



**Good afternoon everyone,**

As you'll be aware, the exceptional rainfall since October and consequential high-water levels and flooding have had an adverse effect on local people and businesses here in the Broads area.

It has also impacted on the Authority's work. Despite making good progress on a number of refurbishment projects, we are still waiting for the water levels to drop so that we can undertake maintenance work at some of our moorings and also deal with a fallen tree in the River Yare.

Despite this, preparations are well underway for the new season. Our Yacht Stations and Tourism Information Centres open on 23 March, and the Dunes Cafe at Acle Bridge is planning to open on 25 March. Like everyone we are hoping for a settled and sunny summer and to welcome visitors back to the waterways.

This is of course the busiest time of year for our Tolls Team. At the beginning of March they sent out 12,600 renewal packs, 4,600 by email and 8,000 by post. They are now busy helping process toll payments and respond to queries. To date we have processed a similar number of tolls as in the last two years.

Please see this month's Broads Briefing below:

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## March 2024

### **Maintenance and 24-hour mooring update**

- The dredging team are finishing up dredging works at Haddiscoe Cut and are mobilising onto the Lower Bure (after some slight delays). They will then be heading to Breydon Water to install new marker posts.
- We are currently in the process of repairing damaged bridge-height gauge boards upstream of Wroxham Bridge.
- In January, we replaced 75m of old wooden boardwalk at How Hill; the second phase of works first carried out in early 2023. The work was complex due to the waterlogged conditions and involved a mixture of Broads Authority staff and some of our hard-working volunteers (see photo below).
- 7 new posts installed at Horning Staithe (see photo below).



7 new posts installed at Horning Staithe

### Maintenance update continued

- Upcoming major mooring works are planned at Potter Heigham Repps Bank, where 145m mooring refurbishment is planned to take place in April and Womack Island, where re-piling and path works will take place once water levels recede.
- The surfaces of moorings have been topped up around the entire Broads system. Where high water levels are still covering a number of the sites, the work is progressing slowly but should be finished in time for the Easter holidays.
- Surfacing repairs have taken place at our How Hill moorings, where several tonnes of material were washed out due to high water levels.
- A refuge for amphibians – known as a hibernaculum - has been built at Horning Marshes and the newts and lizards found here were re-located into it. Around 50m of capping was then replaced, along with some waling.
- Work continues at Dilham to replace waling and all of the capping which had started to rot. The path is being upgraded and the photo (below) shows some of the new timber work.
- At Coltishall, Tenax mat surfacing has been installed to provide wheelchair access at the accessible mooring (see photo below).
- The areas around the two basins at Potter Staithe (approx. 60m) have been cut back, lined and filled, then topped with tarmac and pea shingle (see photos below).



A photo taken surfacing and timber replacement works at Dilham

### Lifejacket and buoyancy aid recall notice

We are aware that a number of lifejackets and buoyancy aids sold by online retailers have recently been recalled due to safety concerns. This includes products purchased from Amazon, eBay & Fruugo.

We always recommend purchasing your life jacket from a reputable retailer and checking that it meets the International Standards Organisation standard ISO12402. Older lifejackets may carry the CE mark. This is numbered from EN393 to EN399, depending on the amount of buoyancy provided. There are also plenty of local retailers in the Broads area who can offer advice and assistance in the best model to fit you.

If you think you might be affected please see: <https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls>



Potter Staithe after being cut back and lined

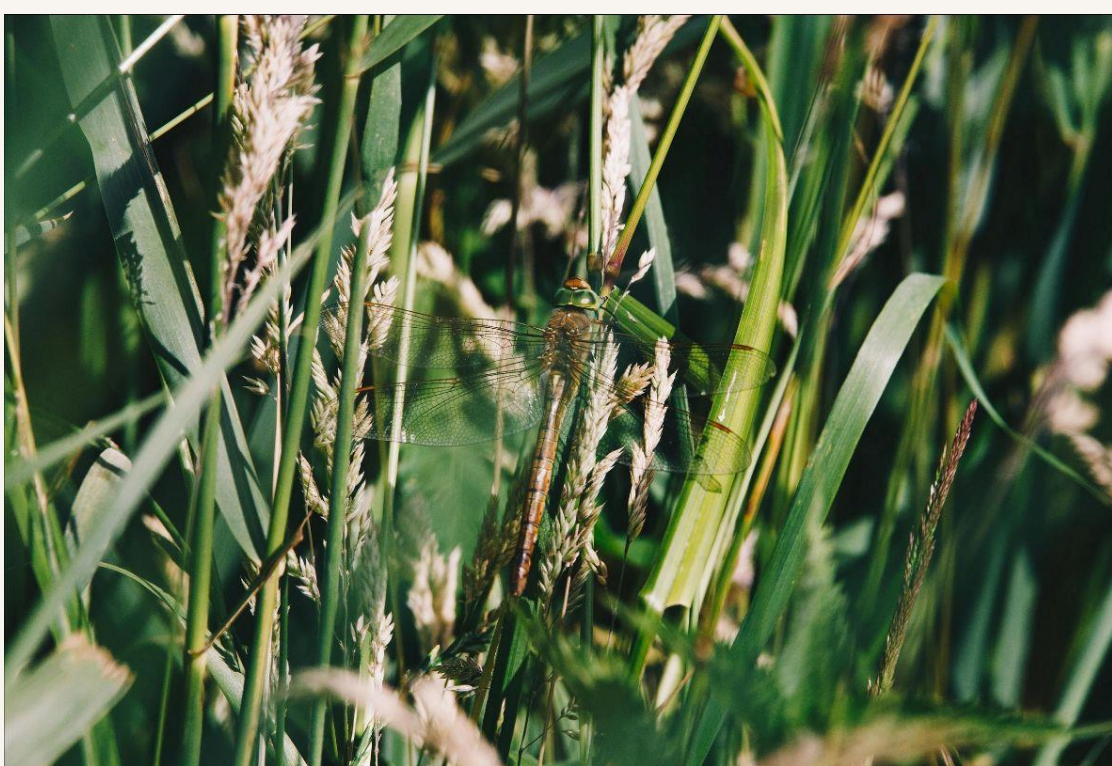
### **Norfolk Hawker spreads out of the region**

A recent report has suggested that the Norfolk Hawker dragonfly, one of our iconic 'star species' has spread its wings and spread across the UK, likely as a result of our changing climate.

Thirty years ago the future of the Norfolk Hawker with its bright green eyes and a gingery body was a bleak affair. Following its extinction from the Cambridgeshire Fens as far back as 1893, the only known breeding sites for this species prior to 2013 were in East Norfolk and East Suffolk.

Our Environment Policy Adviser, Andrea, completed the rounds of speaking to the media and various radio stations, including Radio 4s Today Programme. She said: “What appears to be good news about the spread of the Norfolk Hawker and its potential re-listing as no longer endangered, is in fact a call to action about the significant threats to its precious wetland habitat. The only way to ensure no further species loss is to continue to protect and restore its current wetland and fen habitats in the Broads and across East Anglia.”

The story was featured in The Guardian, you can read the full article here: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/feb/26/norfolk-hawker-dragonfly-no-longer-endangered-scientists-say>



Norfolk Hawker dragonfly by Tom Barrett

### **Refurbishment tender for Potter Heigham Repps Bank**

We currently have a tender out to refurbish our Potter Heigham Repps Bank 24hr Mooring.

The Broads Authority is seeking a suitably qualified contractor to undertake refurbishment works to the Potter Heigham Repps Bank 24hr mooring.

The works will include the refurbishment of the timber piled mooring, including removal of existing capping, waling, barge boards and mooring posts and

replacement with new. In addition, back filling is required behind the quay with installation of a new footpath.

For further information please see our website: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/transparency/invitations-to-tender>

### **Recycled plastic boardwalk at How Hill**

Here's some further detail on our work to replace the old wooden boardwalk at How Hill, working in stages over the last two years. It's made from recycled plastic and unlike wood, it will not rot, so is guaranteed to last 50 years, but will likely last much longer.

It saves a huge amount of waste going to landfill and can be recycled again.

Due to the remoteness of the boardwalk, the materials, tools, alongside shelter for staff/volunteers, all needed to be installed at How Hill before work started.

The second phase of work was difficult due to the relentless wet weather and strong winds. Trying to keep the drills and tools mud free was virtually impossible, so they required cleaning daily.

Unlike timber, plastic is very difficult to cut with a hand saw, so all cutting had to be done using power tools. Just to lay one decking board required 24 drill or screwing operations compared to the usual 6. Despite the extra time taken, the boardwalk will have a much longer lifespan compared to wood and will remain in a better condition.

A huge thanks to the many volunteers and staff who helped with this mammoth task – the boardwalk is now open to the public and ready to go.



Work to replace the old boardwalk at How Hill

### **Calor gas announcement**

At the end of 2023, Calor's Network Team reaffirmed that Calor is to continue to supply the 3.9kg propane and 4.5kg butane cylinder sizes and is working hard to return supply to normal as soon as possible.

The Boat Safety Scheme welcomed this latest announcement as it could mean that boaters may not need to make any changes to the boat's LPG system to suit a different size of cylinder. The news is likely to be well received and we appreciate Calor listening to the concerns of the BSS, boating groups as well as many individuals, since its original announcement this time last year. Boaters are encouraged to check availability at their local stockists.

Read more on the [BSS website](#).



Accessible mooring matting replaced at Coltishall

### **Broads FiPL blog featured by DEFRA**

Our FiPL Officer Juliette has written for the DEFRA FiPL Spotlight Blog on her experience of improving nutrient use and reducing nitrate and phosphate pollution in the Waveney area of the Broads.

It's the first ever blog post for the Spotlight Blog and you can read it on the DEFRA website here: <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2024/03/04/fipl-spotlight-improving-nutrient-use-and-reducing-nitrate-and-phosphate-pollution-in-the-broads/>

A big well done to Juliette for her work on this and getting the project written up online.

### **Head of Safety Management and Independent Person(s) vacancies**

Due to the retirement of our existing post-holder, we have an exciting vacancy for a Head of Safety Management (£42,403 to £44,428 per annum) to join the Authority, overseeing the safety of visitors, staff members and volunteers in the Broads area.

Applicants will need to demonstrate experience at a senior level in occupational health and marine safety, as well as waterways management. Candidates will demonstrate an accomplished knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation and regulation, showing strong working knowledge of recreational boating and sailing, especially on inland tidal waterways. Applications close at 12pm on Friday 22 March 2024.

For more information and to apply see: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/careers/current-vacancies/head-of-safety-management>

We are also looking to appoint two Independent Persons, as required by the Localism Act 2011, to help promote and maintain high ethical standards among the Broads Authority's Members and Co-opted Members.

We welcome applications from individuals with an understanding of good governance and high standards of personal integrity and impartiality. Experience within local or national government or with legal systems, tribunals or similar quasi-judicial bodies is desirable. Applications close on 28 March.

For more information please see: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/careers/current-vacancies/appointment-of-independent-persons>

### **Mill restoration work funded**

We're delighted that the iconic Grade-II listed Turf Fen Mill, which sits next to How Hill on the River Ant, has been awarded a restoration grant by Historic England.

The mill was built around 1880 by millwright William Rust to drain the surrounding marshland into the River Ant and make the fields on the west bank suitable for grazing livestock. The mill fell out of use in the 1920s. The structure is in poor condition and is at risk from further deterioration. The ground floor

regularly floods, the cap and stocks need attention, there are currently no sails, the mill is not in use and it can only be accessed by river. It was added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register in 2023.

It is planned that repairs to the mill will be completed by 2026. Norfolk County Council will be working with the Norfolk Windmills Trust and alongside the Broads Authority and How Hill Trust to develop skills training, outreach activities and historic interpretation around the three remaining mills in this area.

Read more on our website: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/news/turf-fen-mill-to-receive-restoration-grant-from-historic-england>



Turf Fen mill by Tom Barrett

### **Peatland water management workshop**

Land advisers in the Broads are invited to our free Peatland Water Management, Nature, and Carbon Finance Workshop on 21 March in partnership with Norfolk FWAG. The workshop is a great chance to get to grips with new opportunities and make nature recovery finance work for you.

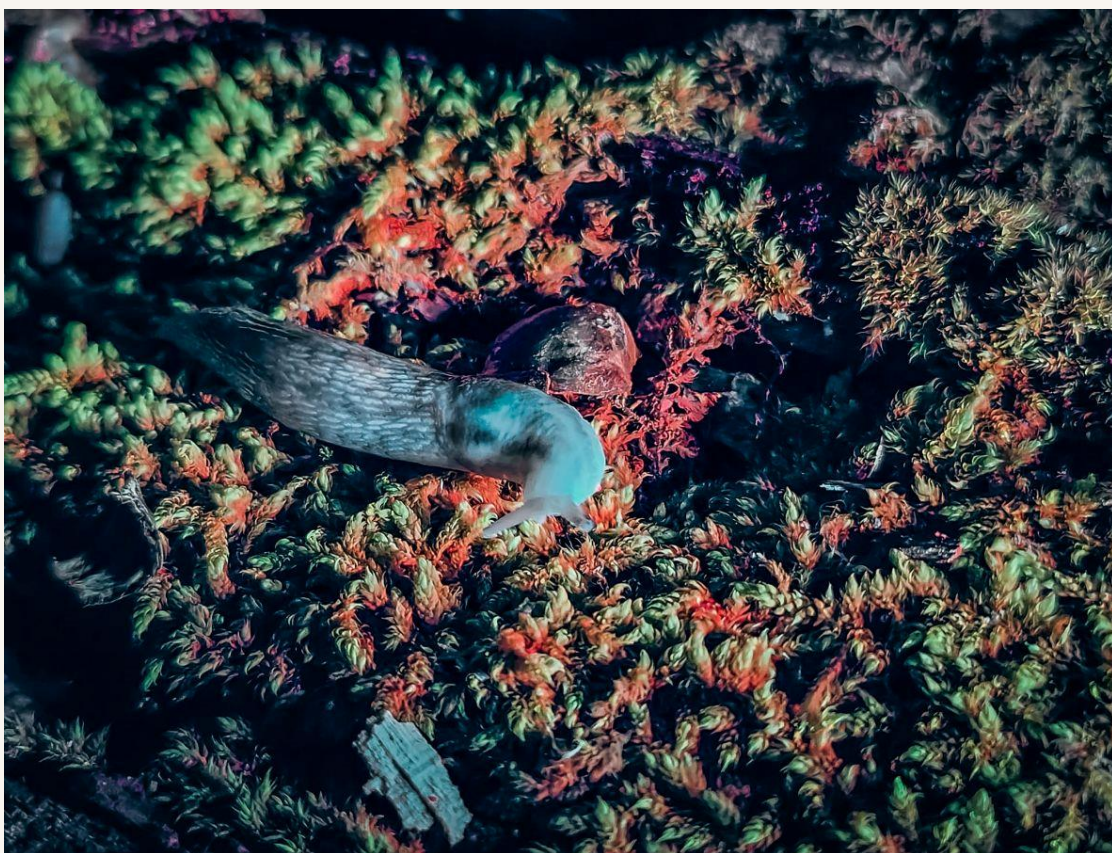
Sign up for tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peatland-water-management-nature-and-carbon-finance-workshop-tickets-811402094507>

### **Events programme for 2024 announced**

We've just released our public events programme for the year, packed with exciting wildlife, walking, boating, and heritage events for all ages, along with various accessible events for wheelchair users. Our events programme is delivered by our Education Officer Nick and some members of the Ranger team, working with local providers.

Our next event is a night trail suitable for wheelchair users that is taking place at Barton Broad on 16 March: see here and a biofluorescence trail on 10 April.

For these events and many more, see our Eventbrite page where you can book onto them: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/broads-authority-29218269141>



A slug seen under a UV torch on one of the recent biofluorescence walks  
by @photographer\_dibs

I hope you have a great weekend and remember you can [contact me](#) directly if you have any questions. If you know of anyone else who would like to receive my briefings please pass on this [link](#).

Regards,

John Packman  
Chief Executive

