

Navigation Committee

07 September 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

Theme C: Maintaining and enhancing the navigation

Recommended decision

To note the report.

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1. Broads Authority Annual Meeting

- 1.1. The Authority held its Annual Meeting on 28 July 2023. Bill Dickson was re-appointed Chairman of the Authority and Tristram Hilborn Vice-Chairman. The meeting resolved to join the Race to Zero campaign. This is a global initiative aimed at addressing climate change by mobilising various stakeholders to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas

emissions. It was launched in 2020 in collaboration with the COP26 Presidency and is aligned with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The UN Race to Zero Campaign is coordinated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat. Further information can be found at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>.

- 1.2. The Authority adopted the following five strategic priorities for 2024/25:
 - Responding to climate change (Broadland Futures Initiative)
 - Biodiversity crisis response
 - Local Plan for the Broads
 - Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)
 - Tolls system replacement
- 1.3. In January 2024 the Authority will be reducing its overheads by shrinking its occupation of Yare House, vacating the whole of the first floor and relocating into the rear of the 2nd floor together with a re-arrangement of the layout on the ground floor. The works to facilitate these changes will be funded from the additional National Park Grant received at the end of the last financial year.

2. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 2.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1 and reflects the busy period. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits are higher on the navigation side as would be expected during the summer when patrolling is a priority. There have been 2 successful prosecutions for overstaying on 24-hour moorings. One of these cases a fine was also issued for not having valid insurance. Details re set out in Appendix 5.

3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 3.1. The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 3. As with the last report we are continuing to deal with a number of vessels which have sunk on the River Yare, but progress has been made in each of these cases.

4. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 29 August 2023

[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 15 August
202315/08/2023

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 08/06/2023

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 08/06/202308
June 2023

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis 1st June – 13th August 2023

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	89	10	25	19	5	9		1
Speed	1134	514	206	104	74	86	92	23
Other	53	6	4	1	126	22		28

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	1	1				1
Speed	20	1		4		1	1	
Other	5	19	2	1		4	8	
Special directions		17	48		9		50	

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	74	74	65	60	74	67	72	74
Volunteer patrols	1							
IRIS reports	5	4	3	7	3	5	6	12

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	6250
VHF	961
Total	7211

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	157.64
Broads Control	362	146.79
Team meetings, work planning	318	100.81
Partnership working	76	10.34
Assisting other sections	76	22.74
Billets and boatsheds	25	6.89
Launch – general		2.23
Trailers - general		1.55
Vehicle maintenance		2.84
Other equipment repair		2.84
Total	979	454.66

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1030.41
Escorts	44	4.46
Prosecution files		5.95
Bankside tree management	108	9.05
Obstruction removal	26	4.80
Channel markers and buoys	30	8.04
Signs and boards maintenance	34	16.01
Adjacent waters	96	39.32
Reactive mooring maintenance	100.5	9.19
Total	2574.5	1127.23

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	146	0.54
Lake, riverbank restoration	100	
Invasive species control	32.5	2.97
Other conservation work	145	23.99
Pollution response		0.74
Visitor site maintenance	194	92.67
Public engagement	97	34.19
Public footpath work	38	4.12
Education work	69	3.85
Total	821.5	163.07

Team total up to 13 August 2023

Percentage Navigation: 87%

Percentage National Park: 13%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 15 August 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	Insurance company Aware, deadline of 6 weeks given
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Trowse	Vessel sunk behind rail bridge wooden fenders	Yes	Will be raised at next spring low water
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Cantley	Vessel sunk at BA 24-hour mooring.	No	Vessel raised and removed by owner
Yacht	Womack Water	Sunk at owners mooring	Yes	Will be raised at next spring low water
Aux yacht	Womack Water	Abandoned	Yes	24 th Aug Deadline
Motor Cruiser	Daisy Broad	Vessel caught fire and sunk	No	Insurance company will raise

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 08 June 2023

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Auxiliary Yacht	£440.00	£496.00	£176.00	£245.08
Motor	£220.00	£195.00	£88.00	£180.72
Motor	£220.00	£195.00	£88.00	£225.90
Motor	£440.00	£195.00	£176.00	£180.72
Motor	£440.00	£210.00	£176.00	N/A Failure to Register
Motor	£220.00	£205.00	£88.00	£271.08
Motor	£220.00	£195.00	£88.00	£165.66
Motor	£200.00	£240.00	£80.00	£301.20

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 08 June 2023

Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor Vessel	Overstaying (4 occasions)	£800	£410.00	£320	n/a
Motor Vessel	Overstaying (7 occasions) and no insurance	£1,000 overstaying £400 no insurance	£804.00	£560	n/a