

# Navigation Committee

21 October 2021

Agenda item number 9

## Construction Maintenance and Ecology work programme progress update

Report by Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology, and Ecology & Design Supervisor

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### Purpose

To give an update on the Broads Authority's management activities to maintain the public navigation, develop mooring facilities for public use and demonstrate the effective use of available resources.

### Broads Plan context

Construction, Maintenance and Ecology (CME) activities contribute to multiple objectives, in particular to Aspirations 3, 4 and 6 to manage sediment sustainably, maintain a safe open navigation, and maintain the access network and visitor facilities.

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## 1. Maintaining water depths for navigation

- 1.1. The detailed breakdown in Appendix 1 gives the total volumes for the annual dredging programme for the whole of 2021/22 to the end of August 2021. A total of 13,560 m<sup>3</sup> of dredged sediment was removed from the prioritised sites. This figure represents 58% of the programmed target of 23,490 m<sup>3</sup> for this year.
- 1.2. The summer dredge campaign in the River Waveney was completed for the sections of main river dredged from Beccles to Geldeston. A slightly greater volume was removed than predicted from the main river areas, and this meant that the capacity in the sediment storage area was reached before any dredging could be carried out along the stretch of Geldeston Dyke towards the boatyard. The plant and equipment were subsequently moved to the Upper Thurne to complete the final phase of the Chara Bay project funded through CANAPE, the EU funded Interreg project. The work here is largely focussed on topping up the sediment on top of the geotextile bags prior to planting with reed rhizomes gained from the restoration of an old dyke on Norfolk Wildlife Trust land along Deep Dyke. Dredging in Oulton Broad has been extended until mid-October which accounts for the later start date. We are also on track for achieving more dredge volume than planned, as productivity has been good over the summer months.

- 1.3. The two remaining projects of dredging upstream of Martham Ferry to Somerton Staithe [NTM 08 2021 - Dredging Upper Thurne](#) and on the River Chet between Loddon and Hardley Flood [NTM 09 2021 - Dredging River Chet](#) are on track with the project planning with start dates of mid-October and early November respectively.

## 2. Maintaining safe public mooring facilities

- 2.1. At Commissioners Cut, 24 hour mooring, the tender for repiling from the existing Standing List of Contractors is due to close on 8 October. A new design and site layout aims to widen the Cut by two metres, to allow mooring on either side for the entire length of the mooring. Works are due to be completed by the end of February 2022, subject to successful tendering and installation processes.

## 3. Our resources

- 3.1. Two Trainee Operations Technicians, who had previously been Apprentices up to September 2020, have been successfully appointed to permanent positions within the CME section. Becky Rimmer has started as an Operations Technician following the retirement of Malcolm Farrow from the Maintenance Team. Emily Leonard has also started in a new role of Project Support Officer, working across the Construction, Maintenance, Ecology and Fitter teams to bring additional resource for project planning and implementation across a range of navigation, conservation and recreational work.
- 3.2. In August, we took delivery of a new heavy duty boat trailer with hydraulic legs. This new piece of kit adds flexibility to our repair and maintenance capabilities at the Dockyard. The trailer enables all our launches, small/mid-sized work boats and water plant harvesters to be moved and then positioned so that the trailer can be removed and used elsewhere. Vessels can now be moved to different parts of the dockyard, into the workshops or covered work tent, for maintenance, painting or repair.
- 3.3. Appendix 2 gives the planned proportion of Operations Technicians' time to be spent on the different navigation work types through 2021/22 and the progress reported up to the end of August 2021. As expected, dredging work has continued and forms the bulk of work directed at managing the waterways. Water plant cutting total days over the summer is possibly going to be slightly less than planned come the end of the season, so some of this time can be released for the mooring maintenance work over the winter.

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions: 2.1; 2.3; 3.1; 3.2; 4.2; 6.1

Appendix 1 – Annual dredging figures 2021-22

Appendix 2 – Percentage of operational staff time spent on navigation work types

## Appendix 1 – Annual dredging figures 2021-22

| Project title   | Active Broad<br>Authority<br>dredging weeks<br>completed/<br>planned | Planned<br>volume<br>removed m <sup>3</sup> | Actual<br>volume<br>removed<br>m <sup>3</sup> | Planned<br>annual project<br>cost <sup>1</sup> | Actual project<br>cost |
|---|--|---|---|--|------------------------|
| <b>River Waveney</b><br>Beccles to Geldeston (June-Sept)                                    | 13/17  | 6,000                                       | 6,910   | 121,260  | 85,060                 |
| <b>River Waveney</b><br>Oulton Broad to Peto's Marsh (May-Aug)                              | 13/13  | 6,000                                       | 6,650   | 119,230  | 94,770                 |
| <b>River Thurne</b><br>Martham to Somerton, sediment to Hickling (Sept-Jan)                 | 0/13   | 3,490                                       | 0   | 85,480   | 40                     |
| <b>River Chet</b><br>Loddon to Hardley Flood bank (Nov-Feb)                                 | 0/15   | 8,000                                       | 0   | 112,360  | 770                    |
| <b>Site Restoration</b><br>Waveney - Beccles, Rockland Short Dyke, Bure - Six<br>Mile House | -  | -   | -   | 19,340   | 5,020                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>26/58</b>   | <b>23,490</b>                               | <b>13,560</b>                                 | <b>457,670</b>                                 | <b>185,660</b>         |

<sup>1</sup> project costs include staff time for all elements (pre-works ecological mitigation, site set-up, active dredging & site restoration); BA plant; & budgetary expenditure (equipment hire, survey costs, contractor costs, mitigation works, materials & consumables etc); within the reporting period.

## Appendix 2 – Percentage of operational staff time spent on navigation work types (2021-22) to end August 2021

| Navigation work type          | Staff days planned (2021-2022) Days | Staff days planned (2021-2022) % of annual total | Staff days worked (April 2021 to end August 2021) Days | Staff days worked (April 2021 to end August 2021) % of annual total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Dredging                      | 1843                                | 60.5   | 702  | 23.0  |
| Mooring maintenance & repairs | 626                                 | 20.6   | 193  | 6.0   |
| Riverside tree management     | 180                                 | 5.9  | 0  | 0   |
| Aquatic plant cutting         | 230                                 | 7.6  | 131  | 4.0   |
| Other navigation works        | 165                                 | 5.4  | 127  | 4.0   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>3044</b>                         |  | <b>1153</b>  |   |