

AINA CASE STUDY

THE WAY FORWARD

Waterway improvements in the Broads



The Wheelyboat at Rollesby Broad now enables disabled visitors to safely take to the water

Sustainable Development Fund supports initiatives in National Parks

The National Parks Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) was established by Defra in 2002 and offers around £200,000 per annum to be distributed by each Park Authority. Grants can offer support to waterway initiatives and the Broads Authority have used their funding to help take forward varied projects. Projects associated with sailing and boating have provided sustainable transport as well as enjoyment and understanding of the Broads environment. Examples include:

Tidal Harvester: Funding enabled this project to develop concepts, drawings and a working model of a potential innovation to generate electricity – including at remote locations – whilst also acting as a tidal barrier if necessary without interfering with boat movements. As well as minimising the effects of flooding from storm surges, a transverse horizontal rotor type turbine would generate power at times when the barrier is open and the river in flow. Project design was successfully completed and a model prototype tested. Total cost was £15,404 and the SDF grant contributed £7,702.

Rollesby Broad Wheelyboat: This project provided a new wheelchair accessible boat to The Waterside on Rollesby Broad in the heart of the National Park. The Waterside is a popular tourist attraction and visitor centre providing a wide range of activities such as pleasure boating, boat tours, children's play area and wheelchair accessible bird hide. A need for disabled persons to access the water by boat had been recognised and the new Wheelyboat even allows wheelchair users to drive the boat. Total cost was £17,150 and the SDF grant contributed £2,075.

Eco-solar shower: The Norfolk Punt Club operates from rafts in the middle of Barton Broad, and young users had identified the need for a shower, partly as a requirement to obtain Royal Yacht Association training status. The shower, installed with support from the SDF, uses rainwater heated by solar panels with solar cells used to power the batteries for the pumps. Total cost was £2,700 and the SDF grant contributed £1,700.

Your Broads, Your Future: The SDF supported a multi-media project designed to promote sustainable tourism in the Broads whilst also increasing awareness of key environmental issues including human impacts on important wetland environments. The work has linked with East Anglia's leading community radio station in order to broadcast regular topical features, and also includes a website and podcasts to disseminate information to all waterway users. Total cost was £33,786 and the SDF grant contributed £25,484.

Where appropriate, AINA members are encouraged to apply for funding from SDF schemes or other suitable grant programmes.