

Navigation Committee

07 November 2024

Agenda item number 8

Construction Maintenance and Ecology work programme progress update

Report by Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology, and Ecology & Design
Supervisor

Purpose

To provide the Committee with an update on the Authority's management activities to maintain public navigation, develop mooring facilities for public use and demonstrate the effective use of available resources in managing the Broads waterways.

Broads Plan context

C1: Maintain navigation water depths to defined specifications, reduce sediment input, and dispose of dredged material in sustainable and beneficial ways.

C2: Maintain existing navigation water space and develop appropriate opportunities to extend access for various types of craft.

C3: Manage water plants, riverside trees and scrub, and seek resources to increase operational targets.

C4: Maintain and improve safety and security standards and user behaviour on the waterways.

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1. Maintaining water depths for navigation

- 1.1. The detailed breakdown in Appendix 1 gives progress and volumes for the dredging programme for 2024/25 (April 2024 to end September 2024). A total of 15,940 m³ of dredged sediment was removed from the prioritised sites. This figure represents 44% of the programmed target of 36,630 m³ for the year.
- 1.2. Phase 1 of dredging at Rockland Broad (in the marked channel and its approach channels) has been completed, in so far as the capacity at the first re-use site on the back of the floodbank on the Short Dyke has been filled. Dredging on the Upper Bure between Coltishall and Wroxham has been completed, with attention then turning to the narrower section of the river upstream of Coltishall Common. After this planned dredging on the Upper Bure is completed, the concrete pump set-up will be moved to Postwick Marshes on the River Yare, where Phase 1 of the dredging at Rockland and the approach channels to Bargate Broad will commence. The sediment dredged here, will be placed on the back of the low floodbanks which will be re-used by the Environment Agency to raise the height on these flood defence structures.
- 1.3. The next dredge project to be initiated this calendar year will be at Stalham Staithe. The dredging is due to start in December and run for three weeks. During this time the Stalham Staithe 24-hour mooring will be closed.

2. Maintaining safe public mooring facilities

- 2.1. Recently completed work includes the refurbishment of the piled edge and quay heading at Repps Bank 24-hour mooring at Potter Heigham. This work has experienced significant delays due to high water levels. This impacted the contractor's ability to work safely on site and complete all the required elements of the refurbishment.
- 2.2. For the more detailed reports on the minor mooring maintenance work completed, these are included in the Chief Executive's regular public [Broads Briefings](#).

3. Water Plant Management

- 3.1. The final few days of active water plant cutting are still underway on the River Ant. Once the work in the navigation is completed, one of the harvesters will then head to How Hill where it will clear the dyke along the route taken by the Electric Eel trip boat.

4. Riverside Tree Management

- 4.1. Work over the coming autumn and winter (2024/25) will be the third year of the Authority's five year programme (2022/23 to 2026/27) [Riverside tree and scrub management](#). Prioritised sections for management in 2024/25 are subject to final planning with landowner agreements for work on their land being confirmed. The plan and progress will be reported at the next meeting.

5. Our resources

- 5.1. The Hitachi hydraulic crawler crane has become the regular crane used at the Griffin Lane Dockyard. Recent tasks have include lifting the water plant harvesters out for refit and repairs; lifting vessels recovered from the navigation for either dismantling or storage before sale; and working with the Boat Safety Scheme team, to add additional supports along their training vessel keels and hulls, to prolong their life out of the water in the training compound.

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: C1, C2, C3, C4

Appendix 1 – Annual dredging progress 2024/25 (April 2024 to end September 2024)

Appendix 1 – Annual dredging progress 2024/25 (to end September 2024)

Project title Dredge site and sediment re-use location	Active Broads Authority dredging weeks completed/planned	Planned volume removed m ³	Actual volume removed m ³	Planned annual project cost ¹	Actual project cost
River Bure (continuation from 2023/24) Juby's Farm to Hoveton Viaduct	24/27	17,900	11,420	£190,710	£142,670
<i>Lagoon re-use site</i> <i>NB: Planned volume includes Bridge Broad (2,870m³) which is no longer part of the work programme</i>					
River Yare Rockland Broad (channels & dykes)	8/26	13,500	4,520	£190,020	£51,570
<i>Rockland Short Dyke & Postwick Marshes re-use sites & Postwick Tip</i>					
River Ant Stalham Dyke	0/3	830	0	£37,140	£680
<i>Hunsett Mill re-use site; work planned to start December 2024</i>					
River Yare Bargate Broad	0/4	2,400	0	£45,150	£120
<i>Postwick Marshes re-use & Postwick Tip</i>					
River Thurne Catfield Dyke	0/4	2,000	0	£27,350	£560
<i>Deferred to 2025/26 due to delays in completing the Upper Bure project</i>					

Project title Dredge site and sediment re-use location	Active Broads Authority dredging weeks completed/planned	Planned volume removed m³	Actual volume removed m³	Planned annual project cost¹	Actual project cost
Site restoration	-	-	-	-	£3,750
Future site preparation Survey, mitigation & set-up	-	-	-	-	£3,640
Dredging support activities	-	-	-	-	£3,970
Total	32/64	36,630	15,940	490,370	206,960