

# Navigation Committee

06 November 2025

Agenda item number 6

## Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Chief Executive

---

### Purpose

To provide a briefing on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways.

### Broads Plan context

All strategic actions under Theme C: Maintaining and enhancing the navigation.

---

## Contents

1.	Oulton Broad Accident	1
2.	Floating pennywort	2
3.	Ludham Bridge moorings	2
4.	Navigation patrolling and performance targets	2
5.	Sunken and abandoned vessel update	3
6.	Planning enforcement update	3
	Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis	4
	Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days	6
	Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 14 October 2025	8
	Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 04 September 2025	9

## 1. Oulton Broad Accident

- 1.1. Following on from the report at the last meeting of the Committee we understand that East Suffolk Council is nearing completion of its investigation into the fatal power boat accident on Oulton Broad.

## 2. Floating pennywort

- 2.1. Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) is a non-native invasive plant which can smother ponds, dykes and rivers, severely damaging aquatic ecosystems and hindering navigation. It can grow from even the smallest fragments. Staff and volunteers have been vigilant in locating and removing it.
- 2.2. It was introduced to the UK in the 1980s as an ornamental plant for garden ponds but grows into large floating mats of dense foliage and smothers waterways. It is so damaging to native flora and fauna that it is listed under [Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#), meaning that while it is not illegal to grow it, it is an offence to cause it to spread. Since 2014, it has also been banned from sale in the UK.
- 2.3. Floating pennywort can float on the water surface and root in bank edges, including through cracks in quay heading. It can rapidly reproduce from seeds or small fragments of plant that are disturbed through construction works or transported by boats. The species has recently been identified in Limekiln Dyke, the northern section of Barton Broad and many of the channels upstream of the Broad along the River Ant.
- 2.4. Norfolk County Council have coordinated the effort on non-native species focusing on sites outside the navigation while the Authority's staff and volunteers check and remove anything in the navigation area.
- 2.5. A meeting of the Floating Pennywort Steering Group will be held on 11 November to discuss a coordinated approach. That group includes the Environment Agency, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Internal Drainage Board, Norfolk County Council, the RSPB as well as the Broads Authority. We will update the Committee on progress.
- 2.6. Further information about the species can be found here:

[How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK](#)

[Nonnativespecies.org/Floating Pennywort](https://nonnativespecies.org/Floating-Pennywort)

## 3. Ludham Bridge moorings

- 3.1. We are making good progress on the potential transfer of the ownership of the Ludham Bridge mooring from the Environment Agency to the Authority. This has long been an ambition with the Authority's commitment to bringing this site up to our 24-hour mooring standard, once transferred. We will update the Committee on the latest position at the meeting.

## 4. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 4.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1 and reflects the busy period. The average navigation/countryside splits since April (Appendix 2) are higher on the navigation side as would be expected during the summer when patrolling is a priority.

## 5. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 5.1. The sunken, abandoned and unserviceable vessels update is included in Appendix 3. A number of vessels have been recovered and removed from the water over this period.

## 6. Planning enforcement update

- 6.1. There are no further enforcement matters with navigation implications to report.

Author: John Packman

Date of report: 24 October 2025

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions: Theme C

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties total time allocated and actual days

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 14 October 2025  
14/10/2025

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 04/09/2025

## Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

**Table 1**

<b>Verbal warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b> Wroxham and upper Bure	<b>Irstead launch</b> Ant	<b>Ludham launch</b> Hickling, Potter Heigham, upper Thurne	<b>Ludham launch 2</b> lower Thurne and lower Bure	<b>Norwich launch</b> Norwich and upper Yare	<b>Hardley Launch</b> Reedham, Chet and middle Yare	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b> Oulton Broad and upper/middle Waveney	<b>Breydon launch</b> Breydon water, lower Waveney and Yare
Care and caution	117	13	52	40	16	14	11	6
Speed	2101	683	123	440	108	67	55	41
Other	154	71	16	9	157	21	17	126

**Table 2**

<b>Written warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b>	<b>Irstead launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch 2</b>	<b>Norwich launch</b>	<b>Hardley Launch</b>	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b>	<b>Breydon launch</b>
Care and caution		1		1				
Speed	15	6			2		2	2
Other	2	15	12	9	3	10	5	4
Special directions	119	44		46	20	47	191	59

**Table 3**

Launch patrols	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Launch staffed by ranger	182	130	126	144	146	111	126	183
Volunteer patrols		6					2	
IRIS reports	3	5		8	7	2	8	2

**Table 4**

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	13,152
VHF	1,496
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,559</b>

## Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days

**Table 1**

Broads Authority corporate duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Training	112	56.82
Broads Control	401	212.23
Team meetings, work planning	243	136.82
Partnership working	61	8.04
Assisting other sections	74	17.16
Billets and boatsheds	35	12.16
Launch – general		12.03
Trailers - general		0.00
Vehicle maintenance		4.32
Other equipment repair		4.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>463.65</b>

**Table 2**

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	1660	1210.78
Escorts	37	17.84
Prosecution files	0	17.77
Bankside tree management	80	20.34
Obstruction removal	42	20.17
Channel markers and buoys	25	10.47
Signs and boards maintenance	43	28.24
Adjacent waters	86	70.68
Reactive mooring maintenance	100	25.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>1435.99</b>

**Table 3**

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Annual allocation (days)</b>	<b>Actual days to date</b>
Fen management	168	16.55
Lake, riverbank restoration	99	0.00
Invasive species control	42	3.78
Other conservation work	168	33.24
Pollution response		0.81
Visitor site maintenance	188	128.98
Public Engagement	110	45.61
Public footpath work	69	20.74
Education work	38	15.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>265.26</b>

**Team total up to 08 October 2025**

Percentage Navigation: 84%

Percentage National Park: 16%

## Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 14 October 2025

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	Old River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Trowse	Vessel sunk behind bridge fenders	Yes	Not affecting the navigation
Auxiliary Yacht	Barton Turf	Vessel sunk at wild moorings	Yes	Vessel removed
Speedboat	Hoveton	Owner unknown	Yes	Vessel removed
Auxiliary Yacht	Ludham Staithe	Owner unknown	Yes	Vessel removed
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Whitlingham	Owner unknown	Yes	Found drifting, vessel recovered to Dockyard
Motor Cruiser	Sutton Broad	Owner unknown	Yes	Vessel removed
Auxiliary Yacht	Lower Bure, Yarmouth	Vessel sunk	Yes	Vessel recovered

### Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 04 September 2025

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Aux Yacht x 2		£260.00	£160.00	£136.96
Unregistered vessel x 1	£100.00			
Unpaid Toll x 1	£120.00			
No Insurance	£180.00			