

# BOAD SH

## Duck Broad 'island' takes shape

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The first phase of an innovative plan to create a disposal site for dredgings by restoring a lost 'island' at Duck Broad has been successfully completed.

The spit of land, which had been eroded away decades ago by tides and grazing geese, has been recreated using around 1000 m<sup>3</sup> of sediment dredged from Heigham Sound. This will help restore channel depth for boaters as well as creating reed swamp habitat and giving shelter to over-wintering birds.

The plans were based on methods used by British forces in Afghanistan for making barricades. Cages filled with soil and rock were interlocked to form a boundary. The Broads Authority's dredger then removed sediment from Heigham Sound and used it to fill in the centre of the island.

The dredger was surrounded by an impermeable silt curtain to limit the release of nutrients into the main waterway and reduce the risk of an outbreak of *Prymnesium* algae which

can prove toxic to fish. Water quality was tested in three locations on a daily and weekly basis and levels remained well below the trigger level throughout.

The island will be monitored for a year and, if the trial stage is successful and Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency agree, the whole island measuring about one hectare (2.3 acres) will be restored.

Director of Waterways Trudi Wakelin said: "Whilst we are thrilled at the success of the initial stage of the scheme, we are really looking forward to dredging much larger amounts of sediment from Heigham Sound to enable waterways specifications to be met and improve conditions for sailors. This is likely to happen early in 2012, subject to approval."

Heigham Sound, which leads to Hickling Broad and Horsey Mere, has silted up to a depth of 90 cm in places, resulting in some traditional Broads sailing cruisers going aground. However, until the island project was devised, dredging had been held up because a disposal site for the sediment could not be found.

### Adjacent waters Have you complied?

From 1 April this year boats moored in adjacent waters have been subject to the same laws as boats kept on the main navigation system.

This means they must be registered, display a toll licence, carry third party insurance and, if appropriate, comply with the Boat Safety Scheme.

Broads Authority navigation rangers and volunteers are currently surveying all adjacent waters, noting boat owners who have not complied.

The surveys began in the areas of Brundall and Stalham, where the potential for fire and explosion could have a serious impact on densely moored neighbouring boats.

If any boat owner is in doubt about the requirements contact Angie Leeper at the Broads Authority on 01603 610734 or Broads Control on 01603 756056.







# Cantley celebrates new riverside amenity



## A new slipway, moorings and improved riverside access have opened at Cantley on the River Yare

The derelict village staithe has been transformed into an attractive community area for picnicking, fishing, mooring and launching boats.

A floating pontoon can accommodate seven permanent moorings and two moorings for visitors using the slipway. Part of it is specially designed to take wheelchairs.

A section of dyke has been filled in to create a surfaced launching area for the slipway. It is one of only two free public slipways on the Yare and lies between two water ski zones. The 300 yard road from Cantley railway station to the staithe has been resurfaced.

The £300,000 project was instigated by the parish council and funded by partners including the Broads Authority which contributed £20,000 plus match-funding in kind through the use of its Projects and Dredging Teams. The pontoon was financed by a £20,000 grant from the Broads Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, a grant from Broadland District Council and a donation from Hardley 100 Club.

The redevelopment of the staithe has been carried out as part of flood alleviation work along the River Yare. An extra piece of land has been leased to the parish council by British Sugar and landscaped.

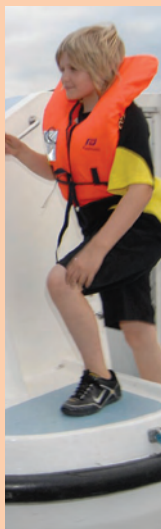
The Broads Authority has implemented the surfacing work, built picnic tables and seating and planted trees provided by Broadland District Council. The staithe will be managed by the newly formed Cantley Staithe Charitable Association which aims to promote the safe use of the river for everyone.

Robert Beadle, Chairman of the Parish Council, said: "For many years we have sat by the river with no access to it. But at last we have a beautiful and safe area where people can sit and picnic, fish and launch their boats. I am sure it will give many years of pleasure and will be a facility that the residents of Cantley can be proud of."

## Safety first

Statistics have shown that the most hazardous time when boating is while embarking and disembarking.

Twenty two people received hospital treatment last year and eight of their injuries were caused when getting on and off boats. Eleven people reported similar injuries the year before.



Here are a few safety tips to consider:

- Always step off - don't jump
- Take a lifejacket
- Wear flat, non slip shoes or boots
- Take extra care on informal moorings - be aware of uneven ground
- Beware of tripping over ropes
- Always take a torch at night.

## Super Safety Days a great success



Five Super Safety Days held throughout the Broads this summer have proved such a success that only a quarter of the craft were pulled over in September as in April.

In April, 25 boats were pulled over at St Benet's Abbey, while in September on the same moorings only six were stopped. A total of 100 boats, made up equally of private and hire craft, were stopped for non display of tolls, speeding and unruly behaviour. There was a high level of compliance with the Boat Safety Scheme and third party insurance which is a new requirement this year.

Navigation rangers and safety staff did spot checks on boats on short visits, measured and calibrated boats and dealt

with incidents reported to them by river users, leading to some prosecutions. They gave free boat safety checks to boats already moored, providing advice, particularly on the safe storage of fuel and portable gas appliances.

Head ranger Adrian Vernon said: "We have had nothing but support from boaters and anglers. Navigation rangers are held in high esteem and people like the meet and greet approach to get expert advice."

Half the boats were stopped for non display of tolls. Navigation rangers sold £300 worth of tolls from the river bank. A total of 36 boats were stopped for speed and creating wash and 39 written warnings were given.