Navigation Committee

05 November 2026
Agenda item number 6

Ranger update

Report by Head of Ranger Services

Purpose

To provide a briefing on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways.

Broads Plan context

4.1 Maintain existing navigation water space and develop appropriate opportunities to expand or extend access for various types of craft

4.3 Implement, promote and monitor measures to maintain and improve safety and security for the navigation and boats

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1. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

1.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1 and reflects the busy summer season. Verbal warning for speeding remains the highest use of the Ranger powers. The average navigation/countryside splits since April are set out in Appendix 2. The figures are higher on the navigation side as would be expected

at the end of the summer when patrolling is a priority. The planned countryside tasks over the winter will ensure the targets are met.

2. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

2.1. The sunken and abandoned vessels are detailed in Appendix 3. Since the last report, 9 new Notices have been issued, 3 vessels have been registered, 11 vessels have been recovered and a further 2 are being progressed. One notable vessel over this period was the sunken vessel at St Benets which, at the end of the 28-day notice period, was successfully raised by the Ranger and Construction teams using the dredging rig equipment.

3. Super Safety Days

3.1. This year the Rangers held 10 Super Safety Days (SSDs) across the Broads at popular locations including Salhouse, How Hill, Beccles and Reedham. Over 550 vessels, including hire craft, private boats, canoe and paddle boards were seen over the course of the 10 events, with Rangers giving advice on safety matters from use of lifejackets, boat safety scheme requirements and safe speed. Rangers also provided information on local wildlife and how to reduce impacts on the area through responsible boating. At the SSDs we were joined by partner organisations including NSBA, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, RNLI and Broads Beat which helped to strengthen the safety messages. Our thanks to those organisations for their support for these events.

4. Aids to Navigation Annual Inspection

4.1. As part of their duties, Rangers are required to carry out ongoing conditions checks and maintenance on the channel markers which form part of the Aids to Navigations which are inspected annually by Trinity House. The condition of the Aids to Navigation, including those belonging to other organisations, such as lights on the swing bridges and cable crossing signs, form part of the control measures for navigation risks within the Formal Safety Assessments. Other than an issue with the light sequencing on the swing bridges belonging to Network Rail, which has since been rectified, the annual inspection found the Aids to Navigation to be in good condition.

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Date of report: 20 October 2026

Broads Plan strategic actions: 4.1, 4.3

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 atat 20 October 202620/10/2026

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	15	8	16	32	18	17	18	1
Speed	1089	499	56	407	121	80	58	29
Other	66	58	7	5	89	51	17	229

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		2			1	4		1
Speed	1	2		2	3		4	
Other	24	56	3	5	3	34	34	29
Special directions				22	52			48

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	184	144	122	137	138	105	103	184
Volunteer patrols		7					4	
IRIS reports	7	6	1	8	8	4	2	2

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	13,993
VHF	1170
Total	**15,163**

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	53.45
Broads Control	401	213.89
Team meetings, work planning	243	152.64
Partnership working	61	1.96
Assisting other sections	74	27.23
Billets and boatsheds	35	8.92
Launch – general		1.96
Trailers - general		.27
Vehicle maintenance		4.66
Other equipment repair		3.38
Total	**926**	**468.34**

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	1660	1375.95
Escorts	37	13.92
Prosecution files	0	7.16
Bankside tree management	80	10.34
Obstruction removal	42	26.22
Raising & Removing Wrecks	0	19.73
Channel markers and buoys	25	9.32
Signs and boards maintenance	43	14.26
Adjacent waters	86	56.01
Reactive mooring maintenance	100	26.15
Total	**2073**	**1559.05**

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	168	10.74
Lake, riverbank restoration	99	2.57
Invasive species control	42	1.01
Other conservation work	168	7.03
Pollution response		9.05
Visitor site maintenance	188	110.95
Public Engagement	110	49.46
Public footpath work	69	4.32
Education work	38	12.84
Total	**882**	**207.97**

Team total up to 19 October 2026

Percentage Navigation: 88%

Percentage National Park: 12%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 20 October 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 Vessel	River Ant, Sutton Broad	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel now compliant
Kayak	Lower Bure, Great Yarmouth	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Dinghy	Chet	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	Womack Water	Unserviceable vessel	Yes	Vessel sunk at St Benets. Sunken Vessel Notice used and vessel recovered.
Dinghy	River Yare, Thorpe St Andrew	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Aux Yacht	River Bure, Yarmouth	Found drifting, believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Waveney, Beccles	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel registered
Motor Vessel	River Wensum, Norwich	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Yare, Langley	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Aux Yacht	River Yare, Langley	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Aux Yacht	River Ant, Horning Marshes	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Aux Yacht	River Chet	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Vessel	River Waveney, Somerleyton	Believed abandoned	Yes	Awaiting end of Notice period
Motor Vessel	River Chet	Believed abandoned	Yes	Vessel registered
Motor Vessel	River Wensum, Norwich	Unserviceable Vessel	Yes	Awaiting end of Notice period