

Navigation Committee

16 April 2026

Agenda item number 9

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.	Broads Authority Meeting 27 February 2026	1
2.	Navigation patrolling and performance targets	3
3.	Sunken and abandoned vessel update	3
4.	Planning enforcement update	3
	Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis	4
	Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days	6
	Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 17 March 2026	8
	Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 22 January 2026	9
	Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 22 January 2026	12

1. Broads Authority Meeting 27 February 2026

1.1. *Strategic Priorities*

The Broads Authority adopted a set of strategic priorities for 2026/27 which included the following for the maintenance of the navigation:

- i. Review of the Breydon and lower tidal rivers management plan (5-year consented plan for all waterways management activities)

- ii. Develop joint Maintenance Dredge Protocol with Peel Ports (GYHA)
- iii. Riverside Tree Management Plan (5-year consented plan) is due for completion in 2026/27. Refresh and finalise next 5 year plan 2027/28 to 2031/32.

1.2. **Budget and Financial Strategy**

Following the consultation with the Committee a 2026/27 Budget was adopted, including the endorsement of assumptions applied in the preparation of the Budget. As of 31st March 2026 £2.133 million of tolls for the year 2026/27 had been received, 46% of the budget for the year and slightly ahead of the position at the same time last year.

1.3. **Climate Action Plan**

Members adopted a Climate Action Plan. It is based on the template developed jointly by the National Parks Climate & Energy Group, which encompasses the Broads and the 14 National Parks across England, Scotland and Wales. The Plan covers the remaining period of the Broads Plan, to the end of 2027. Based on draft Management Plan guidance, we anticipate aligning the periods of future Climate Action Plans with the Management Plan Cycle.

The Climate Action Plan includes the following targets:

- By 2030 the Broads Executive Area emissions will have fallen by 51% from the 2019 baseline.
- By 2050 Broads Executive Area emissions will be reduced by 90%.
- By 2030 our own emissions as an authority will have fallen by 50% from the 2020 baseline.
- By 2040 our own emissions as an authority will be Net-Zero.

1.4. **Broads Plan Timetable**

The Authority adopted an outline timetable and process for the development, consultation and publication of Broads Plan 2028. An important part of the process is the engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including the Navigation Committee itself and navigation interests. The Authority will be using the lessons from the preparation of the Local Plan on how best to engage with young people and those who would not normally contribute to such a process.

1.5. **Capital Expenditure**

The Committee will be aware that the Authority was allocated £1,385,058 for National Park capital to be spent in the 2025/26 financial year. This has proved to be a tall order and the Broad received an update on the excellent progress that has been made. Of particular interest to this Committee will be the improvements to the Great Yarmouth Yacht Station, the upgrade to the electric charging pillars which will be implemented later in the year and the pontoons for installation at Castle Marsh on the River Waveney.

2. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 2.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the Rangers is in Appendix 1, and the range of duties undertaken by the Ranger Team in Appendix 2. While average navigation/ countryside splits are still higher on the navigation side, with planned work now underway on the countryside sites this figure is moving into line with the target.

3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 3.1. Since the last meeting, further abandoned, sunken and unserviceable vessels have been identified and either removed from the navigation or are in process to be removed. Notable from this is the removal of the sunken vessel at Reedham and a vessel behind the railway bridge fenders at Trowse which required divers to recover.

4. Planning enforcement update

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

Author: John Packman

Date of report: 02 April 2026

[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 17 March 2026
17/03/2026

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 22/01/2026

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 22/01/2026
22 January 2026

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	135	15	54	70	16	14	15	6
Speed	2196	707	141	470	108	67	61	46
Other	186	71	18	9	157	21	20	148

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	2		1				
Speed	16	6			2		3	2
Other	9	37	22	12	4	22	34	10
Special directions	119	44		71	20	47	192	71

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	213	147	146	169	169	124	142	215
Volunteer patrols		7					3	
IRIS reports	16	7	1	11	9	4	11	14

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	19104
VHF	2528
Total	20996

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	112	169.12
Broads Control	401	365.37
Team meetings, work planning	243	315.28
Partnership working	61	28.92
Assisting other sections	74	27.30
Billets and boatsheds	35	36.82
Launch – general		17.50
Trailers - general		1.01
Vehicle maintenance		9.32
Other equipment repair		7.09
Total	926	977.75

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	1660	1635.70
Escorts	37	45.58
Prosecution files	0	25.07
Bankside tree management	80	136.28
Obstruction removal	42	26.11
Channel markers and buoys	25	16.89
Signs and boards maintenance	43	35.27
Adjacent waters	86	70.68
Reactive mooring maintenance	100	26.49
Total	2073	2018.37

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	168	97.84
Lake, riverbank restoration	99	0
Invasive species control	42	4.59
Other conservation work	168	38.18
Pollution response		1.89
Visitor site maintenance	188	204.59
Public Engagement	110	48.99
Public footpath work	69	22.64
Education work	38	16.08
Total	882	434

Team total up to 16 March 2026

Percentage Navigation: 83%

Percentage National Park: 17%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 17 March 2026

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 bridge fenders	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor cruiser	River Yare, Reedham	Sunken vessel	Yes	Vessel recovered
Auxiliary Yacht	River Thurne, Potter Heigham	Owner unknown	Yes	Awaiting collection of vessel by owner
Motor Vessel	Brundall	Believed abandoned	Yes	Awaiting notice expiry
Auxiliary Yacht	River Yare, Cantley	Unserviceable	Yes	Vessel recovered
Auxiliary Yacht	River Waveney, Burgh St Peter	Believed abandoned	Yes	Awaiting notice expiry
Rowboat	Breydon Water	Found drifting, believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel removed from water
Yacht	River Waveney, Worlingham	Vessel sunk	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor vessel	River Yare, Hardley	Unserviceable vessel	Yes	Owner recovered

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 22 January 2026

Type of vessel	Compensation	Costs awarded	Fined	Victim surcharge
Motorboat	£449.88	£243.95	£1,320.00	£528.00
Motorboat	£293.40	£243.95	£220.00	88.00
Motorboat	£652.92	£232.05	£880.00	£252.00
Auxiliary Yacht – Registered Offence	N/A	£120.00	£147.00	£56.00
Motorboat	£686.20	£220.15	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£234.72	£243.95	£440.00	£176.00
Motorboat	£430.32	£255.85	£440.00	£176.00
Motorboat	£352.08	£243.95	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£254.28	£243.95	£880.00	£252.00
Motorboat	£449.88	£220.15	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£494.44	£249.90	£330.00	£132.00
Motorboat	£455.32	£285.60	£440.00	£176.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£213.11	£238.00	£308.00	£123.00
Motorboat	£435.76	£184.45	£220.00	£88.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£256.52	£285.60	£440.00	£176.00

Type of vessel	Compensation	Costs awarded	Fined	Victim surcharge
Motorboat (24/25 and 25/26) Sailing Dinghy (24/25 and 25/26)	£984.00	£300.00	18 month conditional discharge	£26.00
Motorboat	£279.28	£281.60	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£220.60	£281.60	£330.00	£132.00
Motorboat	£161.92	£281.60	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£748.72	£269.70	£220.00	£88.00
Sailing Boat	£168.40	£269.70	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£201.04	£269.40	£220.00	£88.00
Houseboat	£231.00	£0.00	£40.00	£16.00
Electric Dinghy	£99.75	£249.90	£220.00	£88.00
Electric Dinghy	£99.75		£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£416.20	£249.90	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£494.44	£202.30	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£924.76	£214.20	£220.00	£88.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£256.52		£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£807.40	£261.80	£220.00	£88.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£474.88	£202.30	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£318.40	£249.90	£220.00	£88.00
Houseboat	£217.50	£202.30	£220.00	£88.00

Type of vessel	Compensation	Costs awarded	Fined	Victim surcharge
Motorboat	£670.48	£202.30	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£455.32	£214.20	£220.00	£88.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£169.70		£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat (24/25)	£775.74	£642.60	£110.00	£44.00
Motorboat (25/26)	£846.52		£110.00	£44.00
Motorboat	£240.16	£202.30	£220.00	£88.00
Motorboat	£318.40	£357.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sailing Boat	£168.40			
Motorboat	£592.00	£392.70	£660.00	£264.00
Motorboat	£416.20	£392.70	£660.00	£264.00
Motorboat	£729.16	£392.70	£660.00	£264.00
Motorboat	£167.15	£357.00	£660.00	£264.00
Motorboat	£474.88	£464.10	£660.00	£264.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£180.35	£273.70	£440.00	£176.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£192.30	£273.70	£440.00	£176.00
Motorboat	£474.88	£214.20	£440.00	£176.00
Auxiliary Yacht	£386.75	£220.15	£110.00	£44.00
Motorboat	£963.88	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Motorboat	£396.64	£273.70	£660.00	£264.00
Motorboat	£748.72	£392.70	£180.00	£72.00

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 22 January 2026

Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor	3 counts of speed and wash	£600	£300	£160	n/a
Motor (hire)	Care and caution. Excess Speed and Wash. Navigating at night without Nav Lights	£2,200	£577.15	£880	n/a