

Boat Census 2014 Report

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report summarises the results of the 2014 Boat Census and provides an overview of boat movements around 14 designated census points located at specific points round the Broads network.

Members' comments on the report are welcomed.

1 Background to the Boat Census

- 1.1 A boat census recording boat movements around the Broads has been undertaken by the Broads Authority every four years since 1986. The census notes numbers and types of vessel as well as their general direction of travel from 14 pre-defined and specific locations within the Broads navigation area at half hourly intervals. A census point location plan is at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The census is carried out on three days commencing the third Sunday in August and the subsequent Tuesday and Thursday during the period 0900 hrs to 1800 hrs each day. This long term data set is valuable in identifying trends in usage and makeup of the fleet on the Broads.

2 2014 Census and Analysis

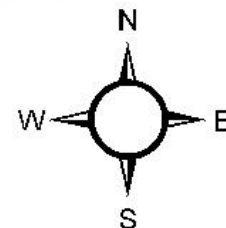
- 2.1 A total of 66 people – made up of BA Officers and BA Volunteers – were actively involved in collecting data for the 2014 Census along with continued support throughout the three days from both Waterways and Recreation Officers.
- 2.2 The weather was kind to the majority of census takers with pleasant temperatures (around 17-19°C) and calm conditions.
- 2.3 Analysis of the census also highlights vessel movements across Breydon Water at low tide. Out of a total of 146 vessel movements recorded on 17 August 2014, 39 vessels were recorded heading towards Breydon between 9am and 10.30am. 47 vessels were recorded to be travelling out from Breydon in the same period and this shows that 59% of movement for this day was recorded within this time period. Further details of the results can be found on the Authority's website at <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/broads-authority/committees/navigation-committee/navigation-committee-26-february-2015>

3 Key Findings

- 3.1 When the figures are compared to the 2010 Boat Census, it is evident that there has been slight increase in boat movements within the Broads river system on the census days with a total of 11,933 vessels noted by the end of play on the third day compared to 11,728 in 2010.
- 3.2 Whilst there has been a drop in the number of hired motor cruisers recorded, there has been an increase in hired out board dinghies and launches. Also encouraging is the increase in smaller non-powered craft such as canoes and row boats, whose usage has increased by over 60% in the last four years.
- 3.3 With regards to vessel movements, the figures reflect the usual high traffic areas such as Wroxham and Horning along with Irstead Staithe, Thurne Mouth and Oulton Broad showing high numbers of movement.
- 3.4 The northern rivers showed a much higher percentage of vessels on the river with 73% of traffic being recorded by the Northern River Census takers.
- 3.5 As in 2010, the southern rivers accounted for a smaller percentage of traffic. However the increase shown in traffic movement in 2010 has decreased again resulting in a 6% drop in traffic numbers compared to 2010.

Background papers:	Nil
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Broads Plan Objectives:	None
Appendices:	APPENDIX 1- Location of census points

Location of Census Points



Location of Boat Census Sites

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