

Navigation Committee

02 November 2023

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 Swing Bridge £10 million Refurbishment program	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>Oct 2019: 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>7 Jan 2020: 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>4 Feb 2020: BA in phone discussion with Network Rail re Trowse - update to be provided at agenda item 11.</p> <p>May 2020: Following sensor replacement works at Somerleyton, Reedham & 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</p>	

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				<p>with Norfolk 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>Jul 2020: 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>Sep 2020: BA written officially to Norfolk County Council regarding Haven Bridge, Great Yarmouth.</p> <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</p>	

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				<p>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> <p>Mar 2022: 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>May 2022: Senior Operations Officers continue to work with Murphy's to facilitate the delivery of this 10 million pound refurbishment of Reedham & 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>Sept 2022: The contractors (Murphy's) reported that due to mechanical parts coming from Ukraine, a change to the work program 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>Oct 2022: The initial phase of the swing bridge refurbishments have been completed, this work was making space within the existing plant room to accommodate the updated mechanical opening gear. Phase two is being planned and will commence in 2023 when parts are available to install.</p> <p>Mar 2023: Recent update from Murphy's (Network Rail's contractors) is that the next phase of the refurbishment has been delayed until November 2023. Swing Bridges will operate (on demand) with no further restrictions in place until the work program commences again in Nov. No explanation has yet been given as to why the delay, The Director of Operations is chasing more information.</p> <p>May 2023: Works completed to date on the swing bridges include:</p>	

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				<p>Installed a beam in the control box that houses the swing bridge machinery. This will make the building strong enough for a temporary opening to be made in the wall. The opening will allow the old and heavy machinery to be moved out and replaced with modern equipment during the next stage of the project.</p> <p>Carried out much-needed, extensive brickwork repairs to reinforce the control box.</p> <p>Completed a full renewal and upgrade of the electrical system.</p> <p>Upgraded and replaced the manual winch system. This allows the bridge to be swung open manually by the bridge operator if there are problems with the machinery, keeping trains and boat users moving.</p> <p>Network Rail now expects further work on Reedham and Somerleyton swing bridges to take place in late 2023 and 2024. Boat users will be advised of any changes to the usual operation of the bridges via the Broads Authority.</p> <p>Aug 2023: No further update.</p> <p>October 2023: No further update.</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. 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>	10/06/2021

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				<p>Oct 2021: No further update from NCC. RR and JP to arrange a future meeting with NCC (as reported at NC211021).</p> <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. 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>Mar 2022: 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: Carrow Bridge, Norwich 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.</p> <p>March 2023: The Authority has not received any further communications from NCC of additional repairs to Carrow Bridge.</p> <p>October 2023: No further update.</p>	
New on-line tolls software	07/09/2023	Bill Housden	Strategic Priority for 2023 and 2024. Scoping work complete.	<p>September 2023: Currently engaged on pre-market engagement on upgrade of internal system. Progress report on viability of updating internal system to the latest software due in January 2024.</p>	24/01/2024
Future of the Hire Boat Industry	07/09/2023	John Packman	Commission study to review 2001 report and examine the prospects for the industry going forward and what actions could be taken to encourage.	<p>October 2023: Engaged with Broads Hire Boat Federation and British Marine. Both supportive of a half day workshop. Awaiting response from British Marine on potential dates.</p>	11/04/2024

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			Stage 1 – Discuss with the Broads Hire Boat Federation Prepare a brief for the work and consult the Committee on the content.		

Date of report: 20 October 2023