

# Navigation Committee

08 June 2023

Agenda item number 7

## Chief Executive's report and current issues May 2023

Report by Chief Executive

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### Purpose

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

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### 1. Capital Funding Progress Report

- 1.1. All of the plant and equipment ordered for delivery by the end of March 2023 arrived on time. The barge/workboat was delivered on 3 May. Before commissioning into active service, the Truxor and water plant harvester have had some minor modifications to pass them through the Boat Safety Scheme requirements. The tractor and trailer will go into active service once the Authority's application for a Restricted Operators Licence has been approved, as our usage of this machinery falls under HGV requirements.

## 2. Risk to waterways users from water-borne disease in the Broads

- 2.1. At the Broads Authority on 12 May [a formal request from the Broads Local Access Forum was considered](#) regarding its approach to tackling the source of untreated sewage and addressing the lack of critical safety information for water users on water-borne diseases that may arise from such pollution.
- 2.2. The Environment Agency tests for Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIOs), such as E. coli and intestinal enterococci in order to understand the levels of bacterial pollution in water. However, this testing is only done as a statutory responsibility at Designated Bathing Water sites, of which the vast majority are coastal beaches. As such no FIO testing is currently carried out anywhere on inland waters in the Broads Authority executive area.
- 2.3. Recently, there has been interest in setting up bathing water sites on inland waterways and the River Waveney Trust is working with Anglian Water and looking at establishing one at Falcon Meadow in Bungay. Several criteria need to be met for DEFRA to designate an inland bathing water site, these include providing evidence of a need, for example sufficient numbers of swimmers, and also appropriate facilities such as toilets. The criteria do not include providing any data on water quality. However, in the example of Falcon Meadow, Anglian Water are working with the Waveney River Trust to establish what bacterial levels are present, prior to applying for formal designation. In all cases, once an application is approved then the site is added to the Environment Agency's monitoring schedule.
- 2.4. The Authority recognises water-borne diseases as a key hazard in the Safety Management System hazard log (which is how the Authority implements the Port & Marine Safety Code). The hazard log will be reviewed this year as part of the SMS Stakeholder Hazard Review, which occurs every five years.
- 2.5. The Authority's current position on open water swimming (as described on the Authority's [public website](#)) is that we "strongly advises against entering the water unless part of an organised event". The website guidance continues, "However, while recognising benefits to the health and well-being of participants, a balanced assessment must be undertaken as swimming in the Broads carries numerous risks."
- 2.6. The risks developed on the website include hypothermia, cold water shock, and visibility to vessels. It currently does not include water-borne diseases or risks from bacterial pollution.
- 2.7. The Broads Authority co-hosts the Broadland Catchment Partnership (BCP). A recent review of the Broadland Catchment Plan by the BCP has highlighted the potential threat to human health posed by untreated sewage pollution. This will be developed further in the future revision of the published Broadland Catchment Plan.
- 2.8. The Authority adopted the following recommendations:

- There should be no change to the Authority's current overall position on open water swimming, as per the text on the website [Outdoor swimming \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk)
- Carry out a review of the current communications for both open water swimming and paddle-sports, to include water-borne diseases as one of the hazards facing those taking part in these activities. The Authority's principal role should be the provision of information on what the public need to take into consideration before taking part in these activities and how to self-manage the risks.
- Work with partners to ensure safety messages align (where possible) and to expand the reach of communications.
- Through the Broadland Catchment Partnership, support the Environment Agency and Anglian Water in their implementation of the recent Defra announcement to make the reduction of sewage overflows a legally binding target, as per the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan published in August 2022.
- Support the River Waveney Trust's ambition for the establishment of an inland bathing water site at Falcon Meadow, Bungay. The site is beyond the limits of navigation but within the Authority's executive area, therefore the risks of boat collisions are significantly reduced, and a well-managed site should mitigate the other risks of outdoor swimming.

### 3. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 3.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the Rangers is at Appendix 1 and reflects a busy Easter. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits; these are higher on the navigation side with launch training being undertaken for the new Assistant Rangers over this time.

### 4. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 4.1. The list of sunken vessels is listed in Appendix 3. The local Rangers are actively chasing the owners of the 3 sunken vessels affecting the navigation area.

### 5. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 30 May 2023

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 23 May 2023

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 13 April 2023

## Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis 1 April – 15 May 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	5	1	1	13	3	4		
Speed	343	113	51	57	18	26	14	12
Other	32	3	5	2	10	4		

**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								1
Speed	6						1	1
Other	4	3	4			5		
Special directions							3	

**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	45	44	43	43	45	43	44	45
Volunteer patrols								
IRIS reports	5	7	1	5	1	5	2	5

**Table 4**

Broads Control total calls (1 April to 15 May 2023)

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	2773
VHF	471
<b>Total</b>	<b>3244</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	134	84.26
Broads Control	362	48.92
Team meetings, work planning	356	28.51
Partnership working	76	4.46
Assisting other sections	76	8.24
Billets and boatsheds	25	1.42
Launch – general		0.95
Trailers - general		1.28
Vehicle maintenance		0.14
Other equipment repair		1.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>179.26</b>

**Table 2**

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	319.53
Escorts	44	2.77
Prosecution files		1.62
Bankside tree management	58	
Obstruction removal	26	2.64
Channel markers and buoys	30	3.85
Signs and boards maintenance	34	5.14
Adjacent waters	110	16.76
Reactive mooring maintenance	104.5	3.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>2542.5</b>	<b>355.49</b>

**Table 3**

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Annual allocation (days)</b>	<b>Actual days to date</b>
Fen management	191	0.54
Lake, riverbank restoration	126	
Invasive species control	32.5	0.47
Other conservation work	165	6.62
Pollution response		0.34
Visitor site maintenance	209	18.18
Public engagement	251	3.11
Public footpath work	44	0.27
Education work	69	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1087.5</b>	<b>29.53</b>

**Team total up to 15 May 2023**

Percentage Navigation: 92%

Percentage National Park: 8%

## Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 23 May 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	Not able to raise with dredging rig. Vessel marked.	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel Sunk at owners mooring	No	Insurance company aware, chasing for vessel to be raised
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Trowse	Vessel sunk behind rail bridge wooden fenders	No	Chasing owner.
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Cantley	Vessel sunk at BA 24-hour mooring. Marked.	No	Chasing owner.
Yacht	Womack Water	Sunk at owners mooring	No	Liaising with owner



### Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 13 April 2023

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor	£660.00	£220.00	£264.00	£301.20
Motor	£440.00	£220.00	£176.00	£250.38
O/B Dinghy	£220.00	£225.00	£88.00	£75.30
Motor	£370.00	£225.00	£148.00	£557.22