

# Navigation Committee

06 June 2024

Agenda item number 8

## 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.

---

## Contents

1. National Park Grant	1
2. Navigation patrolling and performance targets	3
3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update	3
4. Planning enforcement update	3
Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	4
Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days	6
Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 17 May 2024	8
Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 11 April 2024	9
Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 11 April 2024	10

## 1. National Park Grant

1.1. On 28 March 2024 Defra informed the Authority of its Grant Funding for 2024/25. The total annual grant award of £3,996,929 is allocated as follows:

Core Grant Funding	£3,414,078
Core 24/25 Uplift Capital Funding	£ 250,000
Core 24/25 Uplift Revenue Funding	£ 250,000
Access for All Capital Funding	£ 82,851

- 1.2. In addition, the Authority has been allocated £480,320 for the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.
- 1.3. Half of the additional £500,000 funding is revenue as opposed to capital which provides more flexibility on the projects that can be funded. It is critical that the capital funding is spent before the 31 March 2025 and therefore items from the list that can be readily purchased have been identified and are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 Capital Programme 2024/25**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>
Concrete pump	A concrete pump is an integral part of the Authority's dredging operation and needs replacement. While there will be biodiversity and water quality benefits from the deployment of the concrete pump, there is a significant benefit in improved public access through the maintenance of the waterways.	£173,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
Two replacement Hilux	Replacement of vehicles at the end of their life for Rangers and Construction, Maintenance and Ecology staff	£60,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology & Head of Ranger Services
Dipper Arm Extension and Weed Bucket for Fen Excavator	These would facilitate on-going fen management on the Authority's own land and sites managed for third parties	£16,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
Steel welfare unit	To replace a previous wooden welfare hut and upgrade facilities for staff welfare working in remote locations in the Broads.	£8,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
<b>Total</b>		<b>c.£257,000</b>	

- 1.4. The additional £250,000 National Park revenue funding will be placed in the earmarked reserves to support the purchase of the other items: the research, development and delivery of a replacement Ranger launch and the additional replacement vehicles previously identified. Other potential items for use of this funding are a finance system and costs associated with the downsizing of the Authority's occupation of Yare House. The purchase of the launch and the finance system will be subject to tender, and it will only be then that definitive costs will be known. Updates on progress will be provided by The Finance, Performance and Direction report.
- 1.5. The Access for All Capital Funding is earmarked for the redesign of the footpaths at Hoveton Riverside Park and the tenders for the piling will be significant in identifying how much of that proposal can be implemented. It is proposed that the balance of any access funding will be used to improve the path at Acle from the moorings to the village.

## **2. Navigation patrolling and performance targets**

- 2.1. The report of the significant use of powers by the Rangers is at Appendix 1 and reflects the busy period. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits; these are higher on the navigation side, as expected during the summer when patrolling is a priority. There has been one prosecution for navigation offences over this period which related to overstaying, and it set out in Appendix 5.

## **3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update**

- 3.1. The sunken and abandoned vessel update is at Appendix 3. Several vessels have been removed recently as water levels have dropped to allow this to happen.

## **4. Planning enforcement update**

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

Author: John Packman

Date of report: 21 May 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 17 May 2024 17/05/2024

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 11/04/2024

Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 11/04/2024 11 April 2024

# Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis 1<sup>st</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**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	8		3	19				
Speed	158	35	24	31	15	12	10	4
Other	14	15	3	4	9	3	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								
Speed	5			2	1		3	
Other	1	5	5	2		4	9	
Special directions					14	10		

**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	40	40	40	38	40	38	40	40
Volunteer patrols								
IRIS reports		3		2	2	3	1	6

**Table 4**

Broads Control total calls 1<sup>st</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	3115
VHF	530
<b>Total</b>	<b>3645</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	122	17.43
Broads Control	362	43.58
Team meetings, work planning	318	42.84
Partnership working	76	4.46
Assisting other sections	76	9.59
Billets and boatsheds	25	2.30
Launch – general	0	2.09
Trailers - general	0	0
Vehicle maintenance	0	1.08
Other equipment repair	00	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>123.44</b>

**Table 2**

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	327.01
Escorts	44	2.84
Prosecution files	0	2.23
Bankside tree management	108	1.89
Obstruction removal	26	1.82
Channel markers and buoys	30	2.97
Signs and boards maintenance	34	3.78
Adjacent waters	96	11.49
Reactive mooring maintenance	100.5	3.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>2574.5</b>	<b>357.54</b>

**Table 3**

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Annual allocation (days)</b>	<b>Actual days to date</b>
Fen management	146	1.62
Lake, riverbank restoration	100	0
Invasive species control	32.5	0
Other conservation work	145	11.76
Pollution response	0	1.62
Visitor site maintenance	194	31.96
Public Engagement	97	3.38
Public footpath work	38	2.30
Education work	69	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>821.5</b>	<b>52.64</b>

**Team total up to 10 May 2024**

Percentage Navigation: 87%

Percentage National Park: 13%

## Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 17 May 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, Thorpe	Vessel Sunk at owners mooring	Yes	Vessel removed
Motor Cruiser	River Wensum, 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	Working with owner to raise.
Aux Yacht	River Wensum, Norwich	Vessel sunk and marked with posts.	Yes	Vessel removed
Aux Yacht	River Wensum, Beccles	Vessel sunk, unable to find owner	Yes	Vessel removed
Motor Cruiser	River Wensum, Somerleyton	Vessel taking on water at 24 hour mooring	No	Brought to Dockyard, liaising with owner.



## Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 11 April 2024

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Auxiliary Yacht	£660.00	£215.00	£264.00	£276.98
Motor	£220.00	£160.00	£176.00	£323.38
Motor	£220.00	£160.00	£176.00	£323.38
Motor	£220.00	£215.00	£88.00	£221.26
Motor	£660.00	£215.00	£264.00	£391.46
Motor	£440.00	£130.00	£176.00	£374.44
Motor	£440.00	£130.00	£176.00	£136.16
Motor	£440.00	£180.00	£176.00	£391.46
Auxiliary Yacht	£440.00	£180.00	£176.00	£163.67
Motor	£300.00	£190.00	£120.00	£204.24
Auxiliary Yacht	£220.00	£215.00	£88.00	£125.90
Motor	£440.00	£200.00	£176.00	£629.74
Sailing	£220.00	£100.00	£44.00	£114.40
Sailing	£220.00	£100.00	£44.00	£83.20

## Appendix 5 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for navigation offences since 11 April 2024

Type of vessel	Offence	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Private	Overstaying	£660	£290	£264	None