

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Notes on a Presentation to the Broads Society by Lesley Marsden, Landscape Officer, BA on Tuesday 15 July 2014 prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee**

Lesley had been invited to give the Society a progress project for undergrounding power lines.

The project had started in 2003. The Broads Society, represented by Martin George and Chris Groves, had played a leading role in identifying the sites which should be given priority.

Projects in funded from the first allocation

- St Benets - one 33kv and one 11 kv cable at a cost of £661k completed in 2009
- Buckenham Marshes completed in 2006 at a cost of £122k
- Lines across Waveney Valley and Barsham Marshes – 3 series of 33 Kv cables to be completed by the end of 2014 at a cost of £1.7m. This was the largest scheme in this phase of the project.
- St James's Hospital, Horning Hall – this project had been brought forward to 2014. The land owner had agreed to designate a public right of way to connect the site with the road.

Lesley undertook to ascertain whether the Norfolk and Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Societies had been allowed access to record the sites prior to demolition of the power lines and sub-station. (Both Societies can be contacted via their websites).

#### Proposals for 2015 – 2022

A total of £8m was available for the East of England. Bids for projects at the following locations had been submitted:

- Somerton
- Ludham Marshes (site identified by the Broads Society). Natural England would support this proposal.
- Upton Marshes
- South Walsham Marshes
- Cantley Marshes

A proposal for work at Wheatacre still needs to be assessed.

The criteria used in drawing up the selected list were based on the assessment of 2006 and each was site scored accordingly. Factors taken into consideration included landscape value and character, wildlife, the built heritage and visual amenity.

Lesley concluded her presentation by informing members that the Government had set up a similar fund for the undergrounding of transmission lines. At present there were no transmission lines in the Broads but there was a possibility that this situation might change if the proposals for the major transmission route from Norwich to Lowestoft went ahead. If this fund could be used to install the cables underground at the outset this would remove concerns about the adverse visual impact on the landscape.

