

# Navigation Committee

02 November 2023

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.

### Broads Plan context

All strategic actions under Theme C: Maintaining and enhancing the navigation.

## Contents

1.	Background	1
2.	Stakeholders Hazard Review and Boat Safety Management Group	2
3.	Navigation patrolling and performance targets	2
4.	Sunken and abandoned vessel update	2
5.	Planning enforcement update	3
	Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis September-October 2023	4
	Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days	6
	Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 11 October 2023	8
	Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 07 September 2023	9
	Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 07 September 2023	9

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Despite a relatively quiet August, September and October have returned to previous levels on the rivers. Income remains down following delays in the agreement to charge at Reedham, but Ranworth has continued to be a popular location with mooring fees marginally higher than the profiled budget.

- 1.2. Andrew Farrell, currently the Programme Manager for Water, Mills and Marshes, has been appointed in the new role of Partnership and External Funding Manager. This is an important development as the Authority is increasingly being asked to respond at short notice to potential sources of funding and the development of a pipeline of projects will help the Authority respond strategically.

## 2. Stakeholders Hazard Review and Boat Safety Management Group

- 2.1. The BSMG group met on 5 October, and reviewed the Port Marine Safety Code Hazard logs, an undertaking that is required every three years, or if a significant event occurs. The PMSC had 51 hazards under review and following an assessment of safety trends the BSMG agreed to add 3 further hazards:
  - Remote Underwater Vehicles – Similar to the increase in aerial drones, we are seeing small underwater drones being used within our waters, currently these are predominantly professionally operated RUV's to carry out underwater structural surveys.
  - Diving – Again an activity which has seen an increase and again predominantly professional divers working on structural elements below water, but we have had incidents of leisure diving, enough to warrant an additional listing within the risk assessments.
  - Foil Boards - [foil boards - Google Search](#) The Broads is seeing a resurgence in the entry-level vessels (kayaks, Standup Paddle Boards and canoes) and foil boards are also being seen. Using expertise within the BSMG Review Panel this activity has also been assessed.
- 2.2 A report on safety is planned for the January Navigation Committee to take account of the audit of the Port Marine Safety Code and the Hazard Log review.

## 3. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 3.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1 and reflects the busy period. The average navigation/countryside splits since April (Appendix 2) are higher on the navigation side as would be expected during the summer when patrolling is a priority.
- 3.2. There have been two successful prosecutions for overstaying on 24-hour moorings and no insurance. The details of the fines are set out in Appendix 5.

## 4. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 4.1. The sunken and abandoned vessels are detailed in Appendix 4. From the last report 3 vessels have been dealt with and a further 3 are being progressed.

## 5. Planning enforcement update

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

Author: John Packman, Bill Housden, Lucy Burchnell

Date of report: 23 October 2023

Background papers: None

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions: C1, C2, C3, C4

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 11 October 2023  
11/10/2023

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 07/09/2023

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 07/09/2023  
07 September 2023

## Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis September-October 2023

**Table 1**

<b>Verbal warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b> Wroxham and upper Bure	<b>Irstead launch</b> Ant	<b>Ludham launch</b> Hickling, Potter Heigham, upper Thurne	<b>Ludham launch 2</b> lower Thurne and lower Bure	<b>Norwich launch</b> Norwich and upper Yare	<b>Hardley Launch</b> Reedham, Chet and middle Yare	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b> Oulton Broad and upper/middle Waveney	<b>Breydon launch</b> Breydon water, lower Waveney and Yare
Care and caution	23	7	7	17	7	9		
Speed	387	232	113	60	33	34	20	2
Other	7	4	3	3	34	3		1

**Table 2**

<b>Written warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b>	<b>Irstead launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch 2</b>	<b>Norwich launch</b>	<b>Hardley Launch</b>	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b>	<b>Breydon launch</b>
Care and caution	2							
Speed	6	1		1		1	1	
Other	3	11	1			1	4	
Special directions					13	9	77	

**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	35	34	25	34	35	32	34	35
Volunteer patrols								
IRIS reports	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	3

**Table 4**

Broads Control total calls: September – October 2023

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	2253
VHF	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>2639</b>

## 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	162.36
Broads Control	362	204.16
Team meetings, work planning	318	148.99
Partnership working	76	12.23
Assisting other sections	76	28.68
Billets and boatsheds	25	11.62
Launch – general		3.04
Trailers - general		2.03
Vehicle maintenance		3.92
Other equipment repair		3.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>580.54</b>

**Table 2**

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1426.89
Escorts	44	9.46
Prosecution files		7.84
Bankside tree management	108	12.16
Obstruction removal	26	10.74
Channel markers and buoys	30	10.34
Signs and boards maintenance	34	23.38
Adjacent waters	96	70.14
Reactive mooring maintenance	100.5	14.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>2574.5</b>	<b>1585.75</b>

**Table 3**

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Annual allocation (days)</b>	<b>Actual days to date</b>
Fen management	146	9.66
Lake, riverbank restoration	100	0
Invasive species control	32.5	2.97
Other conservation work	145	31.82
Pollution response		2.03
Visitor site maintenance	194	121.39
Public Engagement	97	36.42
Public footpath work	38	6.49
Education work	69	3.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>821.5</b>	<b>214.63</b>

**Team total up to**

Percentage Navigation: 88%

Percentage National Park: 12%

## Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 11 October 2023

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	Sutton/Stalham cut	Hull only, marked with yellow posts	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel Sunk at owners mooring	No	Deadline not met; notice will be issued
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Trowse	Vessel sunk behind rail bridge wooden fenders	Yes	Unable to raise, seeking quotes from contractors
Yacht	Womack Water	Sunk at owner's mooring	Yes	Deadline not met. Authority removed, seeking funds.
Aux yacht	Womack Water	Abandoned	Yes	Removed
Motor Cruiser	Daisy Broad	Vessel caught fire and sunk	No	Removed
Aux Yacht	Sutton Staithe	Owner deceased	No	Discussing with family



## Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 07 September 2023

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
2 Sailing Boats	£500	£500	£0	£253.79

## Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 07 September 2023

Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor Cruiser	Overstaying x4 No Insurance	£800	£410	£320	
Motor Cruiser & Yacht	Overstaying x 7 No Insurance	£1400	£804	£560	