF: £45,800 (100%) In-kind: £0 Volunteer: £0:
		The creation of a Smartphone application will enable users to access information throughout the Area, regardless of signal and will provide a resource to link the diverse range of on-line information provision coming from the individual delivery projects		Access to all the delivery projects' on-line information resources and databases as well as walks, Heritage trails, schools interactive material; A virtual tour through time; gallery of images; social media links and volunteer/user blogs	Promotion of volunteer opportunities Promotion of Schools information and education packs Engagement of local communities and visitors in Brecks activities	BNG Website (design, set-up, database system & reporting, social media channels, dynamic mapping, responsive mobile and tablet) (£9,550) BNG Hub 'App' (£4,000) Augmented reality App licence (£2,250)
				BNG Smartphone Application	Improved awareness of the importance of the Brecks heritage and biodiversity	Thetford Warren Lodge Interpretation App (£8,500)
				Access trails App	Access to research material and data for landscape studies	Heritage Trail App (£4,250)
				Heritage Trails App		50 QR code links to content (£3,750)
				Links to partner websites		Tablet magazine app (£3,000)
				Links to other Brecks resources		Design, sourcing and creation (£10,500)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C8: Brecks from Above	Norfolk Historic Environment Service	This project is designed to promote greater understanding of and engagement with the Brecks' landscape through Aerial Photography and the important role it plays in reading the historic landscape. It also seeks to make the outputs of Aerial Photography - both photographic collections and through new interpretive mapping based on the photographs and other remote sensed data, widely accessible and well promoted. It seeks to encourage engagement with these extensive resources via the training and outreach programme and to train volunteers to participate by submitting their own online records.	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers, Landscape managers	<p>5 Library talks and Air Photo display reaching 250 people</p> <p>GIS Air photo mapping programme recording archaeological sites over 75km²</p> <p>Historic Air photo digitisation project with volunteer placement</p> <p>Day school for 10 Volunteers in identification with on-line training resources and follow-up support for wider engagement</p> <p>3 Aerial Archaeology Training events for 10 delegates</p>	<p>Greater awareness of Air Photo resources, potential uses, and overall contribution to the known heritage of the BNG LPS area</p> <p>Enhancing public knowledge of their local area.</p> <p>Improved baseline, locational and archaeological data as an important resource for study and management of Brecks landscape.</p> <p>Creation of new access to little known/under utilised resource.</p> <p>Enhanced skills for group of people.</p> <p>Quality submissions to the County records.</p>	<p>Project total: £43,667 HLF: £31,137 (71.5%) In-kind: £7,330 (17%) Volunteer: £200 (0.5%) Cash £5,000 (11%)</p> <hr/> <p>Digitisation of images (£3,301)</p> <p>Training & outreach events (£2,639)</p> <p>Web and online material (£3,250)</p> <p>Air photo mapping & interpretation (£26,874)</p> <p>Specialist software, liaison and HER costs (£7,603)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C9: Connecting the Landscape with its Archives	Ancient House Museum	<p>We will produce two exhibitions displaying artefacts, archive material, photographs and graphic panels to outline aspects of the story of the distinctive Breckland landscape and its people.</p> <p>We will also use a selection of the words and pictures from the exhibition to make four 'pop-up' panels which can be used at various events during the Breaking New Ground delivery phase as an outreach resource.</p> <p>An electronic version will be made available in the Norfolk Record Office's online exhibition gallery for long-term reference and access</p>	Local communities, interest groups, schools, visitors	<p>Exhibition provided at the Norfolk Record Office and also online</p> <p>Exhibition provided at the Ancient House Museum</p> <p>Roaming exhibition panels</p>	<p>Visitors given access to archives and collections not normally on public display</p> <p>Improved knowledge and enthusiasm for Brecks Heritage</p> <p>Long term availability of Brecks Heritage information and promotion of the area's heritage</p>	<p>Project total £41,950 HLF: £9,500 (22.5%) In-kind: £30,450 (73%) Volunteer: £0 Cash: £2,000 (4.5%)</p> <p>Professional Services (£1,950)</p> <p>exhibition planning, research, installation, community engagement, youth engagement (£12,450)</p> <p>Travel and Marketing (£2,500)</p> <p>Venue hire (£17,500)</p> <p>Exhibition Production at Norfolk Record Office (£6,000)</p> <p>Exhibition Production at Ancient House Museum (£1,550)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C10: journal of Brecks Studies	Breckland Society	The Journal of Breckland Studies will be an illustrated technical journal containing articles and information about the Brecks, with a view to finding funding for the establishment of an ongoing journal of Brecks studies to be released annually	Interest Groups, Landscape and Heritage Professionals, local communities, volunteers	Establishment of Brecks Journal editorial group 500 copies of the Brecks Journal Web pages and downloadable on-line resource	A record of the Partnership's achievements and an overview of the Brecks Heritage and biodiversity A regular review of technical reports and information on Brecks heritage and Landscape matters. Increased awareness of scientific issues and findings relating to the Brecks A continuing technical resource for schools and landscape / heritage professionals	Project total £8573 HLF: £7,773 (91%) In-kind: £800 (9%) Volunteer: £0
						Professional Services, copywriting and editing (£3,400) Design (£1,200) Printing (500 copies) (£3,223) Distribution (£750)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost
C11: Beastly Brecks	Forest Heath District Council	<p>The project will commission a new piece of interactive educational theatre from a professional theatre company highlighting, in an accessible and humorous way, the key stories about the 'Brecks' heritage and landscape</p> <p>This touring play with music will be reflecting and supporting the National Curriculum for Science and will also focus strongly on the history of the area.</p> <p>The project will be targeted at Primary schools KS2. The activity will also compliment and supplement science teaching practices and delivery of local history study.</p> <p>The play will also be suitable for performance at other BNG events and celebrations.</p>	Schools Key Stage 2, Local Communities, Visitors	<p>A new educational 25 min piece of drama.</p> <p>Schools tour in BNG LPS area</p> <p>Performance at the Forest Fun Day 2015</p> <p>Performance at the Enchanted Forest 2016</p> <p>Legacy of 'Part 2 for schools' to develop from 2017 onwards</p> <p>On-line Educational resources</p>	<p>Engagement with Schools (1,000 children)</p> <p>Engagement with local communities and general public (600 audience)</p> <p>Increased knowledge of Brecks linked to Science Curriculum</p> <p>Increased knowledge linked to Science Curriculum</p> <p>Supporting the delivery of Science for KS2</p> <p>Wider audience linked to local heritage</p> <p>On-going involvement by schools with legacy element 'Beastly Brecks Part 2'</p> <p>Schools resource pack and on-line resources and work sheets</p>	<p>Project total (£24,850) HLF: £20,630 (83%) In-kind: £1,720 (7%) Volunteer: £1,250 (5%) Cash: £1,250 (5%)</p> <p>Commissioning and creation of 'Beastly Brecks' (£5,220)</p> <p>Performances (£9,230)</p> <p>Props and equipment (£6,100)</p> <p>Schools packs, teaching resources and marketing (£3,050)</p> <p>Development of stage 2 elements (£1,250)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C12: Upon This Rock	Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership	Upon this rock will introduce participants to the wealth of geological features present in Brecks churches and church yards.	Local Communities, interest groups, volunteers, landscape and heritage professionals	Geology Day school for 30 participants including;	Improved understanding of the range of materials of geological origin; their advantages and limitations	Project total £2,719 HLF: £1,469 (54%) In-kind: £1,250 (46%) Volunteer: £0
		This day school event will take the form of an introductory presentation followed by a field trip. The event will be primarily aimed at Parishes involved in the BNG scheme and interested individuals, and will be led by a local geological specialist and two regional specialists.		Introductory presentation on Brecks geology Field Trip to 5 church sites in the BNG LPs area.	An increased awareness of and ability to identify geological building and gravestone materials in the field	Event preparation and promotion (£1,250) Event delivery Venue Hire, Refreshments (£1,469)

Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C13: Brecks Vernacular Materials & Craft Skills	BNG delivery team, Jack Rolfe	This project aims to promote, and raise awareness of Brecks heritage building skills and crafts to the public, and to create an opportunity for professionals to showcase their skills and crafts.	Local communities, interest groups, owners of listed/heritage buildings, volunteers, heritage construction professionals	1 Brecks Heritage Crafts event/open day promoting Heritage building skills reaching 250 people	Promotion of heritage building skills	Project total £15,000 HLF: £10,000 (67%) In-kind: ££5,000 (33%) Volunteer: £0
		Through an Heritage Skills open day/event at Elveden the public will be able to learn more about and try their hand at heritage building crafts and professionals will have an opportunity to network with other professionals. The event will also promote Heritage Skills training opportunities including BNG skills training and volunteer events with the aim of becoming an annual event		On-the-day skills training tasters and have-a-go opportunities Promotion of BNG skills training opportunities	Increased networking between heritage construction and restoration professionals An increased sense of the importance of Brecks Vernacular architecture to the landscape character of the area	Event hire, marquees, materials and event staffing (£10,000) Promotion and marketing (£5,000)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C14: Flint in the Brecks	Breckland Society	This volunteer led project will research and record the history and distribution of flint mines in the Brecks and the uses of flint as a building material, especially for ecclesiastical, public buildings and vernacular buildings, through a community-led thematic research project. It will also provide improved access and interpretation at a former flint mine and provide training in flint-related skills, including for buildings.	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers	<p>Volunteer led research into the distribution of flint mines and production of an illustrated report, web-pages and information leaflet</p> <p>3 Workshops training 23 volunteers in heritage skills: (archive training day at NRO; fieldwork training day; training day in oral history interviewing</p> <p>Production of an Interpretation panel at Lingheath gunflint mining site within Thetford Forest with volunteer research and input.</p> <p>2 workshops training 12 participants in traditional flint building skills: one on knapping, one on flint as a building material</p> <p>Site conservation work at the Lingheath gunflint-mine.</p>	<p>Community and volunteer engagement in Brecks Heritage research</p> <p>Increased information in the public domain and an increased awareness of sites connected to flint mining and the gunflint industry.</p> <p>Creation of an improved skills base for local heritage research and investigation.</p> <p>Residents and visitors more aware of the flint-mining heritage of the Brecks</p> <p>Preservation of traditional skills in flint-work for buildings.</p> <p>Conservation of a gunflint mining site for access and interpretation.</p>	<p>Project total: £21,845 HLF: £8,795 (40%) In-kind: £2,600 (12%) Volunteer: £10,450 (48%)</p> <p>Volunteer led research and fieldwork (£12,600)</p> <p>Production of report, leaflet and web text (£4,220)</p> <p>Interpretation panel (£1,250)</p> <p>Training events (£2,250)</p> <p>Oral History interviews (£475)</p> <p>Archiving (£650)</p> <p>Equipment (£400)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C15: Brecks Warrens and Lodges	Breckland Society	<p>This project will investigate a selection of warren sites, determine the extent and condition of surviving internal archaeological features and compile a standardised record for each.</p> <p>This will be complemented by archival research and produce a more complete picture of the structure of the warrens and how they functioned.</p>	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers	<p>Volunteer led research into the internal archaeology of the warrens and the lodge sites.</p> <p>An illustrated Report, dedicated Web-pages and an illustrated Leaflet</p> <p>3 workshops training 20 volunteers in field walking, earthworks archaeology and archival skills</p> <p>Production of an Interpretation panel at an exposed section of a warren bank within Thetford Forest with volunteer research and input.</p> <p>Site conservation work at a warren bank site.</p> <p>Archive of fieldwork results and associated images.</p>	<p>Community and volunteer engagement in Brecks Heritage research</p> <p>Increased information in the public domain and an increased awareness of Warren banks in the landscape</p> <p>Creation of an improved skills base for local heritage research and investigation.</p> <p>Residents and visitors more aware of the warrening heritage of the Brecks.</p> <p>One section of warren bank conserved and interpreted leading to improved understanding and awareness of warren bank features in the landscape</p>	<p>Project total £19,695 HLF: £7,095 (36%) In-kind: £2,600 (13%) Volunteer: £10,000 (51%)</p>
						<p>Volunteer led research and fieldwork (£12,600)</p> <p>Production of report, leaflet and web text (£4,245)</p> <p>Interpretation panel (£1,250)</p> <p>Training events (£1,600)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C16: Sheep in the Brecks	Breckland Society	This project will research and record the historic presence and role of sheep in the landscape of the Brecks, documenting and investigating the various aspects of this heritage and also promoting the use of sheep as a habitat management tool.	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers, Landowners and Land managers	<p>Volunteer led research into the role of sheep in the Brecks and production of an illustrated Report, dedicated Web-pages and an illustrated Leaflet</p> <p>3 Heritage skills events training 15 volunteers trained in archaeological fieldwork, oral history research and archival skills</p> <p>“Grazing Practitioners’ Day” for 15 professionals working in grass heath management across the Brecks.</p> <p>3 traditional skills workshops training 12 people in; (1) sheep husbandry (2) making sheep hurdles and crooks (3) shepherding skills</p>	<p>Community and volunteer engagement in Brecks Heritage research</p> <p>Increased information in the public domain and an increased awareness of Warren banks in the landscape leading to an improved skills base for local heritage research and investigation.</p> <p>Land management professionals involved in sharing experiences and formulating grazing regimes for sensitive landscapes in the Brecks leading to improved understanding and enhanced connectivity among those responsible for managing some of the most significant habitats in the area.</p> <p>Residents and visitors more aware of the importance of sheep in the Brecks.</p>	<p>Project total: £13,784 HLF: £7,434 (54%) In-kind: £2,600 (19%) Volunteer: £3,750 (27%)</p> <p>Volunteer led research and fieldwork (£6,350)</p> <p>Production of report, leaflet and web text (£3,884)</p> <p>Training events and workshops (£2,500)</p> <p>Archival work (£650)</p> <p>Equipment (£400)</p>



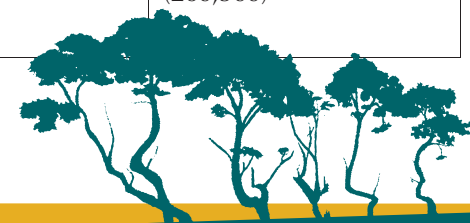
Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C17: Brecks Military History	Breckland Society	The project will identify and record the military history of the Brecks and its key sites from 1900 to 1949.	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers	Volunteer led research into the Military history of the Brecks 1900 - 1949 and production of an illustrated Report, dedicated Web-pages and an illustrated Leaflet	Community and volunteer engagement in Brecks Heritage research An increase in information in the public domain	Project total: £15,784 HLF: £6,184 (39%) In-kind: £2,600 (16.5%) Volunteer: £7,000 (44.5%)
				2 workshops training 12 volunteers in oral history interviewing 1 fieldwork day training 12 volunteers in military archaeology Archive of research and fieldwork results, and oral history interviews (including ex- and current military personnel and local people)	Improved knowledge of sites connected to military history. Improved skills base for local history research, oral history recording and military archaeology Increased public awareness of the important role of the military in shaping the landscape of the Brecks and role of foreign service personnel	Volunteer led research and fieldwork (£9,600) Production of report, leaflet and web text (£3,884) Training events (£1,250) Archival work (£650) Equipment (£400)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C18: Creatively Interpreting the Brecks	Iceni Botanical Artists	This project will teach participants botanic and landscape painting skills. It will enable them to look at and interpret the Brecks Landscape in a new way, and by exhibiting the best works, increase awareness of Brecks Heritage in new audiences	Local communities, interest groups	240 participants in s series of 12 day schools; Celebratory exhibition of works and on-line art gallery	Introduction to or development of drawing and painting skills in water-colour painting and landscape appreciation	Project total £8675 HLF: £6,425 (74%) In-kind: £1,050 (12%) Volunteer: £0 Cash: £1,200 (14%)
					<p>Raised awareness of the distinctive visual landscape as defined by the plants, insects and fungi of the Brecks area, and their rarity</p> <p>Enhanced enjoyment of leisure pursuits by the general public when exploring the area.</p>	<p>Equipment (£600)</p> <p>Promotion (£900)</p> <p>Venue hire (£1,500)</p> <p>Exhibition expenses (£1,650)</p> <p>Artists and professional services (£4,025)</p>

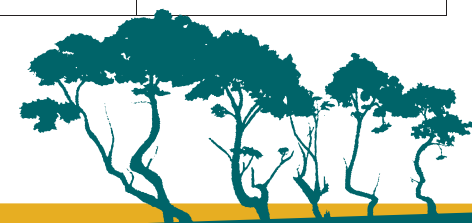


Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
C19: Landscape Revolution	University of East Anglia	For each parish within the BNG LPS area the project will bring together volunteers from the local community who are interested in the historic environment. We will train and support these volunteers to carry out a detailed survey of cartographic and other documentary sources to establish past land use, vegetation and landownership to create an extensive GIS dataset and mapping alongside an on-line resource to enable continued community led research into local landscape history	Local communities, interest groups, volunteers	<p>Involvement of 50 volunteers from Parishes in the BNG LPS area in the study of the landscape/ environmental history of their own areas.</p> <p>GIS mapping, written research on landscape history in the BNG LPS area.</p> <p>Provision of an on-line toolkit for communities to engage in landscape history research</p> <p>Lectures and day schools on the Landscape history of the Brecks delivered to at least 200 members of the public.</p> <p>Online materials recording results of research undertaken by volunteers; photographs taken by volunteers of modern landscape and archival material; web pages.</p>	<p>Increased understanding of the relationship between land management and the appearance and ecology of Breckland</p> <p>Increased awareness of these relationships, and a developed sense of 'ownership' of the local environment by communities.</p> <p>Enhanced participation and understanding of landscape history throughout the study area, and the wider Breckland area.</p> <p>Increased local knowledge of the landscape history of the Brecks.</p>	<p>Project total: £137,478 HLF: £47,310 (34%) In-kind: £29,668 (22%) Volunteer: £60,500 (44%)</p> <p>Professional services (£29,668)</p> <p>Web pages and on-line resources (£4,286)</p> <p>Recruitment, development of training materials and training of volunteers (£16,217)</p> <p>Creation of historic environment Toolkit (£3,730)</p> <p>Day schools (£3,486)</p> <p>Volunteer support (£14,916)</p> <p>Research expenses (£1,650)</p> <p>GIS Mapping (£3,025)</p> <p>Volunteer led Field work, research production on online resources (£60,500)</p>



Programme D: Increasing training opportunities

Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D1: Discovering the Archaeological Landscape of the Brecks Training Programme	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service	The project aims to increase community engagement in the project area and train volunteers in archaeological techniques to support and equip them with the necessary skills required to link into other BNG projects, and support participants to plan and carry out other community-based archaeological projects.	Volunteers, local communities, interest groups,	Introductory event for 50 project participants	Increased awareness of the archaeology of the Brecks.	Project total £75,520 HLF: £38,020 (50%) In-kind: £10,500 (14%) Volunteer: £27,000 (36%)
		Volunteers who have undertaken this training will then be encouraged and supported to undertake researches of their own, and their work will culminate in a one-day conference celebrating community archaeology in the Brecks.		12 Training events for 20 participants at each event across yr 1 and yr 2 on subjects including Field-walking, test pitting, finds identification, air photo interpretation and using archaeological archives	Body of local people trained with archaeology skills	Professional Services (£10,500)
				18 follow-up events to support community led Archaeological projects	Communities supported to undertake local, community based archaeological projects	Introductory event (£2,020)
				Field walking and Archival research training for Project B2	Increased pool of knowledge about the local heritage	Training events £11,220
				Closing conference for 100 delegated	On-going community heritage research	Closing conference (£3,120)
				Newsletter for participants and interested parties	A wider understanding of the historic assets of the project area	Volunteer and Community led projects (£34,020)
				Social media provision and web-based information		Social Media, publicity, newsletters (£11,490)
						Evaluation (£3,150)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D2: Caring for the Built Heritage of the Brecks	Orchard Barn Environmental Education CIC	This project will deliver a series of 12 free-to-attend 1-day workshops at local community venues in the Breaking New Ground catchment area to help people living in or associated with heritage properties to understand the importance of maintaining and repairing their local built heritage and provide them with the self confidence and motivation to get engaged in this process.	Local communities, owners of heritage buildings / assets, volunteers, interest groups	<p>12 six hour workshops – (360+ participants) covering;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theory and practice of flint walling - traditional brick laying - lime mortar and rendering - earth rendering - working with cob and clay lump - damp proofing your home - introduction to timber frame repairs - timber framing techniques - coppicing and use of coppice materials - wattle and daub - beaten earth flooring - green woodworking <p>Including practical demonstrations, Q & A with professionals, networking opportunities, links to other BNG project opportunities.</p>	<p>Heritage building skills training for participants</p> <p>Increased motivation and self-confidence and a change in attitude to the care and repair of heritage buildings and assets</p> <p>Raised awareness of heritage skills training activities and promote opportunities to participate in heritage volunteer projects</p> <p>Sign-posting for other heritage activities within the project.</p>	<p>Project total (£17,940) HLF: £16,140 (90%) In-kind: £0 Volunteer: £0 Cash: £1,800 (10%)</p> <hr/> <p>Professional services per session including materials (£11,940)</p> <p>Venue hire & promotion (£6,000)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D3: Heritage Skills work placements	BNG team (Norfolk Historic Environment Service, Suffolk Archaeological Service, RSPB,	This project will co-ordinate the placement of students with Partner organisations and seek additional opportunities throughout the BNG project delivery period	Local students, Local heritage and landscape management organisations and interest groups	12 work placement opportunities with Landscape heritage and biodiversity organisations	Improving understanding and knowledge about the heritage and its importance	Project total £8,400 HLF: £8,400 (100%) In-kind: £0 Volunteer £0:
					Young people helped towards a career Young people helping to care for their heritage	Placement induction and training (£6,000) Placement expenses (£2,400)

Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D4: Geological Landscapes – the Brecks for Land Managers	Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership	This project will enable land managers and their advisers to read and understand the basic elements of geodiversity on their land, and in doing so enable them to value and appropriately to conserve such features	Landowners, land managers, interest groups	Day school for 20 participants;	Improved understanding of the physical environment and its conservation as the background for management decisions.	Project total (£3,623) HLF: £1,561 (36%) In-kind: £2,062 (64%) Volunteer: £0
				Presentation on geodiversity and management land management issues Discussion forum with Q&A session Field visits to four sites	Improved awareness of how to conserve and enhance geodiversity features as part of routine land management Examples of ways to incorporate benefits for geodiversity into management decisions.	Professional services / Day school delivery (£2,062) Event costs (£1,561)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D5: Communicating the Ice Age Brecks	Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership	The geodiversity of the Brecks underpins many of the area's rich heritage of landscape, biodiversity and cultural features. This sequence of three Day Schools will communicate the Ice Age heritage of the area (its landforms, geology, Palaeolithic archaeology, fossil biodiversity) to BNG project participants, also to local people and visitors	Landscape and biodiversity professionals, interest groups,	90 participants in 3 annual Day School events , comprising introductory presentations followed by field trips to explore the Ice Age heritage in the Brecks.	Improved understanding of the evolution of the physical environment as the context for life in the Brecks (linkages between geodiversity, landscape, biodiversity and cultural history). Increased awareness of geo-sites in their landscape context.	Project total £4,804 HLF: £3,554 (74%) In-kind: £1,250 (26%) Volunteer: £0
						Day school preparation and delivery (£1,850) Event delivery including venue hire and professional services (£2,954)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D6: Breaking New Ground in the School Grounds	The Green Light Trust	<p>The project aims to increase opportunities for outdoor learning by bringing some of the features of the Brecks into the grounds of schools within the project area.</p> <p>Five tree nurseries, 5 areas of Brecks heath/acid grassland (using the soil inversion technique), 2 'pingo'-style ponds and 5 butterfly & bee gardens will be set up within school grounds. Students will collect seeds from local woodlands, grow tree seedlings and share the young seedlings with other schools within their cluster and with local community tree-planting projects. Emphasis will be on the propagation of Scots Pine trees so that they can be used to restore Pine Lines along field boundaries as part of the Pine Line Project.</p> <p>The distinctive character of the Brecks landscape will be celebrated in artist-led 'tree-dressing' workshops with pupils and the local community. In addition, there will a tree seed propagation 'twilight' workshop for teachers.</p>	Schools, community groups	<p>Creation of Pine tree nurseries in school grounds including; 5 tree nurseries 5 seed collection events 2 Teacher training events 1 Level 1 Forest Schools teacher training event for 15 participants</p> <p>Creation of characteristic Brecks Habitats in school grounds including; 5 areas of heath/acid grassland, 2 pingo-style ponds 5 bee and butterfly beds 5 pine lines</p> <p>5 Outdoor learning events in school grounds</p> <p>5 art workshops and tree dressing ceremonies in schools</p> <p>5 art workshops and tree dressing ceremonies in local communities associated with the schools</p>	<p>Increasing the biodiversity of school grounds within the Brecks</p> <p>The supply of tree seedlings (with an emphasis on Scots Pines) that can be used in school grounds and community tree-planting projects and in the restoration and creation of Pine Lines.</p> <p>Improved knowledge of how to propagate trees from seeds and cuttings.</p> <p>An increased awareness of the value of trees amongst school students.</p> <p>Improved knowledge of the wildlife to be seen within school grounds.</p> <p>Improved awareness and appreciation of the importance of trees within the Brecks.</p>	<p>Project total: £46,000 HLF: £34,475 (75%) In-kind: £4275 (9%) Volunteer: £7250 (16%) Cash: £0</p> <p>Construction of tree nurseries, ponds, Brecks heath, and butterfly gardens (£19,200)</p> <p>Tree seed collection sessions (£2,500)</p> <p>Curriculum linked educational activities (£11750)</p> <p>Teacher training sessions and Forest School training (£4,775)</p> <p>Community art workshops, tree dressing events, publicity (£6,500)</p> <p>Volunteer expenses and travel costs (£1,275)</p>



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D7: Brecks Uncovered	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	This project will work with primary schools in the project area over 3 years reaching every child in the school and developing learning about their local natural environment, the biodiversity and heritage. Training teachers to understand and gain knowledge about the Brecks, leaving a legacy at the schools for future generations.	Schools (Students, Teachers and Governors)	Engage with 10 primary schools to deliver an innovative programme of learning about the Brecks to 2,000 school children living locally	Delivering an innovative programme of learning on the Brecks to 2000 school children living locally	Project total £16,500 HLF: £12,750 (71%) In-kind: £2,250 (21%) Volunteer: £1,500 (8%)
	Suffolk Wildlife Trust					Project development and Schools engagement (£4,250) Project delivery and teaching (£7,750) Travel (£2,500) Teaching materials (£2,000)



Reference	Delivery Lead (and Partners)	Summary	Audience	Outputs	Outcomes	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
D8: Barnham Cross Common: Skills for the future	Plantlife	This project will work with individuals, schools and groups within the vicinity of Barnham Cross Common, Thetford to engage people with onsite conservation management work and provide them with a range of knowledge and skills in conservation identification and management.	Local communities, volunteers	20 half day workshops for schools	Greater understanding of the importance of the Breckland landscape, ecological importance and management requirements.	Project total £8,525 HLF: £6,725 (79%) In-kind: £1,800 (21%) Volunteer: £0
				1 teacher training day		
				1 community/family wildlife monitoring event	Increase in conservation and monitoring skills within school children	Professional services and promotion (£1,400)
				9 group activity events for photography and botanical art	Raising awareness of the local heritage and the conservation management techniques within the Brecks.	School workshops (£2,625)
				Web based project pages and social media / blogs	Increased interest and awareness through the development of identification and monitoring skills	Teacher training day (£400)
					More local people involved in the recording their local heritage.	Community events (£1,400)
					Introduction to photography and art.	Art/photographic workshops (£2,700)
					More people aware of the conservation works.	
					A show case for the monitoring work, artwork and photography undertaken by the community and schools.	
					Increased interest in the use of social media to access conservation information and interpretation	



Programme E: Overheads, scheme staffing and running costs

As outlined above, the delivery proposals for the BNGLPS have had to be modified to adequately address the ending of the Brecks Partnership and contingency consideration not included in the stage 1 application. The change in staffing structure more accurately reflects the requirements for the delivery of the scheme in light of the above; is in line with other LPS scheme delivery structures, and is costed according to the Human Resources and recruitment standards of Suffolk County Council, with the inclusion of a realistic contingency for possible redundancy and maternity costs..

Also included in Programme E is a new budget line for the engagement of professional services to develop long term strategies for funding and engagement, to ensure that the overarching benefits of co-ordinated partnership working through the BNGLPS can be maintained and develop into a self-sustaining mechanism for continued landscape scale benefits in the scheme area.

Reference	Description	Summary	Difference from Stage 1	Cost (Including contingency and inflation)
E1, E2, E3	Scheme Manager and staff	1 fte Scheme manager, 1 fte Project officer 1fte Business support including on-costs (NI, Pension contributions)	Increased staff costs resulting from a change in the scheme delivery proposals and grading of posts according to SCC HR and recruitment criteria	£278,831
E4	Running costs for scheme office	Calculated at £3,300 per annum per post	Scheme running costs reduced by 12% in real terms from stage 1 proposal due to relocation to Brandon country Park. Increase in budget allocation resulting from increase from 2.25fte to 3fte	£29,700.00
E5	Evaluation and Monitoring	Contracted external evaluation reporting at mid-point and project end	No change	£22,500.00
E6	Professional services and consultants	Engagement and Legacy development including Post BNGLPS funding development, interpretation, business, and tourism strategies	This is additional to costs outlined in the stage 1 application and is aimed at mitigating the loss of input from the Brecks Partnership and will provide a long term legacy for the BNGLPS through the creation of Brecks wide strategies and identification of future funding for continued long-term outputs. Includes a work experience placement.	£61,500.00
E7	In-kind contributions	BNGLPS Board meetings on a 6 monthly basis	No change	£22,050.00
E8	Other scheme costs and overheads	Subsistence, expenses, vehicle costs, PPE, equipment, Tools	Increase to reflect the additional staffing level and additional travel costs resulting from the loss of the use of the Brecks Partnership vehicle	£27,134.00
Other	Contingency	Redundancy and maternity contingency costs	Not previously included in the stage 1 bid	£19,731



6 S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y

INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is at the heart of the BNGLPS. The scheme and the projects to deliver it have been designed to have a lasting impact on the landscape, its heritage and communities.

The main legacy themes delivered by the BNGLPS are: building social capital; skills, life-long learning through engaging schools and creating awareness and confidence in teachers and provision of training for all audiences at all levels; changing hearts and minds about the area through increasing awareness and participation; ongoing activity stimulated by the project beyond the life of the BNGLPS and its area; long term conservation of structures and habitats through creation of guidance and long-term landowner support; accessible archived records and reports; new and improved access routes and accessible information for all in a variety of formats.

This section provides detail on the sustainability and legacy of projects within the delivery programmes. It sets out details of how the BNG Partnership will work throughout the delivery period to ensure that an effective mechanism for partnership working is achieved which will continue to draw in funding for ongoing heritage, landscape and community projects for the benefit of the BNG area and the wider Brecks.



Building social capital © The Green Light Trust

PROGRAMME A: CONSERVE AND RESTORE

All capital projects undertaken in this programme will be protected by Project Start Agreements (PSAs) to ensure that the benefits are maintained for a minimum 10 year period. It is anticipated however that the focus on building community engagement, research, best practice management guidance and support offered to land managers will help to sustain the benefits indefinitely.

Ground Disturbance Project

The creation of a Historic Environment Opportunities Map will guide future ground disturbance projects. The map will be an invaluable tool and the experimental elements of this project will create a better understanding of Ground Disturbance best practice that will determine the entire approach to sustainable management of Brecks Heath for the future. The map will be created in a digital format and disseminated to all scheme partners and made available on-line. Once created the map will be maintained and updated by Norfolk and Suffolk's Historic Environment Records.

Conserving the Brecks' Wildlife Sites

Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust have committed to providing ongoing advice and support to owners and managers of County Wildlife sites after the BNGLPS finishes. This will create a legacy of lifelong learning and skills which will have benefits beyond the delivery period and the scheme area. It will also build capacity for future positive management of CWS.



Pingo project

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is committed to providing ongoing advice and support to owners of Pingos and is committed finding funding for a fourth year of re- introduction of the Pool Frog, post BNG, if necessary. It is also committed to providing long term monitoring and evaluation of the scheme to ensure it success. It is hoped that this scheme will act as a model to extend the re-introduction to other areas in the wider Brecks. This will create a legacy of lifelong learning and skills which will have benefits beyond the delivery period and the scheme area. It will also build capacity for future positive management of Pingos.

Pine Lines and Pine Connections

The existing pine-lines were planted around 200 years ago, and so it is hoped that the pine lines planted through this project will still be standing in 2315 and contributing to the distinctive landscape character of the Brecks, as a result of continued best practice conservation management by landowners. Both the wildlife and landscape value of these trees will increase over time any hoped that the work carried out through this project will inspire others in The Brecks (outside of the BNG area) and beyond the life of the project to restore and create pine lines on their land.

Engine House Brandon

The restoration of the Engine house will ensure its existence indefinitely. Through its use as a volunteer centre it will provide a long term resource for building social capital and training in landscape and heritage work beyond the life of the BNGLPS. The Forestry Commission will lease the building for a peppercorn rent and Suffolk County Council will take on a 20 year lease for the building to ensure that the public benefits will continue long-term.

Breaking New Ground Grant Fund

The BNG Grant Fund will build social capital by encouraging local communities and groups to make decisions about their local heritage and take steps to conserve, protect and celebrate it. The process itself and the training provided to support applicants will empower communities and provide them with the skills to take action to conserve and promote their heritage in the long term.

Through this project the BNGLPS can adapt as new opportunities are identified. The criteria for awarding grants will be reviewed annually and all awards will be subject to an evaluation that includes sustainability and long-term benefits.

PROGRAMME B: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

THE BNGLPS is all about building social capital and changing hearts and minds through connecting the Brecks' core communities with their landscape and heritage through participation in the majority of projects. To ensure the continued participation the BNG team will work to create a unified approach to volunteer engagement that all the partner organisations can tap into and benefit from, and which gives those interested in getting involved a single effective point of contact for information and volunteer opportunities.

People's History of Thetford Forest (Forest Bark)

The oral history archive and web pages will be hosted by the Forestry Commission and through the BNG website and will ensure that the project's outcomes remain in the public domain and volunteers will be encouraged to add to the database as opportunities arise. The Archival material will be kept in the general archives of the Forestry Commission in the East of England and with the Norfolk and Suffolk Record Offices and the HER.

Enchanted Forest

Through celebrating the Brecks Heritage and the outputs of the BNGLPS participants gain a better understanding of the area and the opportunities available for learning and recreation as well as helping to inspire continued involvement and participation beyond the delivery period and the scheme area.



Family Fun

This project will seek to engage new and 'hard-to-reach' audiences in the heritage of the Brecks and generate confidence for participants to continue to discover and engage. By developing this family audience it will help to improve quality of life and help create future custodians of the landscape.



Tomorrow's custodians

Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow training

A network of skilled volunteers will be in place to record sites in the Brecks into the future and volunteers will continue to monitor a network of reference sites for a variety of taxa. Sites that are part of BNG projects will continue to be monitored long-term and guidance will be developed to enable future participants to continue to benefit from the project outputs.

The results of the data collection will be available to specialists, land managers and interested parties to inform future conservation, restoration and management practices across all the Brecks habitats.

PROGRAMME C: ACCESS AND LEARNING

All capital projects undertaken in this programme will be protected by Project Start Agreements (PSAs) to ensure the benefits are maintained for a minimum 10 year period. Increasing access to, and awareness and understanding of the landscape and heritage will provide a legacy for the scheme in itself. Providing support and guidance for teachers will give them confidence to carry on using the Brecks resources for education. The act of teaching and enthusing school children of itself will create a sense of connection to, and ownership of the Brecks that will translate to a positive attitude and engagement into adulthood.

Although it is not necessarily anticipated that these projects will continue to deliver ongoing outputs as per the delivery stage, there is every intention that the connections between partners and with schools will continue in some form, with important lessons being learnt and new partnerships created as funding opportunities are identified.

Brecks Forest Way

The new route will form part of Norfolk Trails and Norfolk County Council is committed to supporting the maintenance of Norfolk Trails

for the foreseeable future. The set up of a volunteering and/or Friends Group will enable the community to get involved and develop a sustainable resource beyond the life of the project.

Brecks Rides

The Brecks Rides will use public rights of way, all of which are protected and maintained by SCC. The design of the signage of the route will ensure they have a life span beyond the scheme. Promotional leaflets will be made available online, through the Discover Suffolk website which ensures the Brecks Rides will provide a long-term legacy for the HLF investment.

Wings over the Brecks

It is intended that the nest cameras and associated facilities become a permanent interpretation facility at High Lodge and Weeting Heath Visitor Centres, and will be maintained by FC and NWT. A core team of trained volunteers will continue to be involved after the HLF-funded project ends. They will engage and recruit future volunteers. Trained volunteers will continue to engage with the public and provide interpretation and suitable nest locations.

Over time we intend that the footage would also be used at other attractions and available alongside other online resources and the 'self-guided' information package on partner websites, reaching more and wider audiences. The web pages will ensure that the project's outcomes remain in the public domain.

The Brecks Heritage Trail

The Breckland Society will make continued provision for activities associated with this project to continue; for participants to pass on their knowledge and skills and involve new people; to foster and maintain a close and mutually supportive working relationship with partner organisations. In particular, teams of volunteers will continue to monitor the trails and their infrastructure in the years beyond the project with a 10year maintenance programme funded by Norfolk Trails.



Revealing the Landscape – Lidar

The LiDAR derived images will be available for interrogation and interpretation beyond the life of the HLF scheme and will form an invaluable resource to inform the development of all future landscape and heritage projects in the project area

The Brecks from Above

The incorporation of all material (training, historic photos, archaeological mapping) in the NHER and SHER databases (published online) ensures the results would form a lasting resource available to future researchers, both amateur and professional. The availability of archaeological mapping data for areas of forestry and likely heathland restoration in Breckland would inform and support the heritage management work of NHES, SCC Archaeological Service, English Heritage and a wide range of non-heritage bodies (including Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Wildlife Trusts).

The project results will be maintained as part of the NHER and SHER digital databases and record centres, which have strict systems in place to ensure the long-term security of the data and associated records.

Journal of Brecks Studies

The Journal will help ensure that the BNG outcomes are placed within the wider Brecks context and continue to remain in the public domain. A Journal Steering Group will be created, comprising landscape and heritage professionals and volunteers, who will oversee the production of the journal and continue to operate after BNG is finished. This will help ensure that further editions of the journal appear in future. The Society will also make provision for activities and projects related to the journal to continue; for participants to pass on their knowledge and skills and involve new people; to foster and maintain a close and mutually supportive working relationship with partner organisations.

Arts: Educational Performance 'Beastly Brecks'

The schools will have copyright permission from the author to perform part two of 'Beastly Brecks' for as long as it supports the delivery of the Science National Curriculum and local history studies. It could also just be performed as a standalone piece as part of the school activity and will provide for continued arts engagement beyond the delivery period and scheme area.

Flint in the Brecks, Internal Archaeology of the Brecks Warrens, Sheep in the Brecks, Military History of the Brecks

Using the outputs from these projects the Breckland Society will make provision for activities and projects to continue; for participants to pass on their knowledge and skills and involve new people; to foster and maintain a close and mutually supportive working relationship with partner organisations. To ensure a lasting legacy for BNG, all data from this project will be sent to the Norfolk and Suffolk Historic Environment Record and to the Norfolk Heritage Explorer Website

Workshops: Creatively Interpreting the Brecks

By engaging new people in a creative new way of looking at the landscape this project will engender an enthusiasm that will last beyond the BNGLPS and Benefit participants through development of personal skills and passed on art appreciation skills which last a lifetime. The artistic output will also continue to engage people and promote a positive image of the Brecks, Encourage visits to local reserves thus enriching leisure activities.

It will also promote the need to be aware of the impact on plants and insects that can come about through climate change, and agricultural practices and the value of protecting current populations of already endangered species so that the heritage of the Brecks can be enjoyed by future generations.

Landscape Revolution

The historic environment toolkit will leave a significant legacy. Not only can this be used by communities within the study area during and beyond the life of the project, it can also be used by communities within the wider Breckland area, or outside Breckland. It will be available freely online to any user interested in researching landscape history in their community.

The GIS mapping and other results produced as part of the research element of the project will be shared online, but can also be used by landowners, local authorities and parish councils beyond the life of the project to inform decisions about management and heritage.





Learning new skills © Norfolk HES

PROGRAMME D: TRAINING AND SKILLS

Programme D will provide local communities, volunteers, Landowners, Land managers, heritage and Landscape professionals the opportunities to develop a wide range of skills to help with practical conservation and restoration of the built and natural heritage of the BNG area. It will also impart the skills to continue to discover and record, restore, care for, and make decisions about the heritage in the long term. It will also provide them with the enthusiasm to participate.

By providing training for partners, professionals and volunteers to varying levels and degrees across numerous disciplines, BNG will increase the skills within the project area and the wider Brecks. Through making all the guidance and training available online it will continue to enable and encourage the continued transfer of skills, which will be a great asset to landscape and heritage management in the future.

Discovering the Archaeological Landscape of the Brecks Training Programme

The project will result in a body of archaeologically aware volunteers who will be capable of undertaking archaeological fieldwork and monitoring projects during and beyond the lifespan of the project. It is hoped that one or more local groups might form as a part of this process and that they too will continue to study the historic environment of the study area beyond the end of the project.

Day Schools: Caring for the Built Heritage of the Brecks

By providing the skills to carry out practical conservation and restoration of the built heritage, the skills are not only kept alive but opportunities arise for professionals and other participants to undertake practical work beyond the life of the BNG scheme, and hopefully pass them on to others over time.

Brecks Vernacular Materials & Craft Skills day

This project will help connect Built Heritage crafts people with each other and with the public, helping to provide a better understanding of

specialist Brecks built Heritage skills and promoting the engagement of specialists on restoration and new build projects, leading to increased opportunities for contracts and employment. BNG will support and encourage further Skills Days with a view to it becoming a regular event if it proves successful.

Work Experience Placements

Practical skills are best developed by experience and the work placements and apprenticeships delivered by the BNGLPS will equip the participants with invaluable opportunities for learning by working within organisations practicing Landscape and Heritage work, alongside experienced people.

Geological Landscapes – the Brecks for Land Managers’ Day School

This training opportunity will change the way that land managers look at the land they are responsible for, and with a deeper understanding they will have long lasting benefits for the landscape.

Breaking New Ground in the School Grounds

This project will deliver ongoing engagement between schools and landscape conservation work in the Brecks. The schools engaged will have been given the skills to grow plants that can be used for practical restoration projects and habitats that will continue to support Brecks species within the school grounds. Partnerships will continue beyond the BNGLPS and it is hoped that the enthusiasm and involvement of school children will translate into continued participation in wildlife and landscape conservation work.

Brecks uncovered

The learning will leave a legacy to all children and the teacher training will sustain it.



Barnham Cross Common - Skills for the Future

The teacher training day and the provision of self led resources will allow the schools to continue to deliver workshops without the direct input of the project.

Those engaged with the project will gain enhanced skills in monitoring, conservation work, art, photography which can be taken with the participants into the future. The only component of the project which requires long term maintenance is the gallery, the cost and input should be minimal and will be maintained by Plantlife in the short term with the intention of handing over to the Barnham Cross Management Committee or another interested group.

THE BNG LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The BNGLPS will ensure sustainability and a legacy for the scheme by supporting and strengthening existing partnerships through the delivery of cross-organisational co-operative BNG projects. It will also continue to develop networks and communications processes that will encourage partners to learn together and deliver projects together, allowing a cross-fertilisation of ideas and working practices that translate into multi-faceted and shared resource approaches to landscape and heritage work, fostering productive and lasting relationships.

The BNGLPS Delivery Manager will be responsible for co-ordinating legacy and sustainability across the delivery projects and in accordance with the SCC Environmental Policy. Procurement of services will comply with the SCC 'Green Procurement Approach' and will ensure that 3rd party contractors commit to approved environmental management systems.

The proposed change of the delivery location to Brandon Country Park will create a lasting benefit in terms of visibility of the Scheme, its benefits and outputs. The Country Park will provide a long-term point

of access to information, guidance and interpretation resulting from the scheme and will be able to co-ordinate and respond to opportunities for future continuation of elements identified through the delivery phase.

BNG will actively seek to create new partnerships by engaging with other sectors, such as health, business and visitor economy and will seek to identify new sources of funding for ongoing delivery of landscape scale conservation projects in the Brecks by working with partners to develop a long-term strategy.

Successful delivery of the scheme's aims and objectives will increase the sustainability of managing the area's landscape heritage in the future. It will strengthen the Partnership and enable it to continue to deliver the recommendations of this plan long after the formal ending of the scheme.

This will involve maintaining a high profile for the scheme and making it an essential component of local and regional strategies and plans for the delivery of sustainable landscape management, heritage conservation and community engagement and participation. This process has already begun through the creation of the Landscape Character Assessment which has been developed in consultation with local Planning Authorities and is now available to help guide planners in the project area and throughout the Brecks NCA.



SUMMARY

The sustainability of the BNGLPS delivery and outcomes is an important consideration that has been woven through all the projects and forms a key element in the delivery of the scheme.

At a practical level, a sustainable approach to project delivery will be achieved by adherence to the SCC Environmental Policy and 'Green Procurement Approach'.

Individual projects will establish mechanisms for sustainable benefits through the creation of new networks and partnerships, databases for information sharing, resources for long-term engagement and

development of transferable skills and social capital. These are outlined in the project details.

During the delivery phase the BNGLPS will seek to achieve funding for the long-term delivery of the aims and objectives beyond the current scheme. By continuing to review the LCAP and developing opportunities to link heritage and landscape conservation with other sectors such as Tourism and Health a truly holistic approach to the landscape can be achieved and the benefits maintained in the long term.



7 EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the process by which the BNGLPS will evaluate the success of the delivery projects – both internally between the project delivery partners and the BNG team and externally through the engagement of a suitable contractor.

The success of the BNG programme will be evaluated in five ways.

Before and After Surveys

These will capture information on local people's uses, attitudes and knowledge of the Landscape Partnership area, and will enable the Scheme to assess whether the programme's activities have made a difference to this. Extensive surveys of local people, visitors, businesses and schools were carried out during the development phase, and others will be conducted in the final months of the Scheme to enable before and after comparisons.

Gathering Output Data

The individual project providers (or the BNG team itself, where appropriate) will be responsible for capturing output data for their project. The project admin team will collate the data using a database, and produce a report using the standard 'Output Data Form' spreadsheet. This will allow BNG to capture (and to compare with predicted) the numbers of the outputs being achieved by the programme, including:

- reports, plans and guidance written;
- area of conservation and enhancement
- area of ground disturbance
- Biodiversity records submitted
- archaeological sites identified / investigated;
- archives and collections created;
- numbers of school visits, community events, festivals, leaflets, and other participation, access and learning activities;
- numbers of volunteers, including volunteer hours and demographic information;
- training days completed



Reports from Project Leads

At the completion of each project (and at key milestones if the project is one of the longer ones), the individual project providers (or the BNG team itself, where appropriate) will produce a report. This will allow BNG to create a narrative of the programme as a whole and the individual projects within it, including stories about how the project has engaged with individuals and groups, and, crucially, the difference it has made to people, landscape and heritage.

This will cover:

- What difference did the project make to the heritage – eg is it in better condition, better managed or better understood?
- What difference did the project make for people? Which people and in what way?
- Did it help people learn about the heritage, give them new skills, enhance their sense of community, etc?
- Did the project help groups traditionally excluded to engage with the heritage? Which groups? How? What would be done differently, and why?
- What were the biggest challenges faced, and why? How they were tackled?
- What was the biggest success?

Evaluation Reports

For those projects which involve people (events, school visits, performances, volunteering and so on) the Scheme will use standardised evaluation forms to gather basic demographic information, and to capture people's experiences – what they learned, whether events were well delivered, whether they would repeat or recommend the experience and so on. Project delivery partners will be explicitly required to record qualitative experiences and 'Golden Quotes' (the particular phrase or comment that speaks volumes) – as well as more formal data. This feedback will be used both during the programme (to review and improve the programme) and as data at the programme's completion.



Project Management Review

It is recognised that there are potential conflicts of interest in the preparation of the project management review. Therefore BNG will use an external evaluator to carry out this review – choosing a company with appropriate project management expertise and knowledge of HLF programmes to evaluate and report in accordance with HLF guidelines.

Informal ‘Health Check’ Evaluation

BNG will also commission a smaller and less formal evaluation, to be carried out by an experienced external evaluator, at the halfway stage. This will provide additional third-party oversight and allow particular successes and opportunities to be highlighted and any difficulties to be formally identified and addressed before the end of the Scheme.

Reporting

The BNG Delivery Manager will report quarterly to HLF on the progress of the programme, and to the Partnership Board. BNG will report at least annually to other programme partners. This internal communication will allow the Scheme to identify what is working well, what challenges the Scheme is facing and how they can be overcome, and to more generally share information, experience and skills to maximise the effectiveness of the programme. This will be aided by the creation of an online BNG partner’s forum where issues can be raised and discussed ‘live’ throughout the life of the BNG LPS and beyond.

The annual report will allow the Board to discuss any difficulties that may emerge, and agree corrective action. It will also highlight new opportunities. Therefore where projects are spread over more than one year, contracts will be issued annually so that changes can be made as necessary.

Stakeholders will be encouraged to engage through online feedback mechanisms throughout the life of the scheme and at BNG events.

Finally, in addition to the Project Management Review, the budget includes funds to commission a report from independent consultants at the end of the project, which will tell the story of the project and evaluate the success or otherwise of the BNGLPS as a whole. This report will identify lessons for the future, both for future HLF programmes and for those working in the BNG area and the wider Brecks.

The BNG Delivery Manager will consolidate all of the evaluation elements to produce a final report at the end of the programme to meet HLF requirements.



8 ADOPTION AND REVIEW

Adoption

This Landscape Conservation Action Plan was formally adopted by the Breaking New Ground Partnership Board on 1st November 2013.

The Board will meet to review progress biannually until the end of the BNG LPS in 2017.

Making this Plan available

Board members all hold a copy of this plan and supporting documents and electronic copies will also be held by the Suffolk County Council Environment Service.

This Plan, and the Landscape Character Assessment, and Audits and Survey Report that were commissioned to support it will be available on the BNG website.

Review

The Engagement and Legacy Development Project will facilitate the review of this LCAP during the life of the BNG LPS with a view to achieving additional funding for its continued development and execution beyond the life of the scheme. During 2016/17 the Partnership Board, will carry out a formal review of this plan and the progress of the engagement and legacy work and give further consideration how best to take this work forward thereafter.



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