

# Navigation Committee

06 June 2024

Agenda item number 5

## Summary of actions and outstanding issues following discussions at previous meetings

Title	Meeting date	Lead officer	Summary of actions	Progress so far	Target date
<p>Network Rail Swing Bridge £10 million Refurbishment program</p>	<p>19/10/2017</p>	<p>John Packman</p>	<p>Network Rail Whole Life Strategy planning for swing bridges and replacing Trowse Swing Bridge with fixed bridge.</p>	<p>Historical updates (date range October 2019 to September 2021) have been removed. All historical updates can be found in previous versions of the Summary of Actions and Outstanding Issues available via the <a href="#">committee papers</a> on the Broads Authority website.</p> <p><b>Mar 2022:</b> Dialogue with Network Rails Contractor for the swing bridge refurbishment programmes continues (Murphy's). A date of October 2022 has been agreed for the contractors access and they are planning on 2 x 52hr weekend works and a 16 day blockade. During this time the swing bridge will operate but with 2 x set opening times daily, these will be published nearer the date.</p> <p><b>May 2022:</b> Senior Operations Officers continue to work with Murphy's to facilitate the delivery of this 10 million pound refurbishment of Reedham &amp; Somerleyton Swing Bridges. Dates of the works have been shared with navigators and regular information will be supplied as the work dates get nearer.</p> <p><b>Sept 2022:</b> The contractors (Murphy's) reported that due to mechanical parts coming from Ukraine, a change to the work program is required. Swing Bridge works will start in September with weekend clousures. Main works will commence in March 2023. A NTM has been issued and swing bridge openings have been agreed during work periods.</p> <p><b>Oct 2022:</b> The initial phase of the swing bridge refurbishments have been completed, this work was making space within the existing plant room to accommodate the updated mechanical opening gear. Phase two is being planned and will commence in 2023 when parts are available to install.</p> <p><b>Mar 2023:</b> Recent update from Murphy's (Network Rail's contractors) is that the next phase of the refurbishment has been delayed until November 2023. Swing Bridges will operate (on demand) with no further restrictons in place until the work program commences again in</p>	

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				<p>November. No explanation has yet been given as to why the delay, The Director of Operations is chasing more information.</p> <p><b>May 2023:</b> Works completed to date on the swing bridges include:  Installed a beam in the control box that houses the swing bridge machinery. This will make the building strong enough for a temporary opening to be made in the wall. The opening will allow the old and heavy machinery to be moved out and replaced with modern equipment during the next stage of the project.  Carried out much-needed, extensive brickwork repairs to reinforce the control box.  Completed a full renewal and upgrade of the electrical system.  Upgraded and replaced the manual winch system. This allows the bridge to be swung open manually by the bridge operator if there are problems with the machinery, keeping trains and boat users moving.  Network Rail now expects further work on Reedham and Somerleyton swing bridges to take place in late 2023 and 2024. Boat users will be advised of any changes to the usual operation of the bridges via the Broads Authority.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> Network Rail confirmed that the work to the Somerleyton and Reedham swing bridges was complete. Work included extensive brickwork repairs to reinforce the control boxes, a full upgrade to the electrical system, a full upgrade and replacement of the manual winch system to enable the bridge to be swung open manually by the bridge operator if there was a problem with the machinery, and replacement of the navigation lights. What was not clear was whether, as part of the scheme, the lifting equipment and jacks within the control box had been completed and the Authority was waiting to receive confirmation from Network Rail.</p> <p>Network Rail had been unable to go ahead with the Oulton swing bridge repairs as they were more substantial than first thought.</p> <p><b>May 2024:</b> Network Rail have confirmed that they are continuing to look at ways in which, in the long term, they might be able to address the issue of the two Swing Bridges thermally expanding and not being operable in very hot weather. However, these are likely to entail structural works and will require additional funding, so they do not currently have a timeline for this.</p> <p>For the time being, they have instead undertaken a smaller, though still significant, set of works. Together with a consistent maintenance regime, these will prevent the bridges from deteriorating and make failures less likely.</p>	

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Carrow Road Bridge Repairs	15/04/2021	John Packman	Briefing provided at Navigation Committee meeting in April, outlining Norfolk County Council's proposals for the repair of Carrow Road bridge. Further information is awaited from the County Council.	<p><b>10 Jun 2021:</b> report on the Carrow Road bridge repairs presented to members with the Norfolk County Council (NCC) options report. The Navigation Committee is of the view that NCC's proposal to carry out a minimal repair to Carrow Road bridge, effectively welding it shut so it is unable to open to tall vessels, is totally unacceptable. It would be contrary to NCC's legal obligations under the Norwich Corporation Act 1920, which are to maintain and operate the bridge to allow vessels that require passage to pass. In our view, officers should refuse any Works Licence application for this superficial repair work and NCC should be encouraged to perform repairs in a way that maintains navigation rights to this historic and important gateway to Norwich, in accordance with the legislation. The Broads Authority would like to work with NCC to find a solution that meets the statutory obligations of both organisations.</p> <p><b>Aug 2021:</b> The Chief Executive and Director of Operations met with officers of Norfolk County Council on 17 August to discuss the road bridge repairs following the report to Navigation Committee and NCC wanting to temporarily seal the bridge closed for 5 years. The BA is offering collaborative working to find an agreeable solution that protects the rights of navigation.</p> <p><b>Oct 2021:</b> No further update from NCC. RR and JP to arrange a future meeting with NCC (as reported at NC211021)</p> <p><b>Dec 2021:</b> Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and The Broads Authority met on 8 December to discuss the works proposal submitted for licensing. It was a positive meeting with all partners understanding the different issues each organisation faced with the proposed construction method. Norfolk County Council officers agreed to re-look at road deck construction methods and the timing of the repairs to see if these can better link with the City Council's planned route improvements and still maintain the ability to open the Carrow Bascule bridge. An update was made in the Chief Executive's report, item 7 on the 13 January 2022 Navigation Committee agenda.</p> <p><b>Mar 2022:</b> Following discussion between the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council a report to 7 March County Council Cabinet meeting will contain the following short statement: Carrow Bridge, Norwich. In last year's Highway Capital Report, the need to establish a longer-term solution for Carrow Bridge was highlighted. Discussions are ongoing with key partners, including the Broads Authority, to agree short-term and longer-term options for improvement at this sensitive</p>	10/06/2021

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				<p>part of the transport network. The programme of ongoing maintenance works continues on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>March 2023:</b> The Authority has not received any further communications from NCC of additional repairs to Carrow Bridge.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> It is understood that some repairs have been carried out and the bridge was fit for purpose at present.</p>	
New on-line tolls software	07/09/2023	Bill Housden	Strategic Priority for 2023 and 2024. Scoping work complete.	<p><b>September 2023:</b> Currently engaged on pre-market engagement on upgrade of internal system.</p> <p>Progress report on viability of updating internal system to the latest software due in January 2024.</p> <p><b>October 2023:</b> Progress report on viability of updating internal system to the latest software due in January 2024.</p> <p><b>December 2023:</b> Schedule of works received to upgrade internal system to latest software version. Meeting has taken place to discuss possible future cloud hosting and costs of hosting have been requested. Printing and database adhoc reporting for cloud based hosting under investigation.</p> <p><b>March 2024:</b> Costings for upgrading the internal tolls system for cloud hosting have been received along with costs for reworking the existing online payment application. This work, which replicates current functionality in a supported &amp; secure environment is scheduled for the period April to June 2024.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> A contract had been let for the upgrade of the internal system software for cloud hosting this underpins the online tolls system, and this part of the project is planned to be completed by end of June 2024.</p> <p><b>May 2024:</b> Work on upgrading the internal system to the latest software version is progressing well.</p>	24/01/2024
Future of the Hire Boat Industry	07/09/2023	John Packman	<p>Commission study to review 2001 report and examine the prospects for the industry going forward and what actions could be taken to encourage.</p> <p>Stage 1 – Discuss with the Broads Hire Boat Federation</p> <p>Prepare a brief for the work and consult the Committee on the content.</p>	<p><b>October 2023:</b> Engaged with the Broads Hire Boat Federation and British Marine. Both supportive of a half-day workshop. Awaiting response from British Marine on potential dates.</p> <p><b>December 2023:</b> A meeting was held with the Broads Hire Boat Federation and British Marine on December 6th 2023. Agreed to prepare a paper seeking Government funding for the maintenance of the navigation. See <a href="#">Chief Executive's report – 11 January 2024</a>.</p> <p><b>March 2024:</b> Response on funding set out in the <a href="#">Chief Executive's report - 11 April 2024</a>.</p>	11/04/2024

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Funding the waterways of the Broads National Park	11/01/2024	John Packman	To track the progress on making the case for central Government funding to support the maintenance of the Broads waterways.	<p><b>January 2024:</b> The paper was presented to the committee on 11 Jan. 2024 and received unanimous support to endorse the paper for adoption by the Broads Authority. On 26 Jan. 2024, the Broads Authority unanimously endorsed the paper and supported the Chair in writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment.</p> <p><b>March 2024:</b> Funding paper sent to the Minister and a response received on 18 March.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> As reported at the Navigation Committee on 11 April, the Minister confirmed that the Government remained committed to supporting the vital role Protected Landscapes play in protecting our precious wildlife, and the importance they have for tourism, the regional economy, and public access. The Minister was optimistic that a more sustainable funding model for our Protected Landscapes could be developed.</p>	

Date of report: 21 May 2024