

# Navigation Committee

20 October 2022

Agenda item number 6

## Navigation Committee Summary of Progress Oct 2022

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>As expected, swing bridges expanded in July's high temperatures, with periods when they could not open. Somerleyton affected more than Reedham, which is kept cooler by prevailing wind. Following consultation with key user groups, 'High Impact' days (when groups on organised dates and higher usage of swing bridges expected) shared with Network Rail (NR), who had engineering staff on standby to respond to mechanical issues on these key dates. Officers continue to liaise with NR and communicate issues as they arise. Next meeting planned for Oct review performance of swing bridges during summer period.</p> <p><b>Oct 2019:</b> Need for display of red flags at bridges and Christmas and Boxing Day cover raised at meeting with local NR manager in Oct. Following consultation with NSBA and other stakeholders, officers reinforced importance of retaining red flags and agreed, based on last year's evidence, that bridge operators do not need to be on duty on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.</p> <p><b>7 Jan 2020:</b> Meeting held with NR, who are to examine business case for any replacement at Trowse bridge. Resignalling of whole system commences in February.</p> <p><b>4 Feb 2020:</b> BA in phone discussion with Network Rail re Trowse - update to be provided at agenda item 11.</p> <p><b>May 2020:</b> Following sensor replacement works at Somerleyton, Reedham &amp; Oulton, Network Rail believes operational reliability of these bridges will be improved. As we enter Summer 2020 we will monitor opening and breakdowns to ascertain this reliability. BA and NR continue to discuss swing bridge issues. BA also in Working Group with Norfolk</p>	

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
				<p>County Council, Norwich City Council, LEP, NR and Greater Anglia working on Trowse Bridge issues and gathering wider support and funding for replacement/ better operational reliability of this bridge.</p> <p><b>Jul 2020:</b> Trowse Rail Bridge Working Group continuing to meet. Next phase of project is to meet with Train Services Director for Southeastern - meeting to include spokespeople from working group, incl. John Packman. Further updates provided when meeting date confirmed.</p> <p><b>Sep 2020:</b> BA written officially to Norfolk County Council regarding Haven Bridge, Great Yarmouth.</p> <p><b>Dec 2020:</b> 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><b>Mar 2021:</b> Director of Operations met with Network Rail (NR) to discuss the multi-million pound refurbishment of the swing bridges (Reedham, Somerleyton &amp; 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><b>July 2021:</b> 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>	

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
				<p><b>Sep 2021:</b> Network Rail's repair work of the swing bridges delayed to October 2022. Design work to commence beginning October 2021.</p> <p><b>Mar 2022:</b> Dialogue with Network Rails Contractor for the swing bridge refurbishment programmes continues (Murphy's). A date of October 2022 has been agreed for the contractors access and they are planning on 2 x 52hr weekend works and a 16 day blockade. During this time the swing bridge will operate but with 2 x set opening times daily, these will be published nearer the date.</p> <p><b>May 2022:</b> Senior Operations Officers continue to work with Murphy's to facilitate the delivery of this 10 million pound refurbishment of Reedham &amp; Somerleyton Swing Bridges. Dates of the works have been shared with navigators and regular information will be supplied as the work dates get nearer.</p> <p><b>Sept 2022:</b> The contractors (Murphy's) reported that due to mechanical parts coming from the Ukraine, a change to the work programme is required. Swing Bridge works will start in September with weekend closures. Main works will commence in March 2023. A NTM has been issued and swing bridge openings have been agreed during work periods.</p>	
<p>Planning application with navigation implications: BA/2018/0466/FUL – Land at Burgh Castle – BFAP Compartment 34</p>	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><b>16 Jan 2020:</b> Members supported 99-year lease agreement, including BA taking on full responsibility for piling structure.</p> <p><b>21 Jan 2020:</b> 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><b>27 May 2020:</b> 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> <p><b>15 Dec 2020:</b> Following funding review by Environment Agency, plans to pile original Burgh Castle mooring site reinstated - EA negotiating site</p>	30/06/2021

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
				<p>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><b>30 Mar 2021:</b> 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><b>17 May 2021:</b> 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><b>Jul 2021:</b> 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><b>Dec 2021:</b> 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> <p><b>Mar 2022:</b> The legal work and finishing off construction works have been completed and the final assessment (carried out by the Ranger Team) is being hindered by high tides obscuring key elements to be checked. Once tides allow this final phase should see Burgh castle mooring open ready for the Easter school holidays.</p> <p><b>May 2022:</b> The Burgh Castle Mooring is again available as a Broads Authority free 24 hour hour mooring site and is open to the public.</p> <p><b>Oct 2022:</b> this item was completed in June 2022</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><b>31 Jan 20:</b> 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</p>	

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
				<p>Government decision whether to combine the finances and the BA would await the Government's response.</p> <p><b>Dec 2020:</b> Still awaiting Government response.</p> <p><b>May 2021:</b> Written Ministerial Statement expected in late May/early June.</p> <p><b>24 Jun 2021:</b> <a href="#">Ministerial Statement</a> released. The Government will address the Landscape Review's recommendations in full and consult on draft proposals later this year.</p> <p><b>Oct 2021:</b> Government response expected to be published in Dec.</p> <p><b>Dec 2021:</b> Government response delayed until January 2022.</p> <p><b>Jan 2022:</b> <a href="#">Landscapes review (National Parks and AONBs): government response - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a> published 15 January 2022.</p> <p><b>Feb 2022:</b> Member workshop held on 24 February to review the Authority's response to the consultation.</p> <p><b>Mar 2022:</b> Report to Broads Authority 18 March on response to consultation. Response subsequently submitted to Defra.</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><b>10 Jun 2021:</b> report on the Carrow Road bridge repairs presented to members with the Norfolk County Council (NCC) options report. 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>	10/06/2021

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
				<p><b>Aug 2021:</b> 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><b>Oct 2021:</b> No further update from NCC. RR and JP to arrange a future meeting with NCC (as reported at NC211021)</p> <p><b>Dec 2021:</b> Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and The Broads Authority met on 8 December to discuss the works proposal submitted for licensing. It was a positive meeting with all partners understanding the different issues each organisation faced with the proposed construction method. Norfolk County Council officers agreed to re-look at road deck construction methods and the timing of the repairs to see if these can better link with the City Council's planned route improvements and still maintain the ability to open the Carrow Bascule bridge. An update was made in the Chief Executive's report, item 7 on the 13 January 2022 Navigation Committee agenda.</p> <p><b>Mar 2022:</b> Following discussion between the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council a report to 7 March County Council Cabinet meeting will contain the following short statement:</p> <p><b><i>Carrow Bridge, Norwich</i></b>  <i>In last year's Highway Capital Report, the need to establish a longer-term solution for Carrow Bridge was highlighted. Discussions are ongoing with key partners, including the Broads Authority, to agree short-term and longer-term options for improvement at this sensitive part of the transport network. The programme of ongoing maintenance works continues on a regular basis.</i></p>	

Date of report: 06 October 2022