

Navigation Committee

09 January 2025

Agenda item number 6

Chief Executives 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. Broads Authority meeting

- 1.1. At its meeting on the 29 November the Authority approved the navigation and mooring charges for 2025/26 in line with the recommendation from this Committee. A copy of the report can be find using this link: [Proposed navigation charges for 2025/2026 in the navigation area and adjacent waters](#)

2. Haven Bridge

- 2.1. Peel Ports is consulting with the Port Users Group on a proposal to introduce charges for raising the Haven Bridge. The Group has written to the Great Yarmouth Port Authority highlighting Clause 59 of the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Act 1866 which states that “no charge shall be made in respect of opening the Bridge”. They have also pointed out that the introduction earlier this year of a transit fee on pleasure craft contravenes Clause 113 of the same Act. The Authority is seeking a meeting with the Port Authority and Peel Ports to establish the position.

3. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 3.1. The average navigation/countryside splits for the last period it set out in Appendix 2. With the winter countryside work now underway the variance in favour of navigation is being corrected. The Ranger’s exercise of powers and patrolling duties for the last period is set out in Appendix 1 and reflects the quieter late autumn and early winter season.

4. Sunken, abandoned and unserviceable vessel update

- 4.1. The sunken, abandoned and unserviceable vessel update is contained in Appendix 3. We continue to deal with a number of sunken and abandoned vessels around the system. Several of the sunken vessels are awaiting the dredging kit to be available to assist in removing them. We have issued one unserviceable vessel notice which is currently ongoing.

5. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 11 December 2024

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties total time allocated and actual days

Appendix 3 – Sunken, abandoned and unserviceable vessels current position as at 06 December 2024

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 07/11/2024

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	76	53	14	60	24	2	34	
Speed	1727	699	408	334	150	80	171	44
Other	231	88	15	19	153	15	33	36

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	3			1			3
Speed	35	1		3	4	2	3	1
Other	10	22	5	3	2	19	8	5
Special directions	46	10	1		25	60	191	214

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	214	211	198	197	205	191	204	214
Volunteer patrols			2				3	
IRIS reports	16	7	7	10	7	14	8	26

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	16,306
VHF	2,330
Total	18,636

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	93.65
Broads Control	362	277.30
Team meetings, work planning	318	302.14
Partnership working	76	37.91
Assisting other sections	76	37.91
Billets and boatsheds	25	16.55
Launch – general		8.48
Trailers - general		1.69
Vehicle maintenance		5.41
Other equipment repair		9.73
Total	979	768.53

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1740.59
Escorts	44	27.50
Prosecution files	0	20.07
Bankside tree management	108	48.34
Obstruction removal	26	13.45
Channel markers and buoys	30	17.06
Signs and boards maintenance	34	32.97
Adjacent waters	96	72.77
Reactive mooring maintenance	100.5	42.30
Total		

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	146	45.95
Lake, riverbank restoration	100	0.00
Invasive species control	32.5	1.28
Other conservation work	145	64.86
Pollution response		2.09
Visitor site maintenance	194	146.72
Public Engagement	97	59.26
Public footpath work	38	11.25
Education work	69	2.84
Total	821.5	334.26

Team total up to 09 December 2024

Percentage Navigation: 86%

Percentage National Park: 14%

Appendix 3 – Sunken, abandoned and unserviceable vessels current position as at 06 December 2024

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	Old River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owner's 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 Wensum, Trowse	Vessel sunk behind rail bridge wooden fenders	Yes	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	River Wensum, Trowse	Sunk at mooring, marked with yellow buoys	No	Waiting for dredging kit to be in area
Motor cruiser	River Yare, Thorpe Marshes	Believed abandoned	Yes	Notice expired; vessel removed
Yacht	River Waveney, Gillingham	Vessel sunk	Yes	Awaiting notice expiry
Aux Yacht	River Wensum, Trowse.	Vessel unserviceable	Yes	Awaiting notice expiry

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

Type of vessel	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor	£220	£300	£88.00	£166.40
Motor	£220	£400	£88.00	£663.78
43 cases for the current toll year have been submitted and await a hearing date.				