

# Navigation Committee

16 April 2026

Agenda item number 7

## 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 Swing Bridge £10 million refurbishment programme	19/10/2017	John Packman	Network Rail Whole Life Strategy planning for swing bridges.	<p>Historical updates (date range October 2019 to April 2024) have been removed. All historical updates can be found in previous versions of the Summary of Actions and Outstanding Issues available via the committee papers on the <a href="#">Broads Authority website</a>.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> Network Rail confirmed that the work to the Somerleyton and Reedham swing bridges was complete. Work included extensive brickwork repairs to reinforce the control boxes, a full upgrade to the electrical system, a full upgrade and replacement of the manual winch system to enable the bridge to be swung open manually by the bridge operator if there was a problem with the machinery, and replacement of the navigation lights. What was not clear was whether, as part of the scheme, the lifting equipment and jacks within the control box had been completed and the Authority was waiting to receive confirmation from Network Rail.</p> <p>Network Rail had been unable to go ahead with the Oulton swing bridge repairs as they were more substantial than first thought.</p> <p><b>May 2024:</b> Network Rail have confirmed that they are continuing to look at ways in which, in the long term, they might be able to address the issue of the two Swing Bridge thermally expanding and not being operable in very hot weather. However, these are likely to entail structural works and will require additional funding, so they do not currently have a timeline for this.</p> <p>For the time being, they have instead undertaken a smaller, though still significant, set of works. Together with a consistent maintenance regime, these will prevent the bridges from deteriorating and make failures less likely.</p> <p><b>June 2024:</b> As agreed in Navigation Committee meeting on 06/06/2024, historic updates have been removed up until April 2024 updates.</p>	

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				<p><b>January 2026:</b> Network Rail have advised they will be replacing the slew motor on Oulton Bridge. Due to this the bridge will be out of action at some point in February. Dates yet to be confirmed.</p> <p><b>March 2026:</b> Refurbishment work on Oulton Bridge has been completed.</p>	
Carrow Road Bridge Repairs	15/04/2021	John Packman	Briefing provided at Navigation Committee meeting in April 2021, outlining Norfolk County Council's proposals for the repair of Carrow Road bridge. Further information is awaited from the County Council.	<p>Historical updates (date range October 2019 to April 2024) have been removed. All historical updates can be found in previous versions of the Summary of Actions and Outstanding Issues available via the committee papers on the <a href="#">Broads Authority website</a>.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> It is understood that some repairs have been carried out and the bridge was fit for purpose at present.</p> <p><b>June 2024:</b> No further update. As agreed in Navigation Committee meeting on 06/06/2024, historic updates have been removed up until April 2024 updates.</p> <p><b>August 2024:</b> Norfolk County Council reported that repairs were due to take place to the Bridge on 22 August 2024.</p> <p><b>September 2024:</b> The council carried out urgent repairs to the surface of the road.</p> <p><b>August 2025:</b> Repairs were undertaken to the timber decking following an inspection which identified some defects in the bridge's timber.</p> <p><b>March 2026:</b> No updates to report.</p>	10/06/2021
Funding the waterways of the Broads National Park	11/01/2024	John Packman	To track the progress on making the case for central Government funding to support the maintenance of the Broads waterways.	<p><b>January 2024:</b> The paper was presented to the committee on 11 Jan. 2024 and received unanimous support to endorse the paper for adoption by the Broads Authority. On 26 Jan. 2024, the Broads Authority unanimously endorsed the paper and supported the Chair in writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment.</p> <p><b>March 2024:</b> Funding paper sent to the Minister and a response received on 18 March.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> As reported at the Navigation Committee on 11 April, the Minister confirmed that the Government remained committed to supporting the vital role Protected Landscapes play in protecting our precious wildlife, and the importance they have for tourism, the regional economy, and public access. The Minister was optimistic that a more sustainable funding model for our Protected Landscapes could be developed.</p> <p><b>June 2024:</b> As discussed at the Navigation Committee meeting held on 6 June 2024, the Chair would write to the Minister again following the General Election.</p> <p><b>August 2024:</b> Broads Authority Chair has written to the new Minister.</p>	

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				<p><b>November 2024:</b> No reply received from the Minister, however, the Chair and Chief Executive are trying to set up a meeting with the Minister in the near future to discuss the issue face-to-face.</p> <p><b>March 2025:</b> No response to date. Officers raised the matter on 13 January as part of the Defra Annual Review.</p> <p><b>August 2025:</b> Defra has provided the Authority with flexibility in the use of National Park capital funding. The Change Control Notice stated the following:  “The capital grant and any income derived from the expenditure is to be treated as National Park income and must be used in furtherance of section 2(1)(a) and (b) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988. Any such income may be applied to an expenditure that incidentally supports Section 2(1)(c) provided the primary aim of the expenditure remains the pursuit of Section 2(1)(a) and (b)”.  Section 2(1) (b) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act states:  <i>It shall be the general duty of the Authority to manage the Broads for the purposes of: (b) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public,</i>  The argument accepted by Defra is that improving access to and from the water is one of the main ways the public enjoy the special qualities of the Broads.</p> <p><b>January 2026:</b> Programme on track to spend capital funding.</p> <p><b>March 2026:</b> Update on <a href="#">capital funding progress</a> presented to Broads Authority, 27 February 2026.</p>	
Haven Bridge	06/06/2024	John Packman	The Great Yarmouth Ports Leisure Users meeting on 2 April had a long discussion regarding the problems with the Haven Bridge. There is a dispute between Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council regarding opening the bridge which is having an adverse impact on commercial and private boat owners based in the Broads.	<p><b>June 2024:</b> The Chief Executive has been in touch with the CEO at Norfolk County Council to help facilitate a way forward between the two parties - Norfolk County Council and Peel Ports.</p> <p><b>July 2024:</b> Temporary arrangements agreed by Peel Ports and Norfolk County Council have allowed the bridge to open. The Monitoring Officer has written to the Great Yarmouth Port Authority reminding it of its statutory duties.</p> <p><b>August 2024:</b> Response received from Great Yarmouth Port Authority and meeting to be arranged to discuss Haven Bridge.</p> <p>September 2024: Great Yarmouth Port Authority wrote to the Chief Executive to defer the meeting until they have had their AGM on 18 September.</p> <p><b>14 November 2024:</b> Meeting with users on lifting arrangements. Peel Ports proposed that charges be introduced for lifting the bridge and the Port Users Group would formulate a response to that proposal.</p>	

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				<p><b>January 2025:</b> A letter, dated 19 December 2024, had been sent to the Port Users Group from Great Yarmouth Port Authority which indicated that the proposed lift charge would not be applied for 2025. The wider issue of the operation of the bridge and its lifting remained outstanding.</p> <p><b>March 2025:</b> The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer met with Peel Ports on 19 February and covered a range of issues.</p> <p><b>December 2025:</b> Norfolk County Council has given notice that Haven Bridge would be closed for two weeks from 1 December 2025 to carry out further repairs which included the replacement of barriers and repairs to the paths, parapets, and all timber blocks on the bridge deck.</p> <p><b>March 2026:</b> No further update to report.</p>	
Boat Safety Scheme Compliance	04/09/2025	Bill Housden	Amend the Authority's Byelaws, to require a current Boat Safety Certificate to be held in respect of vessels, other than seagoing freight vessels, as a condition of using the navigation area and adjacent waters for the purposes of safety.	<p><b>October 2025:</b> Solicitors instructed to proceed with drafting byelaw.</p> <p><b>January 2026:</b> Awaiting draft byelaw from solicitors.</p> <p><b>March 2026:</b> Solicitors have provided advice on next steps, officers to meet and discuss.</p>	
Insurance Requirements	04/09/2025	Bill Housden	Seek a legal opinion as to whether Paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 of the 2009 Broads Authority Act includes wreck removal insurance.	<p><b>October 2025:</b> Solicitors instructed to seek legal opinion.</p> <p><b>January 2026:</b> Opinion from Counsel has now been received as to whether the Authority could make wreck removal a requirement of insurance. Legal opinion was clear that the Authority did not have this power under current legislation, however, it may be possible to include this when any changes to the legislation were made.</p> <p><b>March 2026:</b> Item Closed.</p>	

Date of report: 31 March 2026