

Navigation Committee

03 September 2026

Agenda item number 6

Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Head of Governance on behalf of the 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.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Authority's Annual Meeting was held on 24 July 2026, at which Harry Blathwayt was re-elected as Chair for 2026/27 and Tristram Hilborn re-appointed as Vice-Chairman. On 7 August 2026, Tim Jickells and Tony Grayling have been re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee.

- 1.2. On 12 August, ten Members visited various sites around the Broads to see how various grants had been spent. Members were treated to demonstrations of some of the new equipment purchased with the capital grant at Acle Bridge and the Dockyard, as well as some of the work being carried out at Buttles Marsh and Cary's Meadow.

2. Prosecutions for non-payment of Tolls 2025/26 - update

- 2.1. During the 2025/26 toll season 1,917 Notices of Contravention were received by the Collector of Tolls; 1,637 of these related to non-payment of tolls. Most Notices are resolved without the need for court action however 138 cases (59 more than in the previous year) were sent for prosecution. Of these 69 were proved, 6 are going to trial, 2 are awaiting a court hearing and 61 were withdrawn after the toll and legal costs had been paid in full.

The Tolls office issued over 900 enforcement letters and the Authority was awarded just over £45,000 in compensation and legal cost by the courts. Fines and victim surcharges totalled £32,000, fines are paid directly into the UK government's consolidated revenue fund and the money does not come to the Broads Authority.

3. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 3.1. The report of the use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1 and reflects the busy period. Ranger issued a total of 1913 verbal warnings, 105 written warnings and 118 special directions over this period.
- 3.2. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits which are higher on the navigation side, as expected during the summer when patrolling is a priority.
- 3.3. There have been 3 successful prosecutions completed since the last report, the details of which are included in Appendix 5. All the offences were for overstaying on Broads Authority 24-hour moorings, reflecting this increasing issue.

4. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 4.1. A summary of the notices issued relating to abandoned, sunken and unserviceable vessels is set out in Appendix 3.
- 4.2. Since the last meeting in March, a total of 31 notices were issued, which marks a sharp increase in previous figures. This highlights the increasing problem of non-compliant vessels, a trend which is mirrored nationally. Of the notices, 26 were issued to vessels believed to be abandoned, with 4 unserviceable vessel notices and 1 sunken vessel notice issued. Of the 26 abandoned vessel notices, 7 vessels were registered after receiving the notice. The remaining vessels have either been removed from the navigation or are in the process of being removed.
- 4.3. For vessels found on the system without any prior registered owner, before an abandoned vessel notice is issued, a letter setting out the requirement to register the

vessel is affixed to the vessel. This gives the owner 28 days to comply. Of the 33 letters issued since April, 18 vessels were subsequently registered with the remaining 15 being issued an abandoned vessel notice.

5. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 18 August 2026

Background papers: none

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions: Theme C

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 August 2026
11/08/2026

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 16/04/2026

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 25/03/2026
25 March 2026

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis 1 April – 5 August 2026

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	12	5	13	13	12	15	12	1
Speed	732	314	26	227	87	73	32	24
Other	40	28	6		69	49	13	110

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		1			1	1		
Speed					3			
Other	16		2	5	3	27	29	17
Special directions				20	50			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	123	96	83	88	90	77	60	123
Volunteer patrols	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0
IRIS reports	4	3	1	5	7	1	1	12

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	9396
VHF	877
Total	10273

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	27.23
Broads Control	401	135.57
Team meetings, work planning	243	93.51
Partnership working	61	1.96
Assisting other sections	74	19.80
Billets and boatsheds	35	4.32
Launch – general	0	.61
Trailers - general	0	0
Vehicle maintenance	0	3.24
Other equipment repair	0	2.30
Total	926	288.55

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	16660	880.74
Escorts	37	5.81
Prosecution files	0	4.19
Bankside tree management	80	5.74
Obstruction removal	42	24.19
Raising & Removing Wrecks	0	12.64
Channel markers and buoys	25	7.50
Signs and boards maintenance	43	8.78
Adjacent waters	86	27.36
Reactive mooring maintenance	100	12.77
Total	2073	989.72

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	168	1.15
Lake, riverbank restoration	99	1.01
Invasive species control	42	0.27
Other conservation work	168	4.19
Pollution response	0	7.09
Visitor site maintenance	188	81.01
Public Engagement	110	33.45
Public footpath work	69	2.30
Education work	38	8.78
Total	882	139.25

Team total from 1st April 2026 up to 05 August 2026

Percentage Navigation: 88%

Percentage National Park: 12%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 11 August 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 Yare, Brundall	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Auxiliary Yacht	River Waveney, Burgh St Peter	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	Lower Bure	Vessel sunk at mooring	Yes	Vessel recovered
Houseboat	River Ant, Sutton	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Auxiliary Yacht	River Waveney, Worlingham	Unserviceable vessel	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Ant	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Owner registered
Motor Vessel	River Ant, Sutton	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Ant, Sutton	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Waveney	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Ant	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Owner registered
Auxiliary Yacht	River Waveney, Peto's Marsh	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Yare, Norwich	Believed Abandoned	Vessel registered at point of issue	Owner registered
Motor Vessel	River Waveney, Beccles	Unserviceable vessel	Yes	Vessel recovered
Houseboat	Fleet Dyke	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Houseboat	River Yare, Thorpe	Believed Abandoned	Vessel registered at point of issue	Owner registered
Sailing	River Thurne, West Somerton	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	Upton Dyke	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Sailing	River Waveney	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Auxiliary Yacht	River Waveney	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River ant, Sutton Broad	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Working with owner to make compliant
Motor Vessel	River Thurne, Dungeon's corner	Unserviceable vessel	Yes	Vessel recovered
Sailing	Waxham Cut, Brograve Mill	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Sailing	River Waveney	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Waveney, St Olaves	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Owner registered
Motor Vessel	River Waveney, St Olaves	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Owner registered
Sailing	River Ant, Sutton	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Vessel recovered
Motor Vessel	River Chet	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Owner registered
Kayak	Lower Bure, Great Yarmouth	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Notice expiry date not yet reached
Dinghy	Womack Water	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Notice expiry date not yet reached

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Vessel	Womack Water	Unserviceable vessel	Yes	Notice expiry date not yet reached
Dinghy	River Yare, Thorpe St Andrew	Believed Abandoned	Yes	Notice expiry date not yet reached

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 25 March 2026

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Auxiliary Yacht	£440.00	£269.78	£176.00	£260.46
Motorboat	£440.00	£245.98	£176.00	£234.72
Auxiliary Yacht	£440.00	£269.78	£176.00	£164.95
Motorboat	£440.00	£271.35	£176.00	£743.28
Motorboat	£120.00	£307.05	£48.00	£254.28
Motorboat	£440.00	£243.95	£176.00	£352.08
Motorboat	£440.00	£271.35	176.00	£347.28
Motorboat	£220.00	£556.00	£88.00	£293.40
Motorboat	£440.00	£344.55	£176.00	£332.52
Auxiliary Yacht	£120.00	£344.10	£ 48.00	£185.30
Motorboat	£440.00	£393.05	£176.00	£567.24
Motorboat (Toll and navigation offences – see Appendix 5)	£1,100.00	£1,262.28	£440.00	£665.04
Motorboat	£220.00	£554.70	£88.00	£260.46

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 25 March 2026

Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor	Overstaying	£180	£220.15	£72	n/a
Motor	Overstaying, Failing to Comply	£880	£871	£352	n/a
Motor	Overstaying, Failing to Comply	£1100	£1262.28	£440	£665.04