

# BROAD SHEET



Churchill's Bay, Hickling Broad

Major enhancement work at Hickling has entered an exciting new phase.

## Next phase for Hickling

Enhancement work at Hickling has entered its next phase as part of the ambitious vision to improve conditions in the broad for people and wildlife.

The creation of habitat using dredged materials to restore reed swamp within the broad that had been eroded will deliver long-term multiple benefits.

A total of 1,470 m<sup>3</sup> of sediment has been pumped into Studio Bay and is being retained by geotextile membranes held in place by posts to recreate the eroded swamp.

And now filling at Churchill's Bay has started. Three wherries are carrying sediment 140 metres from the channel at the entrance to the broad near Deep Dyke. All of the Authority's Jetfloat pontoon system has been used to allow the concrete pump and off-

loading excavator to sit far enough out into the broad and give sufficient water depth for the wherries to be emptied.

Sediment totalling 3,500 m<sup>3</sup> will be dredged from priority areas in the marked channel for the project.

There will also be an additional area of protection of existing reed swamp vegetation with 150 metres of floating PVC curtain with integral goose guard mesh.

Rob Rogers, Director of Operations, said the project benefits are already being seen.

"Waterfowl have already been seen in good numbers in the broad, presumably drawn in to feed on the water plants themselves, the plant seeds and associated invertebrates using the habitat," he said.

The Authority is now bidding for €1.26m from the Interreg European fund to deliver the next phases of the project. If

successful the Authority will be lead partner working with Danish, Dutch and German organisations.

Working in the Upper Thurne carries risks associated with the ever-present algae *Prymnesium parvum* but the project was designed with assent from Natural England to control those risks as far as possible and protect water quality. Water temperatures have been consistently low for the duration of the work and therefore *Prymnesium* levels have remained low.

Water samples taken up to December also showed increasing numbers of the fertile oospores that stoneworts release to seed the next year's plant growth. In mid-December clear water was evident in the dense stonewort beds which were still growing up nearly to the water surface in this area.

Aerial footage of the work can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoJUP9HpqPg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoJUP9HpqPg)

# Rob takes on director role

**A new Director of Operations has been appointed after Head of Construction, Maintenance and Environment Rob Rogers beat 28 other candidates for the position.**

Trudi Wakelin left the role on 3 February after nearly 20 years of steering the Authority through a number of significant projects such as Promoting Integrated Sediment Management (Prisma), which involved developing award-winning innovative and sustainable techniques with European partners. She was responsible for the purchase of the May Gurney dockyard to bring the dredging work in house, and working closely with the Chief Executive, secured new powers to help manage the navigation through the passage of the Broads Bill through Parliament.

Rob, who took up the role on 6 February, joined the Broads Authority in 2009 as Head of Construction and Facilities looking after the dredging operation, the associated plant and equipment and the team. In 2011 he was

appointed to his current role. His work area has broadened significantly over the past few years with advancing technology and innovative techniques.

Rob said: "I am honoured to be appointed to the director role. It gives me the opportunity to further develop sustainability within the Operations Directorate and having a strong technical background will benefit the Authority as we progress Hickling enhancements and look to improve service delivery."

Trudi said: "I have very much enjoyed my work in the Broads, the constant variety and challenge has been stimulating, and I have received much support and learned a huge amount over the years from other staff, members and key stakeholders. I wish Rob all the best in his new role."

Chief Executive John Packman said: "While delighted for Trudi that she has secured an important new role with the Marine Management Organisation, I am very sorry

to be losing her.

"It has been a real pleasure to work with her on transforming projects but on the other hand it is really good news that Rob Rogers has been appointed in her place. It is good to grow your own talent and it is a reminder of the great staff we employ and the complexity of the tasks they have to manage."



*Rob Rogers*



# Plaqueless tolls to continue

Plaqueless tolls are to continue for a further 12 months following a successful first year trial.

The move to a trial paperless system was first made following ink seepage issues from the plaques produced last year for the 2016/17 season.

But the idea to keep all compliance data electronically has been under consideration since the DVLA's successful move to paperless vehicle tax.

The Tolls Review Group (TRG) found that during the trial income from private boats was in line with the predictions for the year which indicated that there had not been any significant change in the level of evasion.

The use of new checking technology by the rangers and systematic surveys had helped ensure that individual boats paid the appropriate toll. Members therefore recommended that the trial be continued for a further year.

Members of the public can also check whether a toll has been paid by visiting [www.broads-authority.gov.uk/toll-checker](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/toll-checker)

Guidance on display of registration numbers can be found at [www.broads-authority.gov.uk/display-of-registration-marks](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/display-of-registration-marks)

The trial was assessed as part of the TRG's examination of the tolls system which resulted in the biggest shake up in Broads tolls for more than three decades in a bid to more fairly link charges to vessel size. More information can be found at [www.broads-authority.gov.uk/plaqueless-tolls](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/plaqueless-tolls)

## New plan sets out long-term vision

The new Broads Plan will be implemented from April following more than a year of wide public consultation.

The partnership strategy, which is coordinated by the Broads Authority and is the most important management plan for the area, sets out a long-term vision for the Broads and guides actions for the benefit of its environment, local communities and visitors.

In addition the new Local Plan, which will have policies and land use allocations to help determine planning applications, has also gone through several months of public consultation and is due to be implemented later this year.

We are also preparing our Education and Volunteer action plans for 2017-22 and feedback is welcomed. Visit the link below for more information.

The Education Strategy aims to provide opportunities for young people to learn about and engage with the Broads and emphasises the benefits of high quality outdoor learning, while the Volunteer Strategy outlines the key benefits of volunteering both to the Broads Authority but also importantly to the volunteers themselves.

Read more on all these documents at [www.broads-authority.gov.uk/public-consultations](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/public-consultations)



## Legal battle comes to end

The long-running legal battle over the national park name has come to an end after the High Court gave the go ahead for the Broads Authority to use the term to promote the area's special qualities, equivalent to those of the 14 other UK national parks.

The Rt Hon Lord Justice Simon refused leave to appeal, signalling the end to more than a year of legal challenge.

The Broads was not designated under the 1949 National Park legislation because of the additional complexity and costs associated with managing its waterways but was given an equivalent status to that of a national park in 1989 under its own Act of Parliament.

The Broads Authority receives a National Park Grant, has the same first two purposes as the other national parks relating to conservation and recreation, in addition to navigation and the Broads has the same protection under the planning legislation.

The move to identify the Broads as a National Park came out of a desire to more clearly promote its national park credentials and special qualities.

You can find out more and read the full judgement at [www.broads-authority.gov.uk/final-judgement](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/final-judgement)

## 21st century tech meets 18th century design

Digital technology is bringing history to life as part of the multi-million pound Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme.



Restoration work to at least 12 drainage mills will be carried out as part of Water, Mills and Marshes which has been awarded an earmarked grant of £2.6m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Before the work can be carried out detailed surveys are required on the 18th century

structures but traditional methods have presented various issues. The partnership turned to laser scanning which can create photorealistic 3D models so people can explore the iconic Broads mills online from all over the world and highly accurate 2D drawings to inform restoration work.

Project Manager Will Burchnell said: "The results have been extraordinary. Not only are they incredibly detailed – far more detailed than could be collected by traditional tape measure surveys – but the scanner has allowed us to gather information from the interiors of buildings which were either too unsafe or difficult to access.

"Not only that, we have a millimetre accurate record of each structure – a snapshot in time to allow monitoring of a building's condition – and if we need a measurement of a gear wheel, doorway or window it's all there in the 3D model on a computer."

Mill restoration is just one aspect of the scheme which will be worth £4.5m with match funding and is about halfway through its development phase before delivery of 38 individual projects by 55 organisations begins next year.

It aims to enrich and promote heritage sites in the area between Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Acle and Loddon, unlock the benefits of this distinctive landscape for local people and give them the skills to protect it as a legacy for future generations.

For more details please visit [www.broads-authority.gov.uk/water-mills-marshes](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/water-mills-marshes)

Adam Thompson



## Apprenticeships success

The second raft of Operations apprentices joined the Authority in September following a highly successful inaugural course.

Nick Turner, Sam Young and Alistair D'esposito joined as Apprentice Operations Technicians on a 12 month contract.

They are studying a Level 2 Certificate in Countryside Management through Easton and Otley College as well as gaining qualifications in Chainsaw - Felling and Cross Cutting, Brush Cutter and Clearing Saw, RYA Level 2 Power Boat, Herbicide Spraying and First Aid as well as a wealth of practical construction and maintenance skills.

One of the apprentices from the first intake, Adam Thompson, has also been appointed to a full-time role as an Operations Technician.

Developing technicians with the skills and training that are needed to manage and develop the Broads is a key goal for the Authority.



[www.lovethebroads.org.uk](http://www.lovethebroads.org.uk)

## Stay safe

The Boat Safety Scheme is alerting people to the dangers of carbon monoxide following the sad deaths of two people on board a petrol engine boat at Wroxham Island.

Known as the silent killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless gas and can kill quickly if inhaled in high concentrations. It is produced when gas, LPG, coal, wood, paraffin, oil, petrol and diesel don't burn completely.

CO can build up in the cabin due to badly maintained or misused appliances, exhaust fumes from a boat's engine or generator and escaped flue gases from solid fuel stoves.

The danger is greater when there is a short supply of air.

Running engines at moorings presents a risk and also causes a nuisance to others so the Authority would like to say a big thanks to the considerate and safe boaters who keep noise and pollution levels down and allow others to enjoy a peaceful time on the water.

Meanwhile if your boat is in the navigation area or adjacent waters BSS compliance and third party insurance cover is necessary even when you're not using it or you risk a costly fine.

Read more about the dangers of CO at [www.boatsafetyscheme.org/stay-safe/carbon-monoxide-\(co\)](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/stay-safe/carbon-monoxide-(co))



## Moorings ready for new season

Major re-piling of the Cockshoot 24-hour free mooring started in January ready to be open by the start of the new season.

Contractors are carrying out the £164,000 project to ensure the only public access left to the boardwalk could be kept open.

Last year the Authority was unable to negotiate public access to the privately owned section of the boardwalk from the

Ferry Road car park to the mooring. But officers have successfully secured a new long-term lease agreement with Norfolk Wildlife Trust which is maintaining the boardwalk on its land accessible from the mooring site to the bird hide overlooking the broad.

Meanwhile a lease has been agreed with the owner of Rockland Short Dyke for a new 120 metres free 24-hour mooring which will be built early in the 2017/18 year. The mooring will improve boating facilities available on the River Yare and provide direct access to the Wherryman's Way.

## Help look after the place you love

Help us look after the place you love – that is the message from the Broads Charitable Trust which raises donations from visitors and residents for projects that go above and beyond the Authority's work to help keep the Broads special.

You will find a leaflet enclosed offering everyone an opportunity to support the

Love the Broads donation scheme for a small fee.

Each year, the money raised is granted for small projects which support work across the Broads. Nearly £20,000 has been donated to 14 projects over the past five years which have continued to make a real difference to the Broads and its users.