

## **EMBARGOED PRESS RELEASE**

Embargoed until 01:00am, Thursday 11th April 2024

### **“National Parks Health Check” reveals the Importance of the Broads for the Nation’s Wildlife**

Nature is in crisis across the UK and needs a lifeline, even inside our national parks according to a new report. The Campaign for National Parks and its local partner, the Broads Society, will give the UK’s first live presentation of the data today, 11<sup>th</sup> April, at 3.00pm in the Auditorium of the Norwich Forum.

CNP’s Campaigns Manager Nick Hall said “The Broads and others in the family of national parks are vital custodians of biodiversity, but despite efforts to protect our natural and cultural heritage, nature is still struggling due to a lack of resources and management data, and insufficient powers to take the actions needed in a fast-changing environment.”

The Broads are home to more than 16% of all species in Britain, 25% of all threatened species, and nationally crucial habitats such as reed beds, wet woodland, and peat deposits. Despite success in recovering bittern, marsh harrier, crane, and water voles from near extinction, worsening climate change impacts such as salinisation, sea-level rise and flooding threaten vulnerable species like swallowtails, ground-nesting, and migrating birds.

The unique Broads environment attracts large numbers of tourists. Damage to nature will impact the tourist and hire-boat industries, which are vital to the Broads economy.

Broads Society Chair, Mark Collins, said, “This report shows that nature is struggling even in our most precious protected areas, including the Broads. Some groups are suspicious of environmental interests in the Broads, but in reality, sailors, birdwatchers, ramblers and anglers all want the Broads to be a haven for wildlife. To achieve full economic and environmental health, we need cooperation and open communication between all the stakeholders, including park and water authorities, landowners, farming, navigation and conservation interests”.

*For further details and a ticket to today’s event, see [broads-society.org/events](https://broads-society.org/events).*

**About Campaign for National Parks** note – contact details not for publication

Campaign for National Parks is the only charity dedicated to securing the future of National Parks in England and Wales. Its independence from the government means it can speak out for protected landscapes when no one else can. Founded in 1936, CNP wants to see wildlife and landscapes protected and accessible for generations to come.

*The Health Check will be available from 10:00 on 10<sup>th</sup> April here: [www.cnp.org.uk/health-check-report](https://www.cnp.org.uk/health-check-report). For further information contact Nick Hall, Political Affairs & Campaigns Manager: 07354 183 396*

**About the Broads Society** note – contact details not for publication

The Broads Society is dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads. Its mission is to ensure the Broads remains a vibrant environment rich in natural beauty, cultural heritage, and opportunities for recreation on land and water. By supporting it, people become part of a legacy that protects and enhances this unique resource for future generations. *Dr Mark Collins, Broads Society Chair: 07941 248 100*  
*Mark will be available earlier on Thursday for face-to-face interviews.*