

Wakeboarding Trial Findings and Review Panel Recommendations
Report by Head of Safety Management

Summary: This report sets out the findings of the trial of recreational wakeboarding including 'getting air' on the River Yare and River Waveney and the results of a consultation following the review panel recommendations.

Recommendations:

- (i) That the Trial of Wakeboarding including 'getting air' is approved to take place on the River Yare Zones 2 and 4 and the River Waveney Zones 3, 4 and 5 for the year 1 April 2013 until 31 March 2014.
- (ii) That the times when water skiing and wakeboarding can take place on the River Waveney are varied as set out in the schedule (Appendix 4).
- (iii) That the form of Wakeboarding including 'getting air' is approved to take place alongside water skiing on the River Yare Zones 3 and 5 and the River Waveney Zone 1 from 1 April 2013.
- (iv) That the permit conditions set out in appendix 5 are approved.
- (v) That the Water Ski Review Panel's findings following a review of the remaining trial of wakeboarding be brought back to the Authority for consideration.

1 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 31 July 2011 the Water Ski Review Panel proposed a number of mitigation measures to be implemented for the 2012 season and also proposed an extension of the trial of wakeboarding to include 'getting air' in certain zones at certain times.
- 1.2 Following a consultation period the Broads Authority, at its meeting on the 16 March 2012, supported the recommendations of the Panel including the extension of the trial of wakeboarding allowing 'getting air' for a further year and to include a zone on the river Waveney zone 1 (see Appendix 1).

2 The Wakeboarding Trial

- 2.1 The Wakeboarding Trial period re-commenced on the 1 April 2012. Permit holders were sent letters setting out the conditions of the trial and permit conditions reflecting these terms (see Appendix 2).
- 2.2 Three water ski zones were allocated for the trial. Yare 3 “Cantley” and Waveney 1 were to be used for mixed use, both wakeboarding and water skiing and Yare 5 which was to be used for the trial only
- 2.3 Wake boarders were required to log their activity with Broads Control prior to the commencement of the activity. This would allow information to be disseminated to Rangers in order that checks could be made. This method also allowed for the rapid analysis of usage data to feed into this review.
- 2.4 Of the 36 permits which were issued in 2012 only nine permit holders took part in the trial, of these six permit holders made a total of 52 visits to the Yare 3 Zone, three permit holders made a total of ten visits the Waveney 1 Zone for ‘getting air’ and no visits were recorded to the Yare 5 zone.
- 2.5 Of these 52 visits to Yare 3 zone over 77% of the visits were made by two permit holders.
Of the ten visits to Waveney 1 zone the visits evenly distributed between three permit holders
Of the nine permit holders who took part in the trial seven had multiple visits and two visited only once.

3 Ranger Feedback

- 3.1 Over the season the Yare team of four Rangers have been involved in monitoring on land and water and wakeboarding has been seen on six occasions. Each time vessels were being helmed in accordance with the trial and no problems were witnessed.

4 Complaints

- 4.1 No complaints relating to the trial were received by Rangers or Broads Control.

5 User Feedback

- 5.1 No user feedback has been received.

6 Permits and usage

- 6.1 The number of water ski permits issued by the Authority has remained relatively static over the last five years which is probably reflecting the new permit regime and the additional requirements which have been introduced.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Permits	67	54	48	39	40	31	38	36

7 Options for Consideration

7.1 The following options were presented to the Review Panel for consideration:

- (i) **Option 1**
Revert back to the original limits of the management of Wakeboarding and Waterskiing in not allowing users to get air.
- (ii) **Option 2a**
Allow the practice of 'getting air' to continue as defined in the trial in the zones previously used for the trial and requiring users to log on with Broads Control prior to their activity and hold a further review after 1 year.
- (iii) **Option 2b**
Allow the practice of 'getting air' to continue as defined in the trial in the zones Yare 3, Yare 5 and Waveney 1-2 on an ongoing basis and continue to require users to log on with Broads Control prior to their activity.
- (iv) **Option 3**
Allow the practice of 'getting air' in all zones with requirement to log on and off with Broads Control.
- (v) **Option 4**
Allow the practice of 'getting air' in all zones with no requirement to log on and off with Broads Control.

8 Review Panel Recommendations

- 8.1 The Panel considered that a variation of Option 2b should be recommended to the Authority that the 'getting air' trial be extended into the remaining ski zones, with the exception of Y1, this would be trialled for a further 12 months. Also that 'getting air' should be formally allowed on an ongoing basis in the zones where there had been a successful trial Y3, Y5 and W1.
- 8.2 In addition the Panel recommended that the times when water skiing and wakeboarding could take place should be the same for all zones with the exception of zone Yare 1 which was to remain as is at present. This would have the effect of varying times on the river Waveney to align with those on currently applying to the zones on the River Yare.
- 8.3 The Panel also recommended that the permit conditions relating to water skiing and wakeboarding be amended to include reference to a register of approved persons rather than a requirement to record the approved persons on the permit. This will remove the restriction of qualified helmsmen only

being allowed to helm the vessel named on the permit. The amended permit conditions are set out in Appendix 5

9 Consultation

- 9.1 The Broads Authority Act 2009 includes provisions enabling the Authority to regulate waterskiing and wakeboarding. They include a power to designate, to amend or revoke zones within the Authority's navigation area where these activities will be permitted.
- 9.2 The effect of the proposed changes will be to vary where and when waterskiing and wakeboarding may take place. The proposed variations are set out in Appendix 2.
- (a) In addition from 1 April 2013 it is proposed that a trial be allowed for a period of one year for a form of wakeboarding including manoeuvres and momentarily leaving the surface of the water. The trial will be limited to six concurrent wake boarders in each of five zones, two zones on the River Yare numbered 2 and 4 and three zones on the River Waveney numbered 3, 4 and 5. See Appendix 2.
- (b) Also that from the 1 April 2013 it is proposed to formalise the activity of wakeboarding including manoeuvres and momentarily leaving the surface of the water in the three previously trialled zones two on the river Yare numbered 3 and 5 and one zone on the river Waveney numbered 1 (see Appendix 2).
- 9.3 Section 26(5)(a) of the 2009 Act requires the Authority, before it passes the proposed resolution, to consult:
- (a) such persons who own or occupy residential property, the amenity of which appears to the Authority likely to be affected by the proposed resolution; and
- (b) Natural England and such organisations as appear to the Authority to represent persons likely to be affected by it.

9.5 A public consultation ran from 27 November 2012 until the 9 January 2013.

10 Consultation Findings

- 10.1 The Authority consulted on the proposals to extend the wakeboarding trial, to formalise the wakeboarding activity on Yare 3 and 5 and Waveney 1 and to vary the times on river Waveney. At the time of writing there is no opposition to all three proposals however an update will be presented to the meeting of Authority as the consultation does not close until 9 January 2013.
- 10.2 The Navigation Committee and Broads Forum were consulted and it was felt that the all three proposals should go ahead as proposed.

11 Next Steps

- 11.1 The Water Ski Review Panel are to be asked to review the outcome of the extended trial of wakeboarding.
- 11.2 The Panel's findings will then be brought back to the Authority for consideration.

Background papers: Breydon Water and Water Ski Designation Broads Authority 23 Nov 2012

Author: Steve Birtles
Date of report: 3 January 2013

Broads Plan Objectives: NA4

Appendices:
APPENDIX 1 – Consultation Responses
APPENDIX 2 – Consultation Schedule
APPENDIX 3 – List of Consultees
APPENDIX 4 – Water Ski Zone Map
APPENDIX 5 – Proposed permit conditions

APPENDIX 1

Summary of Consultation Responses			
Respondent	Type	Response	BA Proposed Response
Rachel Tallon British Water Ski and Wakeboard	Organisation	Fully supportive of the proposals and welcome the forward thinking approach taken by the review panel and the Broads Authority	No response required
Julian Barnwell Eastern Rivers Ski Club	Organisation	Fully supportive of the proposals and acknowledge that the expansion of the wakeboarding trial, following the current trial, is a very positive and measured development by the Broads Authority.	

Consultation Schedule

Variation of times

**River Waveney,
Stretch of Water**

Times

Zone 1 From a point 330 metres (361 yards) downstream of the confluence of Oulton Dyke and the River Waveney to a point 800 metres (875 yards) upstream of Somerleyton Ferry Pier
No change to Zone

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September : between 1600 hours and sunset on any day.

Summary of change

Current times on zone 4 and 5 are between 1000 hours and sunset on Saturday and 1600 hours and sunset on any other day, the proposed change restrict Saturdays to between 1600 hours and sunset, no change to other days.

Zone 3 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Somerleyton Ferry Pier to a point 1310 metres (1432 yards) upstream of the road bridge spanning the River Waveney at St Olaves.
No change to Zone

Current times on zone 1-2 and 3 on Saturday are between 1000 hrs and 1400 hrs and between 1600 hrs and sunset on any other day, the proposed change removes the current Saturday slots between 1000 to 1400 slot and adds between 1600 and sunset. No change to times on any other day.

Zone 4 From a point 1210 metres (1323 yards) downstream of the road bridge spanning the River Waveney at St Olaves to a point 400 metres (437 yards) upstream of Seven Mile House (Pettinghill's Mill).
No change to Zone

b Between the 1st October and 20th March in any year: between 1300 hours and sunset on Sundays, and between 0900 hours and sunset on any other day

Summary of change

Current times on zone 4 and 5 are between 0900 hours and sunset on any day, the proposed change restricts Sundays to between 1300 hours and sunset. No change to times on zone 1-2 and 3.

Zone 5 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Seven Mile House (Pettingill's Mill) to a point 2010 metres (2198 yards) upstream of the lower limit of the River Waveney being 460 metres (503 yards) upstream of the base Turntide Jetty
No change to Zone

Zones to be used for formalised Wake Boarding

**River Yare,
Stretch of Water**

Zone 3 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of the old Ferry Dock at the Beauchamp Arms Hotel to a point 400 metres (437 yards) upstream of the Red House at Cantley.
No change to Zone

Zone 5 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of the confluence of Haddiscoe New Cut and the River Yare to a point 400 metres (437 yards) upstream of Upper Seven Mile House.
No change to Zone

Times

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September in any year: between 1600 hours and sunset on any day.
No Change to Times

b Between the 1st October and 20th March in any year: between 1300 hours and sunset on Sundays and between 0900 hours and sunset on any other day.
No change to Times

**River Waveney,
Stretch of Water**

Zone 1 From a point 330 metres (361 yards) downstream of the confluence of Oulton Dyke and the River Waveney to a point 800 metres (875 yards) upstream of Somerleyton Ferry Pier
No change to Zone

Times

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September in any year: between 1000 hours and 1400 hours on Saturdays and between 1600 hours and sunset on any other day
Proposed times

b Between the 1st October and 20th March in any year: between 1300 hours and sunset on Sundays and between 0900 hours and sunset on any other day.
Proposed times

Zones to be used for Wake Boarding Trial

**River Yare
Stretch of Water**

Zone 2 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Hobro's Dyke to a point 25 metres (27 yards) downstream of Claxton Pump

Zone 4 From a point 1210 metres (1323 yards) upstream of the confluence of Hardley Dyke and the River Yare to a point 90 metres (98 yards) upstream of that confluence

Times

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September :
between 1600 hours and sunset on any day.

b Between the 1st October and
20th March in any year: between
1300 hours and sunset on Sundays and between 0900
hours and sunset on any other day.

**River Waveney,
Stretch of Water**

Zone 3 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Somerleyton Ferry Pier to a point 1310 metres (1432 yards) upstream of the road bridge spanning the River Waveney at St Olaves.
No change to Zone

Zone 4 From a point 1210 metres (1323 yards) downstream of the road bridge spanning the River Waveney at St Olaves to a point 400 metres (437 yards) upstream of Seven Mile House (Pettingill's Mill).
No change to Zone

Zone 5 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Seven Mile House (Pettingill's Mill) to a point 2010 metres (2198 yards) upstream of the lower limit of the River Waveney being 460 metres (503 yards) upstream of the base Turntide Jetty
No change to Zone

Times

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September :
between 1600 hours and sunset on any day.
Proposed times

b Between the 1st October and 20th March in any
year: between 1300 hours and sunset on Sundays,
and between 0900 hours and sunset on any other
day
Proposed times

List of Consultees

Persons who own or occupy residential property adjacent to the Water Ski Zones.

Natural England

Somerleyton Hall

RSPB – Strumpshaw

Eastern Rivers Water Ski Club

Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association

Country Landowners Association

BHBF

BASG

Amateur Rowing Association

British Canoe Union

Broads Society

Inland Waterways Association

British Water Ski and Wakeboard

Norwich School Boat Club

Broadland Boat Club

Norfolk Skiff Club

Norwich Rowing Club

Norwich Canoe Club

Lowestoft Rowing Club

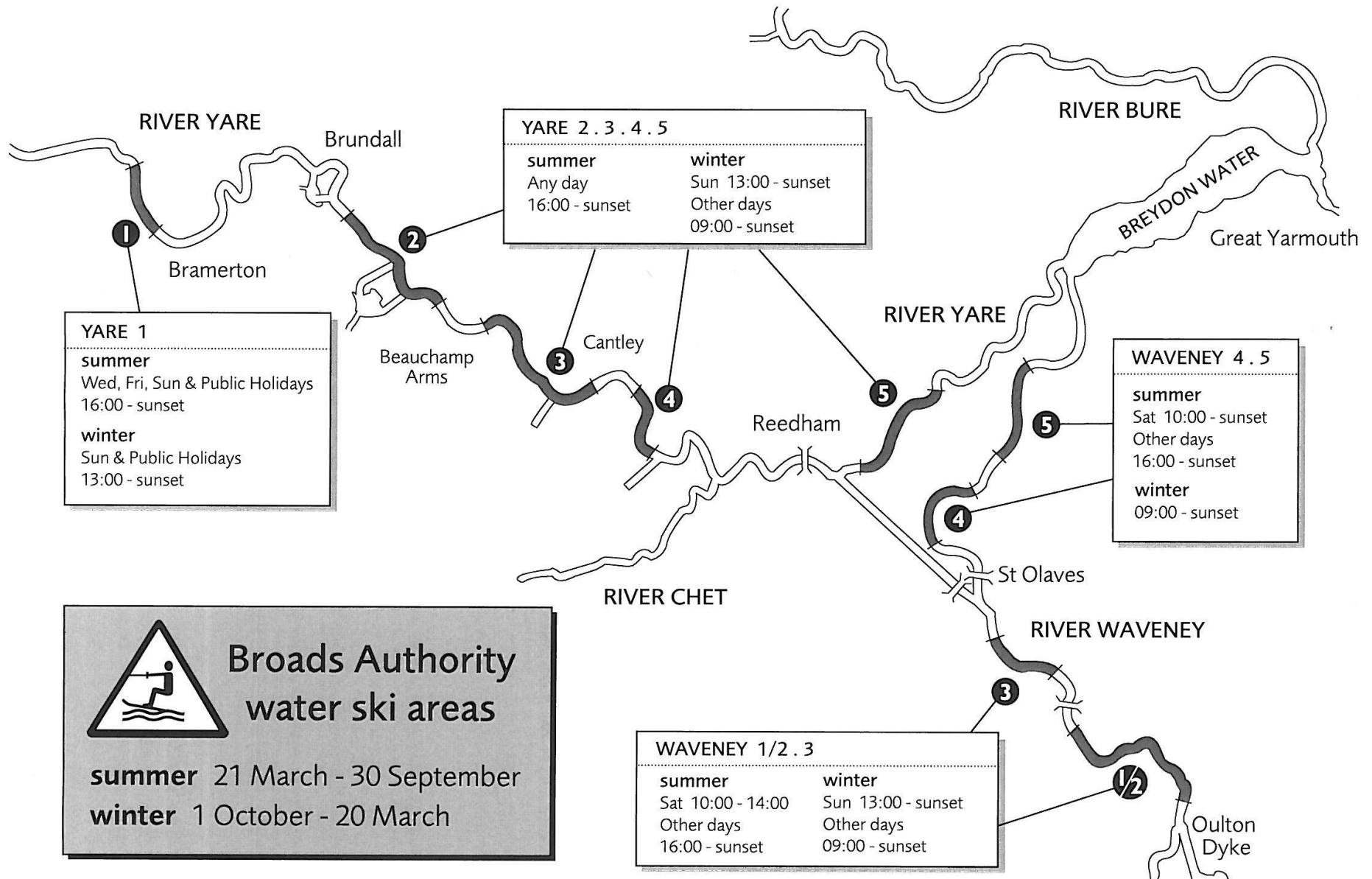
Beccles Rowing Club

Norwich High School Rowing Club

Yare Boat Club

UEA Boat Club

APPENDIX 4



BROADS AUTHORITY

Water Skiing and Wake Boarding Permit

This Permit is issued under Section 27 of the Broads Authority Act 2009.

The Broads Authority hereby permits

_____ to navigate the Authorised Vessel

for the purpose of towing a water skier (or wake boarder) in the zones and at the times specified in Appendix 1 to this Permit provided this is in accordance with the conditions specified below.

This Permit is issued on the basis that

- a) the Authorised Vessel has a block area of no more than 13 square metres, has a planing hull, and does not have permanent covered accommodation.
- b) the Authorised Vessel has been registered in accordance with the Authority's Byelaws and that payment of the Prescribed Annual Toll for the vessel has been made.

In this Permit the following definitions apply:-

The "2009 Act" means the Broads Authority Act 2009

"Authorised Vessel" means the vessel described in Part 1 of the Schedule

"Authorised Person" means any person named on the Approved Persons Register held by the Authority

The "Authority" means the Broads Authority

The "Permit Holder" means the person named above

The "Prescribed Annual Toll" means the appropriate annual toll within a scale of tolls, currently in force in any year, as prescribed by the Authority pursuant to Section 26 of the Harbours Act 1964

"Kill Cord" means a device to automatically stop the engine of the Authorised Vessel if the person navigating the Vessel leaves the helm

"Air Chair" means a board or chair with an integral hydrofoil for the purpose of lifting the rider and board or chair above the surface of the water

"Bank Start" means where a skier is pulled from a bank or platform by a water ski vessel to start the water skiing activity.

“Boom” a device which extends over the edge of a vessel for the purpose of providing physical support during training and for barefooting.

“Inflatable” means an object that can be inflated with gas or air.

“Jumping” means being towed by a boat and using a ramp to leave the surface of the water.

“Parascending” means being towed behind a vessel while attached to a specially designed parachute, known as a parasail.

“Kneeboard” means a buoyant board ridden in a kneeling stance that is used to ride on water whilst being towed behind a boat.

“Wakeboard” means a device where the feet are bound to a device at an acute angle to the parallel that is designed to travel on the wake created by the towing vessel,

“Water Ski” means a ski-like board used in pairs, or a mono ski, where the feet are bound in-line with the parallel that is designed to ride on water whilst being towed behind a boat.

THE CONDITIONS

1. This Permit runs from _____ to 31 March 2012 unless cancelled earlier by the Authority under Condition 23 of this Permit.
2. This Permit is personal to the Permit Holder and is not transferrable.
3. (a) This Permit does not permit anyone other than the Permit Holder and the Authorised Persons to navigate the Authorised Vessel.

(b) Condition 3(a) does not apply in respect of training for the British Water Ski ski-boat driver award that can be undertaken for a maximum of 3 months in the period covered by this Permit. The Permit Holder or Authorised Person must be on board the Authorised Vessel and is considered master of the vessel at all times during the period of training.
4. a) This Permit authorises the Permit Holder and the Authorised Persons to navigate the Authorised Vessel at a speed over the ground greater than specified in the Broads Authority Speed Limit Byelaws 1992 Schedule 1 while being used for the purpose of “towing a water skier” in the zones and at the times specified in Appendix 1 to this Permit

b) For this purpose, “towing a water skier” shall be deemed to include the act of recovering a water skier who has been separated from the vessel during towing.
5. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must:-

(a) Throughout the period of this Permit each maintain a policy of insurance in respect of any liability referred to in paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 to the 2009 Act in the sum of £2,000,000.

(b) On written request from an Officer of the Authority to do so produce to the Authority evidence of the insurance cover referred to in Condition 5 (a).
6. (a) The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person and any person under training must throughout the period of this Permit:-
 - (i) Each be a member of both the Eastern Rivers Ski Club and the [British Water Ski & Wakeboard](#)
 - (ii) Except where Permit Condition 6 (b) applies, only tow water skiers or wake boarders who are members of such clubs.
(b) Condition 6 (a) (ii) does not apply in respect of water skiers and wake boarders who are towed up to a maximum of 4 occasions in the period covered by this Permit.

7. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must throughout the period of this Permit each hold a current British Water Ski Boat Driver Award or qualification approved by the Authority following consultation with the British Water Ski and Wakeboard.
8. (a) Whilst in use for the purpose of water skiing or wake boarding the Authorised Vessel must display in the approved position a set of registration marks at a minimum height of 225mm (9 inches) and of a type, colour and material approved by the Authority.

(b) For this purpose, "approved position" means on each side of the bow and at the after end of the vessel so as to be visible from astern.
9. The Authorised Vessel must not be used pursuant to this Permit if, following its issue, either:-

(a) A material change is made to it or to its systems which in either case may affect the generation of wash or noise from the vessel, unless that change has been approved by The Authority; or

(b) A change is made to the vessel that either increases its block area to more than 13 square metres or involves the provision of a non-planing hull or permanent covered accommodation.
10. The Authorised Vessel must have completed and passed a Wash and Noise Test of a type approved by the Authority and complying with the pass criteria set out in Appendix 3 to this Permit.
11. (a) The Authorised Vessel must be subjected to an annual test (which complies with the methodology set out in Appendix 4 of this Permit) carried out by a person approved by the Authority which verifies that:
 - (i) The steering system of the vessel is in good condition and fit for purpose and,
 - (ii) The Kill Cord functions correctly.
(b) The Permit Holder must produce to the Authority on request details of the test carried out under condition 11(a).
12. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must use "approved equipment" only
 - a) For this purpose, "approved equipment" shall be limited to
 - i. The Authorised Vessel
 - ii. Tow Rope;
 - iii. Knee Board
 - iv. Wake Board
 - v. Skis
 - vi. Boom
13. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must not permit the use of ballast or excessive weight in the vessel or carry passengers in excess of the manufacturer's recommendations.

14. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must not permit the use of “air chairs”, and any “inflatable”.
15. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must not cause an Authorised Vessel to make any sustained wave, against a bank, of more than 300 mm (12 inches) in height from trough to crest.
16. (a) The Permit Holder must:-
 - (i) Maintain and keep up to date a log book issued by the Authority in respect of the use by the Permit Holder and any Authorised Person of the Authorised Vessel under this Permit.
 - (ii) Keep the log book on the Authorised Vessel whilst being used by the Permit Holder and any Authorised Person under this Permit.
 - (iii) Produce the log book on request to any officer of the Authority.
 - (iv) Return the log book to the Authority at the end of the period covered by this Permit or upon its cancellation if earlier.(b) Any Authorised Person whilst operating the Authorised Vessel under this Permit must produce the log book on request to any officer of the Authority.
17. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must navigate the Authorised Vessel with care and caution.
18. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must not navigate the Authorised Vessel unless there is also on board at least one person to provide assistance during towing.
19. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must not at any time navigate the Authorised Vessel so as to tow more than 2 persons.
20. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must ensure that any water skier or wake boarder being towed does not engage in parascending, ski jumping, or bank starts.
21. The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must:-
 - (a) Use tow-ropes of equal length when towing two water skiers; and
 - (b) Ensure that two water skiers do not cross in front of, or behind, each other; and
 - (c) Not navigate the Authorised Vessel without attaching the Kill Cord to their person in a way which ensures that it will operate effectively.
22. a) The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must ensure that any water skier or wake boarder being towed remains in or on the water at all times during towing.

- b) Condition 22 (a) does not apply in respect of water skiers and wake boarders provided that all of the conditions 22 b) i),ii),iii), and iv) are complied with.
 - i) Water skiing and wake boarding shall be limited to zones and times set out in Appendix 2.
 - ii) No more than six concurrent Authorised Vessels are used at any one time in any one zone set out in Appendix 2.
 - iii) The Permit holder and any Authorised Persons shall register with the Authority on each occasion their intention to navigate the Authorised Vessel.
 - iv) The Permit Holder and any Authorised Person must not at any time navigate the Authorised Vessel so as to tow more than 1 person.

23. The Authority may cancel this Permit, or amend its conditions, if:-

- (a) The Permit Holder or any Authorised Person is convicted of an offence under Section 29 of the 2009 Act; or under any byelaw made by the Authority; or
- (b) Condition 5 of this Permit has not been observed.

The Schedule

Part 1

The Authorised vessel to which this Permit applies is as follows¹:

Part 2

The Authorised Person/s to which this Permit applies is/are as follows²:

1 Permit Holder

Appendices

- 1 Water Ski and Wake Boarding Zones and Times
- 2 Water Ski and Wake Boarding Zones and Times applicable to the Wake Boarding Trial 2011/12
- 3 Wash and Noise Test Pass Criteria
- 4 Annual Steering and Kill Cord Test Methodology

¹ This information should be added by the Broads Authority only.

² This information should be added by the Broads Authority only. Additions may also only be made by the Broads Authority.