

Navigation Committee

05 September 2024

Agenda item number 6

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

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 26 July at which Harry Blathwayt was elected as Chairman for the coming year and Tristram Hilborn re-appointed as Vice-Chairman. Tim Jickells and Tony Grayling have been elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

- 1.2. At the time of writing, staff are dealing with several incidents across the Broads including boat fires and vessels stuck under bridges. Unfortunately, there have been several fatalities and staff are liaising with the police, individuals effected and relevant boat yards, investigating the details and reporting as necessary.

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, one for overstaying on 24- hour moorings and one for unauthorised letting go of a vessel.

3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 3.1. The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 3. All cases are in process where they are affecting the navigation.

4. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 21 August 2024

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 07 August 2024
07/08/2024

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 26/07/2024

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 06/06/2024
26 July 2024

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	48	31	10	47	14	1	20	
Speed	952	381	267	233	78	56	96	22
Other	113	53	8	12	111	12	4	

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	2	0	0	0			
Speed	16		0	3	2	2	3	
Other	7	9	5	3		10	8	3
Special directions	38	0	1		25	44	125	31

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	122	122	118	118	119	112	119	122
Volunteer patrols								
IRIS reports	8	5	1	5	7	9	4	14

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	9131
VHF	1420
Total	10551

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	46.96
Broads Control	362	135.07
Team meetings, work planning	318	131.93
Partnership working	76	12.43
Assisting other sections	76	27.30
Billets and boatsheds	25	4.12
Launch – general		4.56
Trailers - general		0.27
Vehicle maintenance		4.26
Other equipment repair		0.41
Total	979	367.30

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	975.76
Escorts	44	11.08
Prosecution files	0	8.24
Bankside tree management	108	13.34
Obstruction removal	26	7.64
Channel markers and buoys	30	12.50
Signs and boards maintenance	34	21.82
Adjacent waters	96	41.42
Reactive mooring maintenance	100.5	22.84
Total	2574.5	22.84

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	146	2.77
Lake, riverbank restoration	100	0
Invasive species control	32.5	0
Other conservation work	145	26.49
Pollution response		1.62
Visitor site maintenance	194	81:18
Public Engagement	97	35:20
Public footpath work	38	6.66
Education work	69	2.84
Total	821.5	156.76

Team total up to 08 August 2024

Percentage Navigation: 88%

Percentage National Park: 12%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 07 August 2024

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, Trowse	Vessel sunk behind rail bridge wooden fenders	Yes	Difficult access. Will attempt to raise next extreme low water. Not affecting the navigation.
Motor Cruiser	River Wensum, Trowse	Sunk at mooring, marked with yellow buoy	No	Waiting for dredging kit to be in area.
3x motor cruisers	River Chet, Loddon	3 vessels sunk after fire	No	Vessel boomed and lit. Working with marina and insurance company to raise
Blue and White Cruiser	Surlingham	Believed abandoned	Yes	Possible owner found
Aux Yacht	Oulton Broad	Believed abandoned	Yes	Awaiting deadline of notice
Aux Yacht	Potter Heigham	Believed abandoned	Yes	Awaiting deadline of notice

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 26 July 2024

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor	£200.00	£210.00	£80.00	£442.53
Houseboat	£220.00	£215.00	£88.00	£125.60
Motor	£220.00	£230.00	£88.00	£527.62
Motor	£220.00	£230.00	£88.00	£272.32
Aux Yacht	£220.00	£230.00	£88.00	£188.88
Houseboat	£220.00	£165.00	£88.00	£213.50
Houseboat	£220.00	£165.00	£88.00	£213.50
Rowing	£100.00	£210.00	£40.00	£42.69

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 06 June 2024

Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Other
Assorted	Overstaying	£800	£650	£440	£300 for obstruction
Motor	Letting Go a Vessel	£660	£850	£264	£1200 compensation