

Navigation Committee

09 June 2022

Agenda item number 7

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.

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1. Safety on the Broads

- 1.1. Following the last meeting of the Committee, a report was submitted to the Broads Authority recommending that British Marine's Quality Accredited Boatyard scheme be made a mandatory requirement of the Authority's Hire Boat Licensing Conditions from 1 April 2023.
- 1.2. On 5 May the Marine Accident Investigation Branch of the Department of Transport published its report into the Diamond Emblem 1 accident at Great Yarmouth. A copy of the report was sent to all members. Here is the link.

[Diamond Emblem 1 report published - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/diamond-emblem-1-report-published)

1.3. Pages 48 and 49 provide the conclusions on the “safety issues directly contributing to the accident that have been addressed or resulted in recommendations”. One of the conclusions, on page 49 of the report, is that:

“It is essential that effective handovers and appropriate documentation are provided to boat hirers to ensure that they are properly prepared to safely operate the boat.”

1.4. Page 52 lists the actions the Broads Authority has taken since the accident and on page 53 there are three recommendations for the Authority.

2022/114 Make the British Marine and Visit England Quality Accredited Boatyard Scheme a requirement of the Broads Authority’s Hire Boat and Hire Operators licensing provisions in addition to its own internal inspection regime.

2022/115 Review its licensing conditions for hire boat operators to ensure that:

- Licences are only issued when a complete set of the required signed and dated documentation is submitted by the operators.
- An appropriate level of verification is conducted on a change of ownership of companies to ensure that the new owners are operating their vessels in accordance with the applicable requirements.

2022/116 Retain a copy of Declarations of Conformity (RCD) and other associated information demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the Recreational Craft Directive for all boats operating in their waters.

1.5. At the Broads Authority meeting on 13 May, the recommendation to adopt the QAB scheme into the Authority’s Hire Boat Licensing conditions was adopted and officers have written to all hire boat operators accordingly to make them aware of this new requirement.

1.6. Furthermore, the Authority has 30 days in which to reply to the recommendations made by the MAIB. Of the three recommendations made by the MAIB, two are already in train, the third one relates to the retention of the vessels Recreational Craft Directive (RCD). The Broads Authority does retain these RCDs for 7 years and after that we use the Boat Safety Certification information for licensing and vessel capacity figures. We need to check that this satisfies the aims that the MAIB were wanting to effect

2. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

2.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1. During the 2021/22 year the rangers undertook 8,497 verbal warnings. A total of 296 written warnings were issued. Appendix 5 sets out the report of prosecutions since the last meeting. Over the last year a total of 13 people have been prosecuted for navigation offences, including speeding, care and caution and no insurance.

2.2. The average navigation/countryside splits for the year it set out in Appendix 2. The figures show a 72% Navigation, 28% Countryside split. This slight variance in the planned programme was due to staff illness and a vacancy in the team mid-season.

3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

3.1. The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 3. As with the last report, all newly sunken vessels have been recovered or are in the process of being recovered in liaison with the owners.

4. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 27 May 2022

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions

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 20 May 2022 20/05/2022

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 14/04/2022

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 02/02/2021 01 April 2022 01 April 2022

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis April 2021 – March 2022

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	107	39	103	119	32	1		11
Speed	3784	1729	631	611	179	247	210	103
Other	218	152	27	34	59	69	9	23

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	10	4	2	1	2	5	1	3
Speed	78	19	11	15	4	6	4	6
Other	24	41	8	1	5	42	3	1
Special directions	49	54	20	11	2	12	171	1

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	302	300	270	210	271	225	266	296
Volunteer patrols	1	1	6			1	5	
IRIS reports	33	40	31	28	46	30	18	42

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	27,102
VHF	5,229
Total	32,331

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days April 2021-March 2022

Table 1

Broads Authority corporate duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Training	134	133.11
Broads Control	362	371.32
Team meetings, work planning	356	443.82
Partnership working	76	18.68
Assisting other sections	76	58.65
Billets and boatsheds	25	26.76
Launch – general		26.86
Trailers - general		2.77
Vehicle maintenance		7.03
Other equipment repair		23.78
Total	1029	1112.78

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1757.87
Escorts	49	38.72
Prosecution files		15
Bankside tree management	53	34.93
Obstruction removal	36	18.85
Channel markers and buoys	25	11.42
Signs and boards maintenance	34	47.03
Adjacent waters	100	60
Reactive mooring maintenance	104.5	14.29
Total	2537.5	1998.11

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	195	179.26
Lake, riverbank restoration	126	115.88
Invasive species control	22.5	14.05
Other conservation work	148	57.94
Pollution response		3.72
Visitor site maintenance	209	333.78
Public engagement	301	48.48
Public footpath work	44	9.12
Education work	69	16.22
Total	1114.5	778.45

Team total up to 31 March 2022

Percentage Navigation: 72%

Percentage National Park: 28%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 20 May 2022

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, old River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owners' moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	Sutton/Stalham cut	An assessment will be made if the hull can be raised by the dredging rig when it is in the area.	No	Not affecting the navigation, hull is marked, Rangers monitoring
Workboat	River Wensum	Partially sunk	No	Raised by owner
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Thorpe	Sunk at owners mooring, pollution boom deployed as precautionary measure	No	Working with owner to raise

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 01 April 2022

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Auxiliary Yacht	£220.00	£207.00	£34.00	£172.00
Motor	£120.00	£175.00	£34.00	£72.70
Sailing	£220.00	£175.00	£34.00	£133.20
Motor	£220.00	£175.00	£34.00	£479.82
Motor	£440.00	£175.00	£44.00	£276.26
Motor	£440.00	£175.00	£44.00	£232.64
Houseboat	£220.00	£226.00	£34.00	£248.64
Motor	£220.00	£175.00	£34.00	£479.82
Motor	£220.00	£175.00	£34.00	£537.98

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 02 February 2021

Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Care and Caution, Excess speed and wash 2 offences of each in speedboat at Salhouse and Horning	£650	400	65	
Offences of Excess Speed and wash, Care and Caution 2 offences of each. River Waveney and Oulton Broad	1000	500	100	
Excess speed and wash Care and Caution Speedboat Oulton Broad	800	464	80	
Excess speed and wash Reedham, Care and Caution Brundall, Excess speed Norwich	990	1045	33	
Excess Speed and Wash, Care and caution speedboat on River Ant	200	200	34	
Excess Speed and Wash, Care and Caution speedboat on River Ant	200	200	34	
Failed to keep lookout, Care and caution whilst in yacht, hitting canoe and overturning it	220	664	34	200
Excess Speed & wash, Care and Caution Barton Broad. Motor Cruiser	500	360	50	
Excess speed, Care & Caution on Barton Broad, failing to respond to RFI, Obstructing Rangers.	1100	763.60	110	
Care and Caution past moored boat, causing damage	400	390	40	Paid out before hearing 1500
Care & Caution on Breydon, Failing to Respond RFI	1000	514.60	100	
Excess speed and wash in rib,	600	420	60	

Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Posted on line and you tube				
Care and Caution x2 Breydon	461	370	46	