

Navigation Committee

13 January 2022

Agenda item number 6

Summary of actions and outstanding issues following discussions at previous meetings

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
Network Rail Whole Life Strategy	19/10/2017	John Packman	Network Rail Whole Life Strategy planning for swing bridges and replacing Trowse Swing Bridge with fixed bridge.	<p>Dec 2020: Update provided in CEO report (14/01/2021): Authority officers are involved in meetings to discuss the future of Trowse Swing Bridge and the development opportunities in East Norwich presented by three large brownfield sites, namely the Carrow Works, the Deal Ground and the Utilities Site. The Chief Executive and Director of Operations are members of a working group looking at the Trowse Bridge (along with Network Rail, Abellio Greater Anglia, Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council and New Anglia). The Head of Planning and the Senior Planning Officer sit on another group looking at the development sites. There is an important relationship between the two issues and our officers are making sure that navigation interests are considered.</p> <p>Mar 2021: Director of Operations met with Network Rail (NR) to discuss the multi-million pound refurbishment of the swing bridges (Reedham, Somerleyton & Oulton due to commence in 2022. The NR scheme will see the lifting and turning mechanisms replaced to make the operation of opening and closing the swing bridges more reliable. At the start up meeting, the BA asked if the thermal expansion to the bridges in warm weather could also be addressed. This is being considered by NR. The BA is working with NR on communications, work planning and managing the navigation.</p> <p>July 2021: Director of Operations met with Network Rail contractors undertaking the swing bridge refurbishment to discuss the initial navigational requirements of the works. The refurbishment has been further complicated by the timing of the track closure, which will coincide with the school Easter holidays in 2022. The BA continues to advise on construction and navigational matters.</p> <p>Sep 2021: Network Rail's repair work of the swing bridges delayed to October 2022. Design work to commence beginning October 2021.</p>	
Planning application with navigation implications: BA/2018/0466/FUL – Land at Burgh Castle – BFAP Compartment 34	17/01/2019	Rob Rogers	Lease arrangements and repiling at Burgh Castle for reinstatement of free 24-hour moorings.	<p>Following exempt paper considered at Navigation Committee and Broads Authority, officers presented landowner with options on alternative Burgh Castle mooring site, based on recommendations in exempt report.</p> <p>16 Jan 2020: Members supported 99-year lease agreement, including BA taking on full responsibility for piling structure.</p> <p>21 Jan 2020: Management Team agreed 99-year lease at peppercorn rent and for BA to take full responsibility for piling structure at Burgh Castle moorings.</p> <p>27 May 2020: Development and improvements at Belton Reach (new name for Burgh Castle's moved mooring location) progressing from operational planning perspective, but project deferred to 2021/22 due to Covid-19 impact on funding issues.</p>	30/06/2021

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				<p>15 Dec 2020: Following funding review by Environment Agency, plans to pile original Burgh Castle mooring site reinstated - EA negotiating site access with landowner with view to start pilings works this winter. Separate negotiation taking place between BA and landowner to agree terms of lease for site to enable operation as BA 24-hour free mooring.</p> <p>30 Mar 2021: Environment Agency contractors on site and repiling of Burgh Castle underway. Summary discussions held with landowner's solicitor and draft lease for site under consideration.</p> <p>17 May 2021: Environment Agency completed piling and installing new timber to pile tops. BA sorting lease details with landowner, so when site works are finished it can reopen mooring site - projected timescale is late June 2021.</p> <p>July 2021: Re-piling of Burgh Castle mooring completed. The legal agreement between the BA and the landowner is with the landowner's Solicitor. The BA is awaiting the completed document and the site can then be re-opened as a BA 24 hour mooring.</p> <p>Dec 2021: A legal issue raised by the Environment Agency's legal department has delayed this process, which in turn has stalled the signing of the lease between the BA and the landowner. The BA are currently seeking clarification from the EA on how they wish to resolve the matter.</p>	
Landscapes Review	16/01/2020	John Packman	Navigation Committee asked to comment on BA's proposed response to Landscapes Review (Glover report) - to be reported to BA meeting on 31 Jan 2020.	<p>31 Jan 20: BA report on Landscapes Review Proposal 27: A new financial model – more money, more secure, more enterprising; "unnecessary complexities, such as the requirement for the Broads Authority to account for income and expenditure from National Park Grant separately ... should be addressed." BA draft response is that it would be a Government decision whether to combine the finances and the BA would await the Government's response.</p> <p>Dec 2020: Still awaiting Government response.</p> <p>May 2021: Written Ministerial Statement expected in late May/early June.</p> <p>24 Jun 2021: Ministerial Statement released. The Government will address the Landscape Review's recommendations in full and consult on draft proposals later this year.</p> <p>Oct 2021: Government response expected to be published in Dec.</p> <p>Dec 2021: Government response delayed until January 2022.</p>	
Carrow Road Bridge Repairs	15/04/2021	John Packman	Briefing provided at Navigation Committee meeting in April, outlining Norfolk County Council's proposals for the repair of Carrow Road bridge. Further information is awaited from the County Council.	<p>10 Jun 2021: report on the Carrow Road bridge repairs presented to members with the Norfolk County Council (NCC) options report.</p> <p>The Navigation Committee is of the view that NCC's proposal to carry out a minimal repair to Carrow Road bridge, effectively welding it shut so it is unable to open to tall vessels, is totally unacceptable. It would be contrary to NCC's legal obligations under the Norwich Corporation Act 1920, which are to maintain and operate the bridge to allow vessels that require passage to pass. In our view, officers should refuse any Works Licence application for this superficial repair work and NCC should be encouraged to perform repairs in a way that maintains navigation rights to this historic and important gateway to Norwich, in accordance with the legislation. The Broads Authority would like to work with NCC to find a solution that meets the statutory obligations of both organisations.</p> <p>Aug 2021: The Chief Executive and Director of Operations met with officers of Norfolk County Council on 17 August to discuss the road bridge repairs following the report to Navigation Committee and NCC wanting to temporarily seal the bridge close for 5 years. The BA is offering collaborative working to find an agreeable solution that protects the rights of navigation.</p> <p>Oct 2021: No further update from NCC. RR and JP to arrange a future meeting with NCC (as reported at NC211021)</p>	10/06/2021

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				<p>Dec 2021: Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and The Broads Authority met on 8 December to discuss the works proposal submitted for licensing. An update is made in the Chief Executive's report, item 7 on the 13 January 2022 Navigation Committee agenda.</p>	

Date of report: 13 December 2021