

Navigation Committee

04 September 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.	Accident at Oulton Broad	2
2.	National Park Capital Programme	2
3.	Update on General Direction	3
4.	Navigation patrolling and performance targets	3
5.	Sunken and abandoned vessel update	4
6.	Planning enforcement update	4
	Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis	5
	Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days	7
	Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 13 August 2025	9
	Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 03 April 2025	11
	Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 03 April 2025	13
	Appendix 6 – Ranger logs – 2024/25	14

1. Accident at Oulton Broad

- 1.1. Members will be aware of an incident during the powerboat racing at Oulton Broad on Thursday 24 July 2025 which resulted in the death of one of the competitors. East Suffolk Council (ESC) is carrying out an investigation and the Authority has taken the decision to suspend racing while we await the outcome of this. No timescale has yet been given, but officers from the Authority have been in contact with ESC over this.

2. National Park Capital Programme

- 2.1. The Authority has been allocated £1.3 million of capital funding, and Table 1 below shows the progress made to date.
- 2.2. Critically Defra has provided the Authority with flexibility in the use of National Park capital funding.
- 2.3. The Change Control Notice states 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)”.

- 2.4. Section 2(1) (b) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act states:

*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;*

- 2.5. 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.

Table 1: National Park Capital Programme 2025/26

Project	Priority	Indicative cost	Progress
Purchase of land	1	Confidential	
Acle Bridge enhancement	2	£95,000	PID produced and kick-off meeting set in June. Sharepoint site set up
Improvements to Great Yarmouth Yacht Station - showers etc.	2	£50,000	Waiting for the lease to be sorted + might need larger amount than 50K
Pontoons to improve access to the water	2	£175,000	PID produced, kick-off meeting held and project board

			established. Sharepoint site set up
Upgrade 40 electric charging pillars	2	£30,000	PID produced and kick-off meeting to be set in June
Dockyard solar	2	£50,000	Two phase approach. Structural engineer report by end July. Open tender for solar scheme by end August
Truxor attachments	3	£10,000	Waiver approval and order by end July
Fen Harvester with double chop head	3	£205,000	Waiver approval and order by end July
Electric telehandler	3	£90,000	Open tender for procurement by end August
Nato floats (x4)	4	£40,000	Open tender for procurement by end August
22t Long reach excavator and mats	4	£180,000	Open tender for procurement by end August
Mowing equipment to manage conservation and visitor sites	4	£120,000	Outside current budget. Quotes received as a guide.
RESERVE LIST			
Water quality monitoring equipment	4	£30,000	Outside current budget. Quotes received as a guide.
Dockyard enhancement	5	£200,000	Outside current budget.
Review and upgrade EV chargers	5	£25,000	Outside current budget. Anglia Car Charging have quoted for these works already
New electric pool vehicles x 2	5	£60,000	Outside current budget.

3. Update on General Direction

3.1. The consultation period for the General Direction, restricting the size of vessels entering the Broads completed at the end of February. There were no objections made, so the Authority can now proceed with the General Direction. Information for larger vessels wishing to enter the Broads will be added to the website shortly. In the meantime, vessel owners can contact Broads Control for further information.

4. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

4.1. Appendix 1 sets out the Ranger exercise of powers for the 2024-25 year, with Appendix 2 setting out the Ranger duties for the same period. As expected, the figures for verbal and written warnings are down on the previous two years, which is due to fewer vessels being out on the water. There have however been a higher number of more serious and repeat offences which has resulted in more cases going to court.

- 4.2. Last year we introduced a new system for reporting Ranger's location which was also used to capture where the verbal and written warnings (Memorandum of Navigational Warning) were issued as well as where Notices of Contravention, Special Directions were issued and hazards found. The spatial data is set out in Appendix 6. Collecting the data spatially will help us keep under review where Ranger patrols are targeted to.

5. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 5.1. The sunken and abandoned vessel table is set out in Appendix 3. We have continued to work with owners where possible to raise sunken vessels. The most notable vessels removed since the last meeting is the two vessels on the lower Yare which have now been recovered to the Dockyard.

6. Planning enforcement update

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

Author: John Packman

Date of report: 18 August 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 13/08/2025

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 03/04/2025

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 03/04/2025

Appendix 6 – Ranger logs – 2024/2503 April 2025

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

Table 1

Verbal warnings	Wroxham launch Wroxham and upper Bure	Irstead launch Ant	Ludham launch Hickling, Potter Heigham, upper Thurne	Ludham launch 2 lower Thurne and lower Bure	Norwich launch Norwich and upper Yare	Hardley Launch Reedham, Chet and middle Yare	Burgh St Peter launch Oulton Broad and upper/middle Waveney	Breydon launch Breydon water, lower Waveney and Yare
Care and caution	77	53	14	60	24	2	34	
Speed	1754	699	408	334	150	80	171	44
Other	242	88	15	19	153	15	33	36

Table 2

Written warnings	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Care and caution	1	3			1			3
Speed	35	1		5	5	2	3	1
Other	17	32	5	3	2	22	12	5
Special directions	46	10	1		25	60	191	69

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	214	211	198	197	205	191	204	214
Volunteer patrols			2	1			5	
IRIS reports	20	8	8	10	9	19	8	28

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	19518
VHF	2610
Total	22,128

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	122	93.65
Broads Control	362	277.30
Team meetings, work planning	318	302.14
Partnership working	76	15.68
Assisting other sections	76	37.91
Billets and boatsheds	25	16.55
Launch – general		8.48
Trailers - general		1.69
Vehicle maintenance		5.41
Other equipment repair		9.73
Total	979	768.53

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1740.59
Escorts	44	27.50
Prosecution files	0	20.07
Bankside tree management	108	48.34
Obstruction removal	26	13.45
Channel markers and buoys	30	17.06
Signs and boards maintenance	34	32.97
Adjacent waters	96	72.77
Reactive mooring maintenance	100.5	42.30
Total	2575.5	2015.05

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	146	45.95
Lake, riverbank restoration	100	0
Invasive species control	32.5	1.28
Other conservation work	145	64.86
Pollution response		2.09
Visitor site maintenance	194	146.72
Public Engagement	97	59.26
Public footpath work	38	11.25
Education work	69	2.84
Total	4375	3117.84

Team total up to 31 March 2025*

Percentage Navigation: 86%

Percentage National Park: 14%

*Figures for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 13 August 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 rail bridge wooden fenders	Yes	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	Polkeys Mill, Lower Yare	Vessel sunk in channel. Divers engaged to remove vessel	Yes	Vessel recovered to Dockyard
Sailing Barge	Berney Arms	Vessel sunk just outside channel.	Yes	Vessel recovered to Dockyard
Motor cruiser	Wensum, downstream of rail bridge	Vessel sunk at mooring, marked with buoys	No	Vessel recovered to Dockyard
Auxiliary Yacht	Langley Dyke, River Yare	Vessel sunk at wild mooring	Yes	Vessel recovered to the Dockyard
Auxiliary Yacht	Barton Turf	Vessel Sunk at wild mooring, raised by owner	Yes	Unserviceable Vessel Notice issued
Auxiliary Yacht	Cantley	Unknown owner	Yes	Owner has come forward
Auxiliary Yacht	Sutton	Unknown owner	Yes	Owner have come forward

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Auxiliary Yacht	Ludham Bridge	Unknown owner	Yes	Owner has come forward
Rowing dinghy	Great Yarmouth	Vessel sunk	Yes	Vessel recovered to Dockyard
Speedboat	Hoveton	Unknown owner	Yes	Notice period ends 19.9.25

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 03 April 2025

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor	£120	£200	£48	£424.81
Motor	£120	£200	£48	£221.64
Auxiliary Yacht - Unregistered	£660	£200	£264	£218.56
Motor	£440	£200	£176	£424.81
Motor	£440	£200	£176	£572.57
Motor	£440	£200	£176	£1052.79
Motor & Auxiliary Yacht	£240	£300	£96	£406.84 & £136.60
Motor	£308	£200	£123	£313.99
Motor & Rowing	£220	£200	£88	£738.80 & £46.32
Motor	£220	£200	£88	£406.34
Auxiliary Yacht, Sailing & Rowing	£220	£200	£88	£221.64, £124.08 & £46.32
Auxiliary Yacht	£220	£280	£88	£229.20
Motor x 2	£880	£220	£352	£147.76 & £406.34
Motor	£220	£220	£88	£221.64
Motor	£440	£220	£176	£406.34
Motor	£220	£220	£88	£369.40
Auxiliary Yacht	£220	£220	£88	£150.26

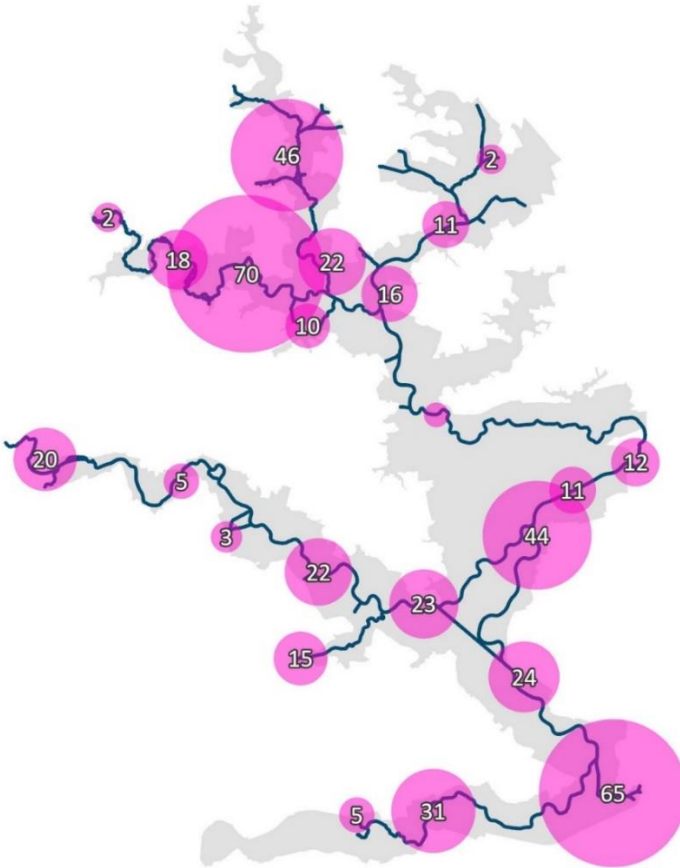
Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Auxiliary Yacht	£500	£220	£200	£202.24
Motor	£220	£225	£88	£683.39
Sailing	£440	£225	£176	£225.60

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 03 April 2025

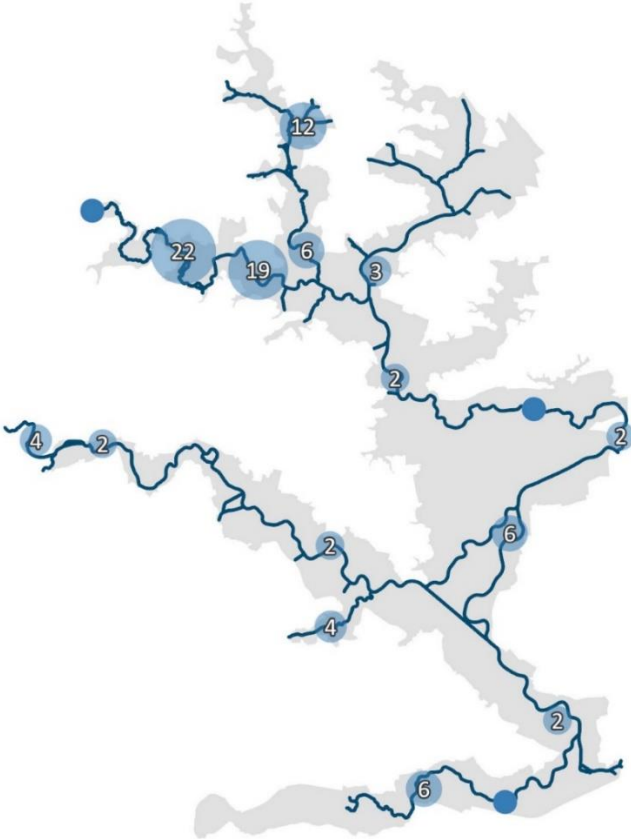
Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Jet Ski	Operating a Jet Ski on the Broads	£660	£850	£264	n/a
Motor vessels	Overstaying	£440	£400	£176	n/a

Appendix 6 – Ranger logs – 2024/25

Notice of Contravention

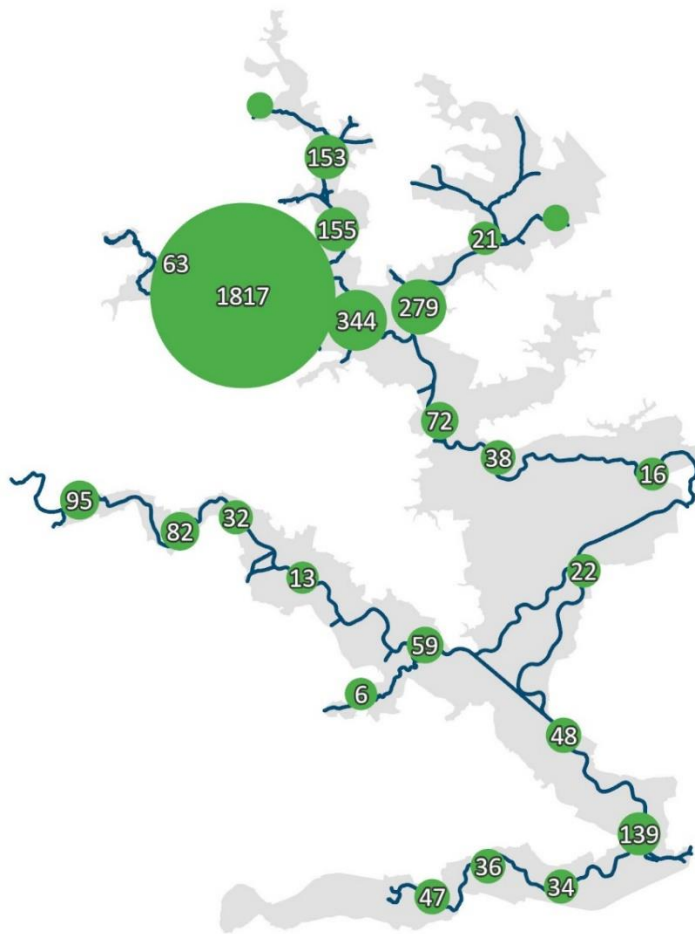


MoNW

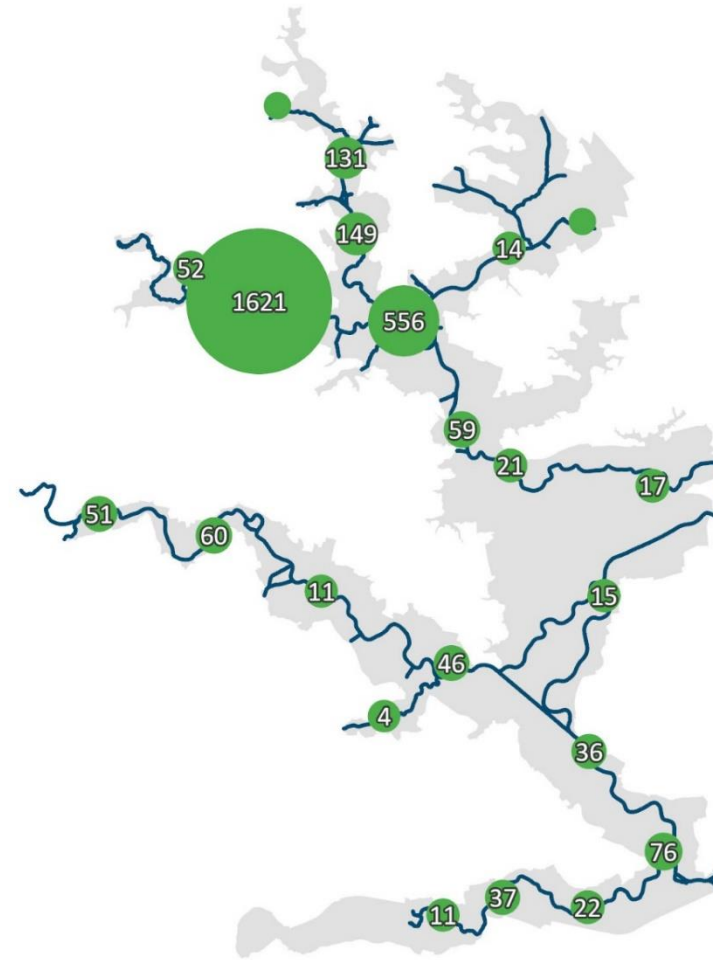


© Broads Authority. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025. Data collated between the 1/04/2024 and 31/03/2025.

Verbal warnings

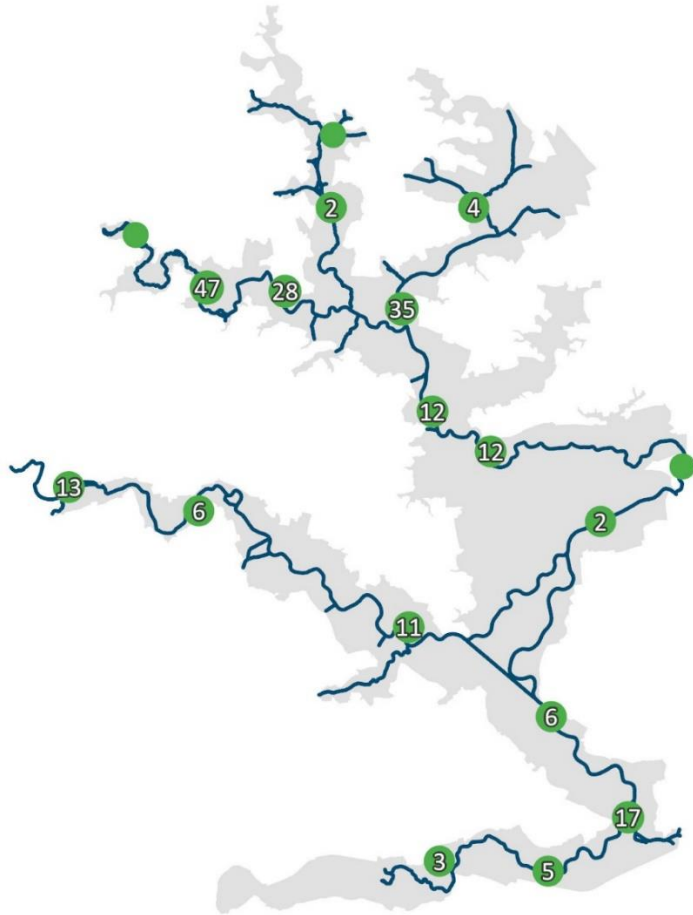


Verbal warnings – Excess speed

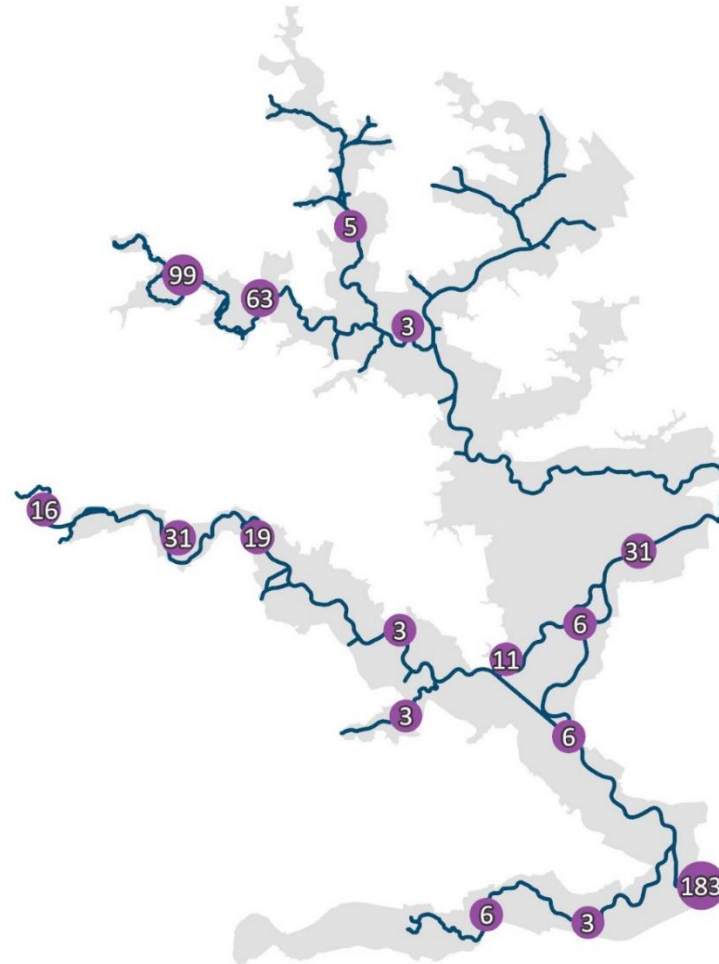


© Broads Authority. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025. Data collated between the 1/04/2024 and 31/03/2025.

Verbal warnings – Care and caution

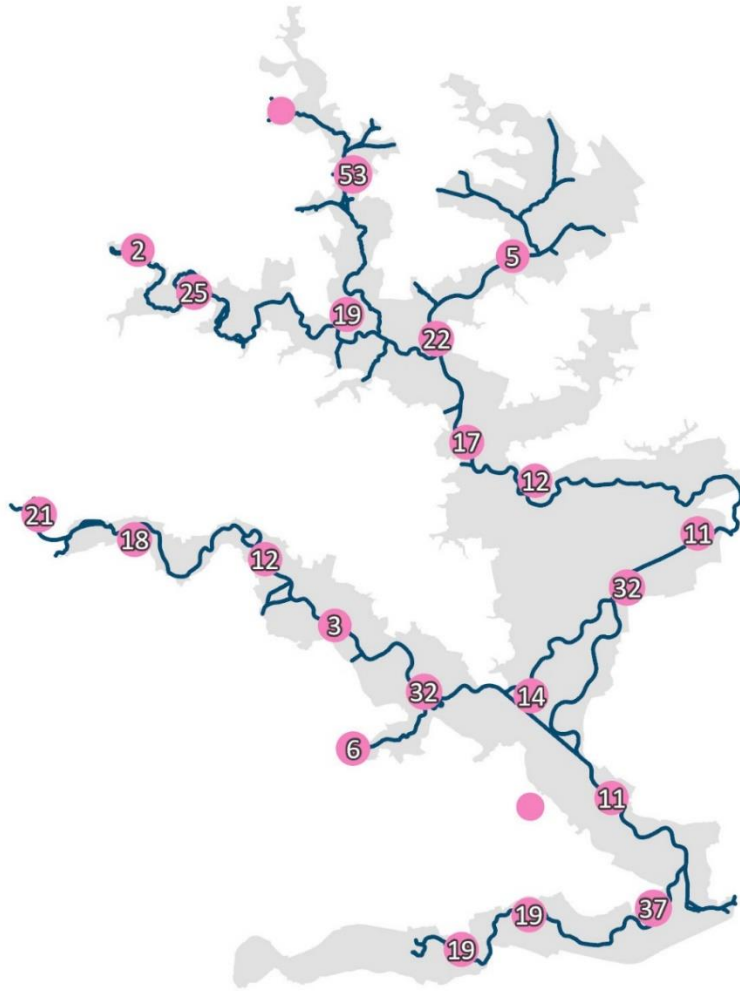


Special directions

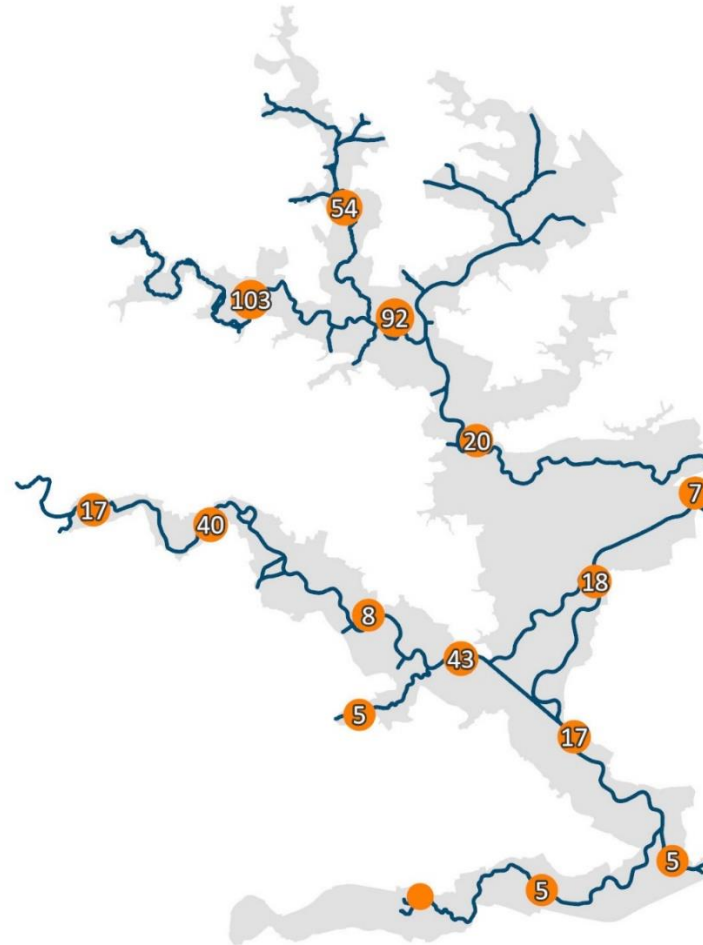


© Broads Authority. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025. Data collated between the 1/04/2024 and 31/03/2025.

Hazards removed

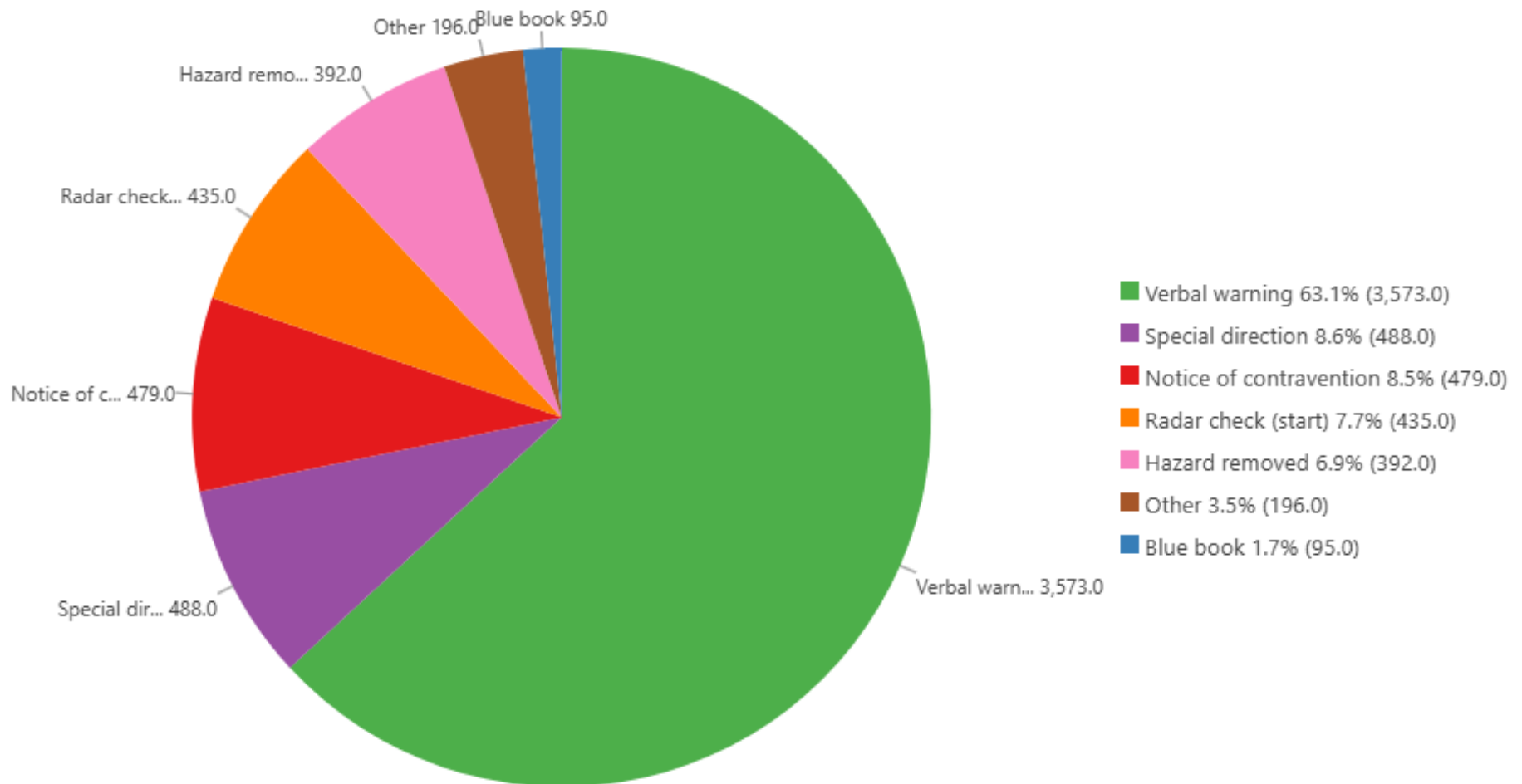


Radar checks



© Broads Authority. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025. Data collated between the 1/04/2024 and 31/03/2025.

Report type



© Broads Authority. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025. Data collated between the 1/04/2024 and 31/03/2025.