

Breydon Water
Water Ski Zone Designation
Report by Director of Operations

Summary: This report updates members on progress in discussing the implementation of the agreed water ski zone on Breydon Water.

Recommendation: That members note the further discussions which have been held and endorse the assessment as set out in Section 3, subject to any further comments from Natural England, which will be reported verbally at the meeting.

1 Background

1.1 At the January Broads Authority meeting members received a report and presentation setting out the responses to the consultation on a proposed designation of a water ski zone on Breydon Water on the basis of the agreement at the previous meeting on 23 November 2012 (Minute 3/13). It was noted that the majority of the responses received had been positive and it was resolved:

- (i) that a temporary designation of the water ski zone with the limitations proposed would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site within the meaning of the Habitats Regulations;
- (ii) that a zone for water skiing on Breydon Water may therefore be designated for a trial period of at least one year commencing from 1 April 2013 as set out in Appendix B of the report;
- (iii) that the proposed zone would be used for water skiing and a form of wakeboarding including/or involving manoeuvres and momentarily leaving the surface of the water for the trial period of one year; and
- (iv) that the implementation of this decision is subject to further details on the monitoring processes and the costs and benefits of designation involved being brought back to the Authority for consideration at its meeting in March 2013

2 Progress

2.1 At the November meeting members had considered two options for taking forward the designation of a zone, including an evidence based approach which would require detailed monitoring and modelling, or a pragmatic and precautionary approach with further restrictions applied. At that time, it was agreed that an evidence based

approach was consistent with the Authority's general approach to issues, and that therefore this should be further investigated.

- 2.2 During the January 3013 meeting members were advised that the possible costs of monitoring could be in the order of £35,000 - £100,000 and also noted that the results of such work may not be conclusive. As a result of this it was agreed that further discussions were required to consider the best way forward, and that a proportionate approach was required.
- 2.3 A further meeting was held with Natural England on 1 March 2013 where the assessment process was discussed.
- 2.4 It was agreed that, if the Authority could identify the level of historic use of waterskiing on the site, and ensure that the proposed use would not exceed these levels, then it may be possible to conclude no significant adverse affect on the features of the site, and therefore that additional external monitoring need not be required.

3 Assessment

- 3.1 Following this advice, the Authority has completed further investigations including discussions with the Eastern Rivers Ski Club and individual water skiers. This has identified the historic level of use (last five years) and been compared with potential use given the agreed tide restrictions, and an assumed factor to take account of adverse weather conditions.

Months	Reported frequency	Reported use	Potential Evenings (after 4pm)	Potential Weekend days	Applied Tide restrictions (Eve, after 4pm)	Applied Tide restrictions (w/e days)
March	Every w/e day	10	20	10	nil	6
April – October	Every w/e day 30+ times 2x per week Every Sunday plus am/pm	60 30 62 30 62	156	60	98	39
Nov - Feb	2x per month	8	nil	34	nil	23
Maximum potential uses			176	104	98	68
Suitable Weather factor	-20%		280		166	
Grand total		262			132	

Members will note that the identified potential is approximately 50% of the previous reported level of activity.

- 3.2 Additionally, the agreed trial zone is also recognised as being a 59% reduction on the area which has previously been used for the activity.

- 3.3 In the light of this, and additional control measures including year round patrolling, and requiring all skiers to book on with Broads Control, as well as applying the standard suite of conditions which apply to waterskiing generally, officers have concluded that there is no likely significant effect on the interest features of the site.
- 3.4 An updated report has therefore been submitted to Natural England for their consideration. A verbal update will be presented at the meeting.

Background papers: Broads Authority Reports on Transfer of Breydon Water and Breydon Water waterski zone designation 13 July 2012, November 2012, January 2013

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Broads Plan Objectives: NA4.1, NA5

Appendices: None