

**Oulton Broad Free Quay Update**  
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

**Summary:** This report provides members with an update on the situation regarding the pending Harbour Revision Order for Mutford Lock and the transfer of land adjacent to the Lock from which the Oulton Broad free mooring jetty used to be situated.

**Recommendation:** That members note the contents of the report.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall that the removal of the Oulton Broad free quay and the transfer of the land from which it was constructed from Associated British Ports to the Broads Authority has been the subject of previous discussions at the Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF). The free quay, which was actually a mooring jetty, was built out into the bed of Oulton Broad from land adjacent to Mutford Lock.
- 1.2 The land in question is immediately adjacent to Mutford Lock which was constructed under a private act of parliament in 1827 in order to provide part of the improvement of navigation from Norwich. Mutford Lock was built to provide a safe access from the sea to the fresh water of Oulton Broad. A road improvement scheme was carried out in the vicinity of the Lock by Suffolk County Council in the early 1990s which involved the construction of a new road bridge over Lake Lothing and a pedestrian bridge over the Lock.
- 1.3 Since that time the Broads Authority has been involved in discussions with Suffolk County Council over the transfer of responsibility of the Lock and land adjacent to it including the area from which the free mooring jetty was built. In discussions with the interested parties it was agreed that the transfer of the Lock and responsibility for it was best facilitated by a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) under Section 14 of the 1964 Harbours Act.
- 1.4 It is apparent from questions raised at previous meetings at the BLAF and the Broads Forum that there is a level of uncertainty about the land transfer and who was responsible for the free mooring jetty. This report seeks to answer those questions.

## **2 Current situation regarding the HRO and land transfer**

- 2.1 Currently a draft HRO has been prepared and a tripartite agreement regarding the land transfer has been agreed between the interested parties: Suffolk County Council, Associated British Ports (ABP) and the Broads Authority.

- 2.2 The draft HRO is now being processed by the Marine Management Organisation and the tripartite agreement is also being finalised. The land transfer will include the transfer of the land from which the free mooring jetty was constructed from ABP to the Broads Authority. The areas of land involved are shown on the map at Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3 Replacement of the free jetty**

- 3.1 The free mooring jetty was constructed so that it abutted the land that will be transferred from ABP to the Broads Authority. The previous structure was constructed by Waveney District Council (WDC) and its support structure was driven into the bed of Oulton Broad which is also owned by WDC. ABP had no responsibility for the jetty although it owned the land to which the jetty abutted.
- 3.2 The jetty was removed by WDC several years ago as it had been assessed as being unsound. This work was not carried out at the request of the Broads Authority and by removing the jetty WDC effectively removed the free mooring facility at Oulton Broad.
- 3.3 If the free mooring facility is to be replaced it will be necessary for the landowner (WDC) to come forward with a proposal and funds to pay for the required structure. The Broads Authority is prepared to give advice regarding the development of any project to replace the mooring jetty but is not in a position to finance its replacement.

### **4 Conclusions**

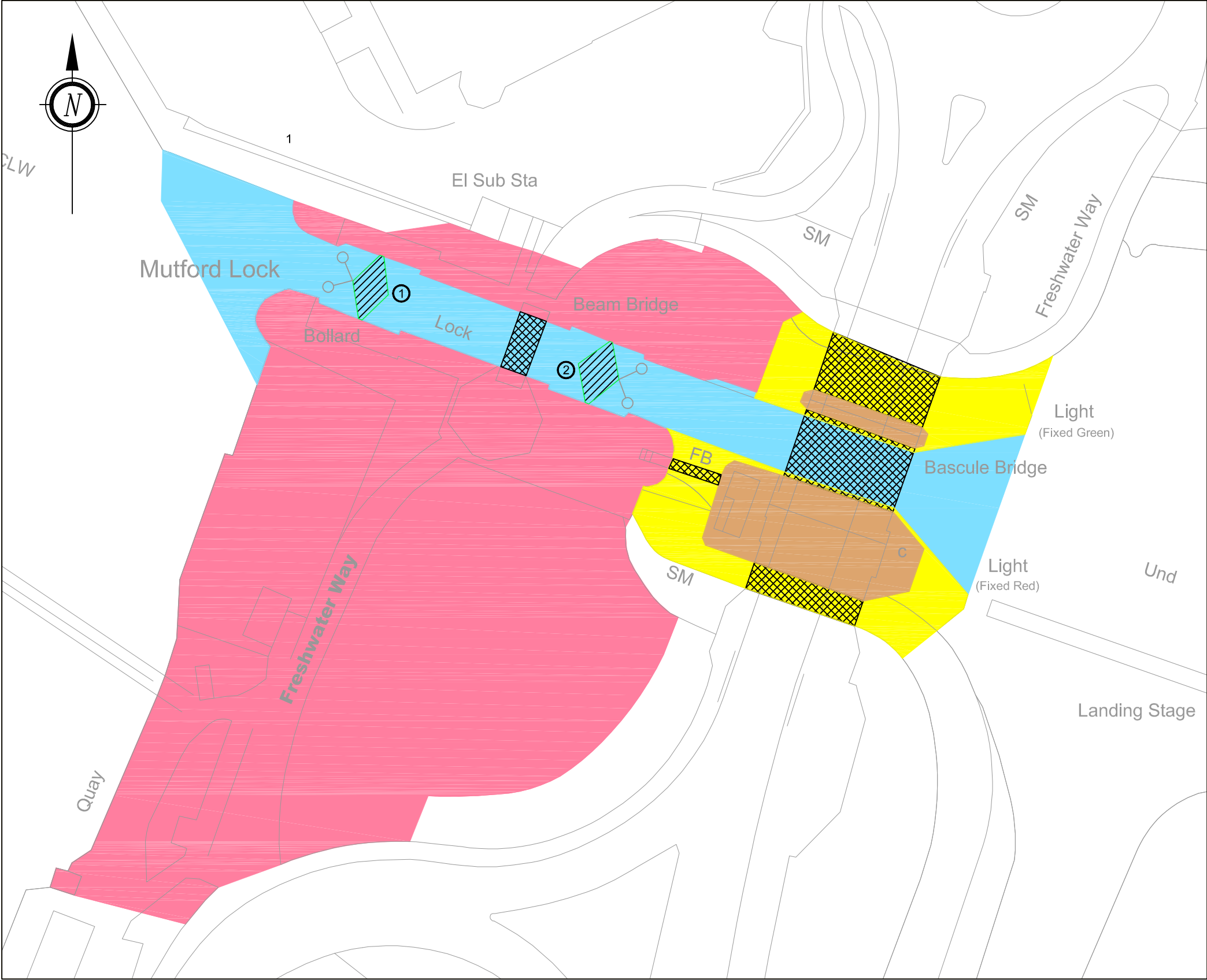
- 4.1 There is no uncertainty regarding the ownership of the land to which the free mooring jetty abutted. It currently belongs to ABP and will, by virtue of the tripartite agreement, be transferred to the Broads Authority. The Broads Authority is prepared to advise Waveney District Council regarding the replacement of the free mooring jetty but is not in a position to fund any replacement structure.

Background papers: Nil

Author: Adrian Clarke  
Date of report: 26 November 2013

Broads Plan Objectives: TR1, TR2,

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 - Plan of Mutford Lock HRO and land transfer



LEGEND

- LAND
- NAVIGABLE WATERS
- NAVIGABLE WATERS OVERSAILED BY BRIDGE DECKS OWNED BY SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
- NAVIGABLE WATERS ENCLOSED BY LOCK GATES
- BRIDGE PIERS & CONTROL TOWER OWNED BY SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
- NON-NAVIGABLE WATERS OVERSAILED BY BRIDGE DECKS OWNED BY SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
- NON-NAVIGABLE WATERS

THIS MAP IS BASED UPON ORDNANCE SURVEY MATERIAL WITH THE PERMISSION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY ON BEHALF OF THE CONTROLLER OF HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE © CROWN COPYRIGHT. UNAUTHORISED REPRODUCTION INFRINGES CROWN COPYRIGHT AND MAY LEAD TO PROSECUTION OR CIVIL PROCEEDINGS. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL, LICENCE NO. 100023395, 2010.



Lyn Robinson, Director of Economy Skills & Environment  
Endeavour House, 6 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX.

Broads Authority  
Yare House  
62-64 Thorpe Road  
Norwich

REVISION(S)			
Lock gates numbered & edged green. BA details added to title block			
DESCRIPTION	REV.	DATE	INTL.

PROJECT TITLE			
MUTFORD LOCK BRIDGES OULTON BROAD LOWESTOFT			
DRAWING TITLE			
HARBOUR REVISION ORDER PLAN			

ORIGINATOR	CHECKER	DESIGNER	REVIEWER
RL	RL	-	-
SCALE(S) ORIGINAL SIZE A3		DATE	
1:500@A3		MARCH 2013	
DRAWING NUMBER			REVISION
10/02/2011/110			A