

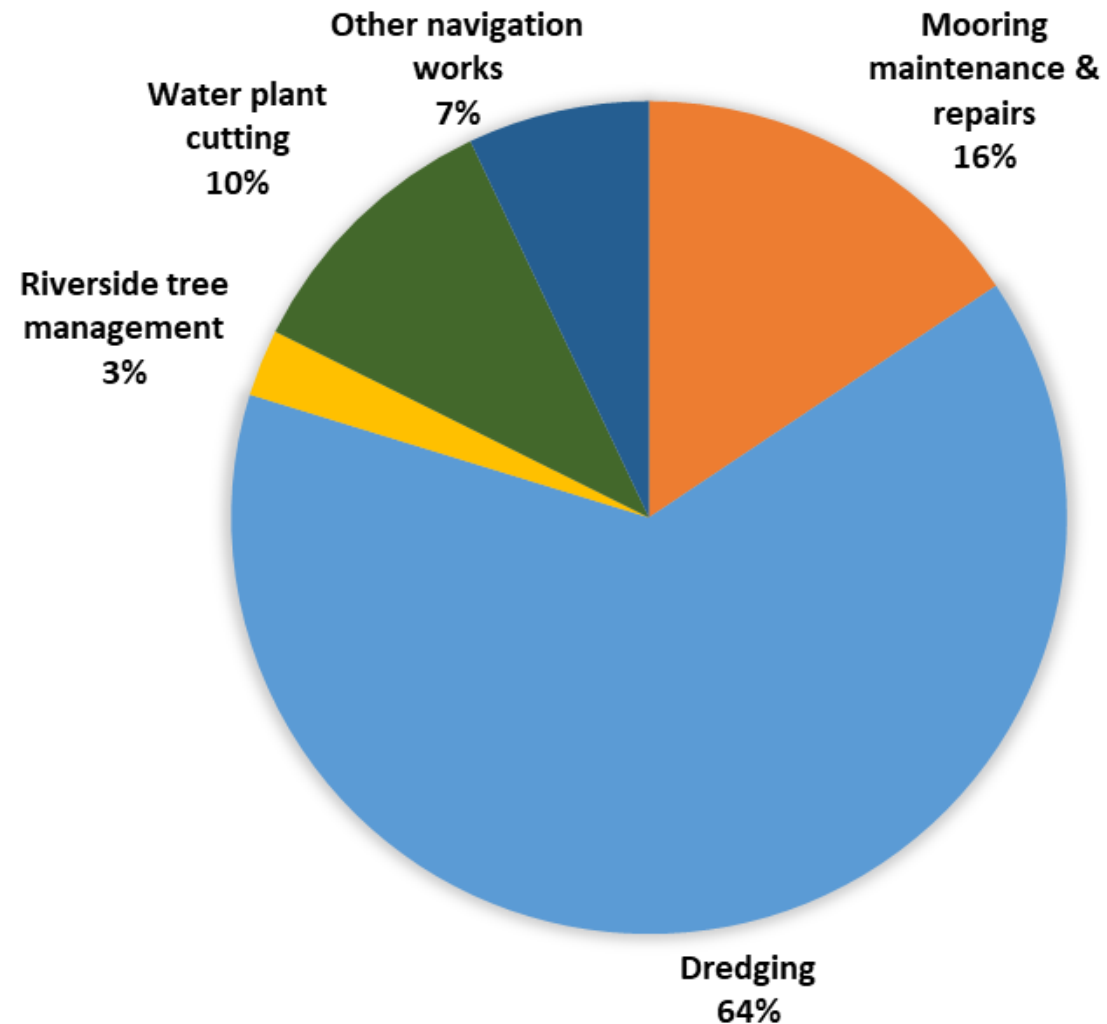
Operational update and water plant management

Dan Hoare

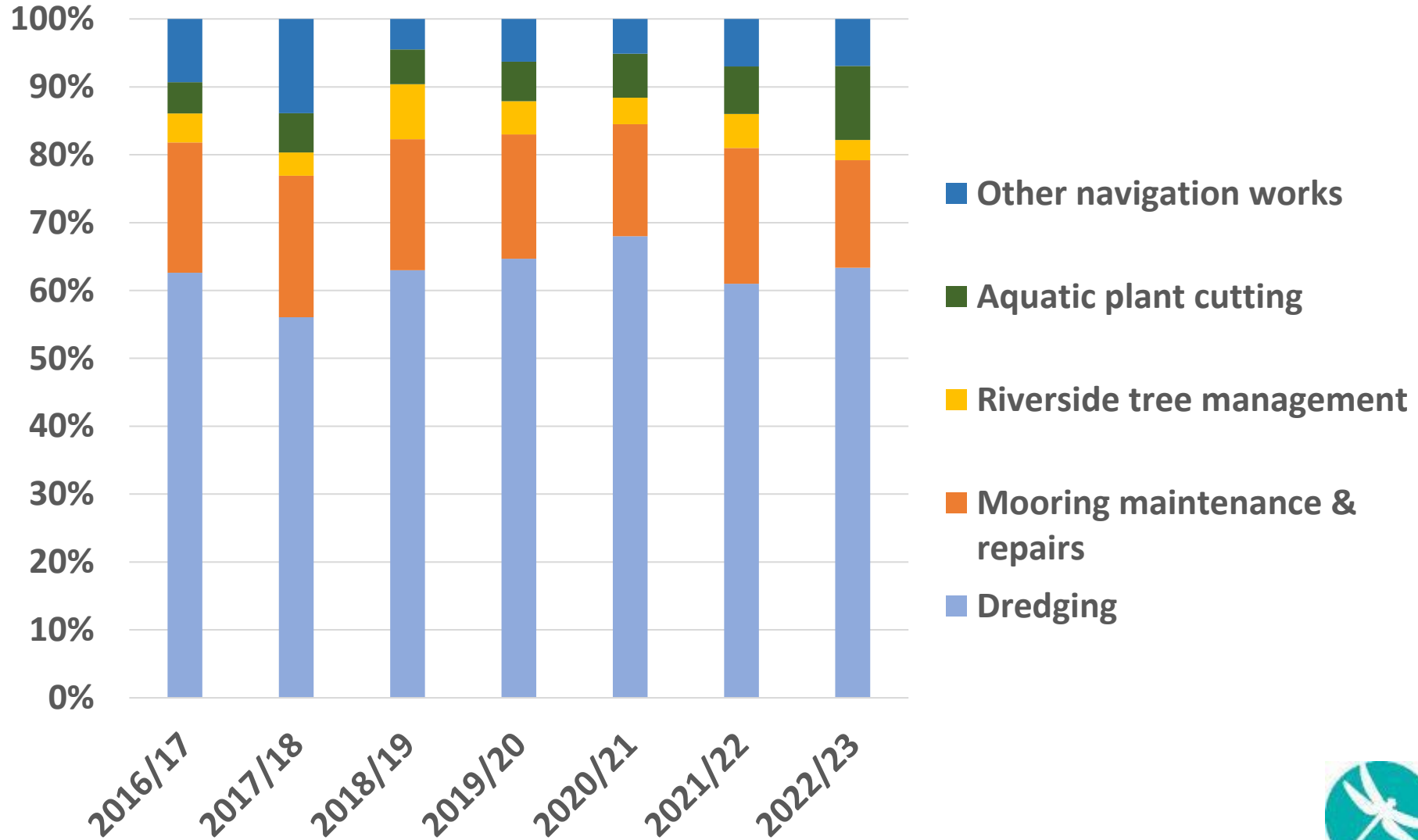
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Operations Technicians time spent on navigation work types (year April 2022 – March 2023)

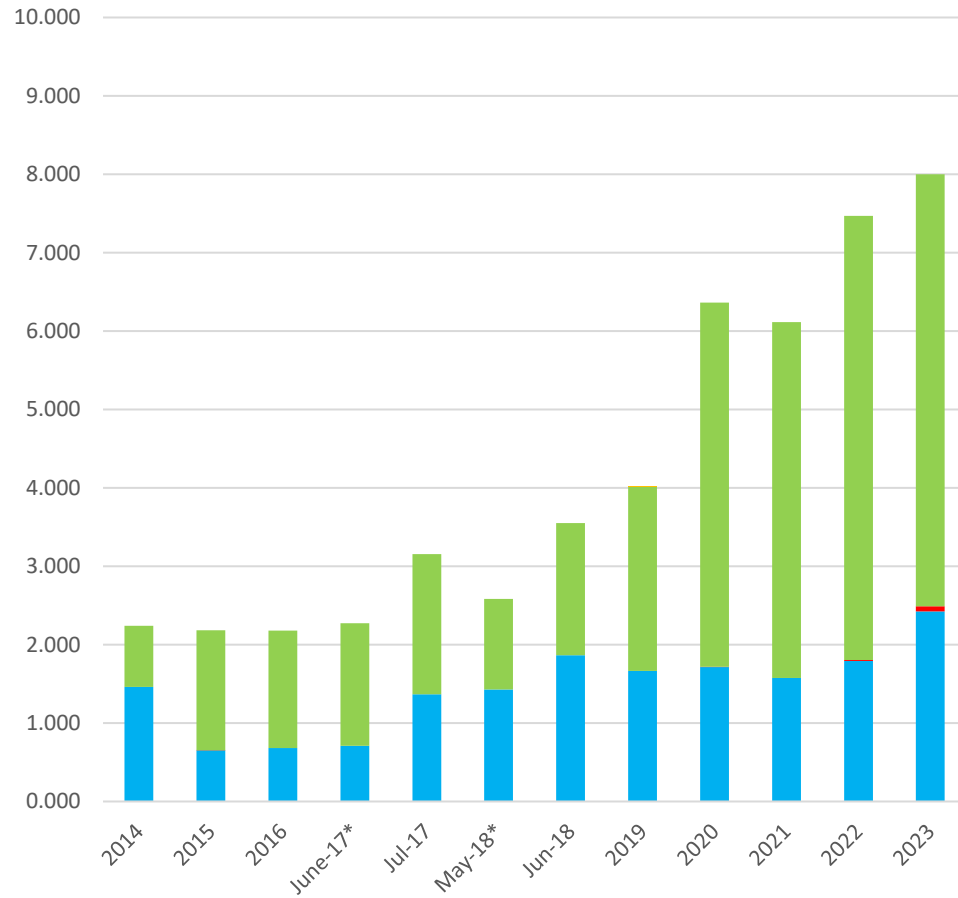


Operations Technicians time spent on navigation work types

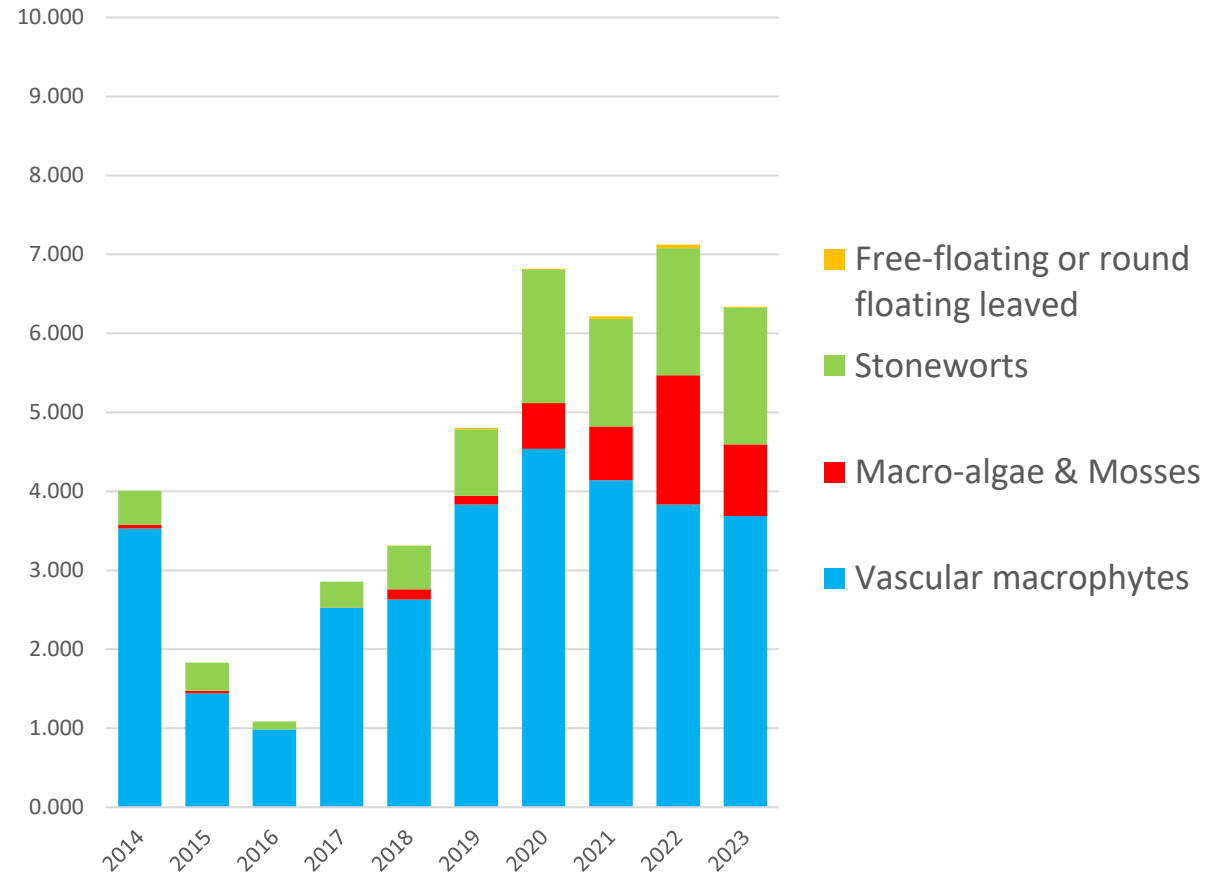


Water plant relative abundance

Hickling



Heigham Sound



Water plant cutting area in Hickling Broad



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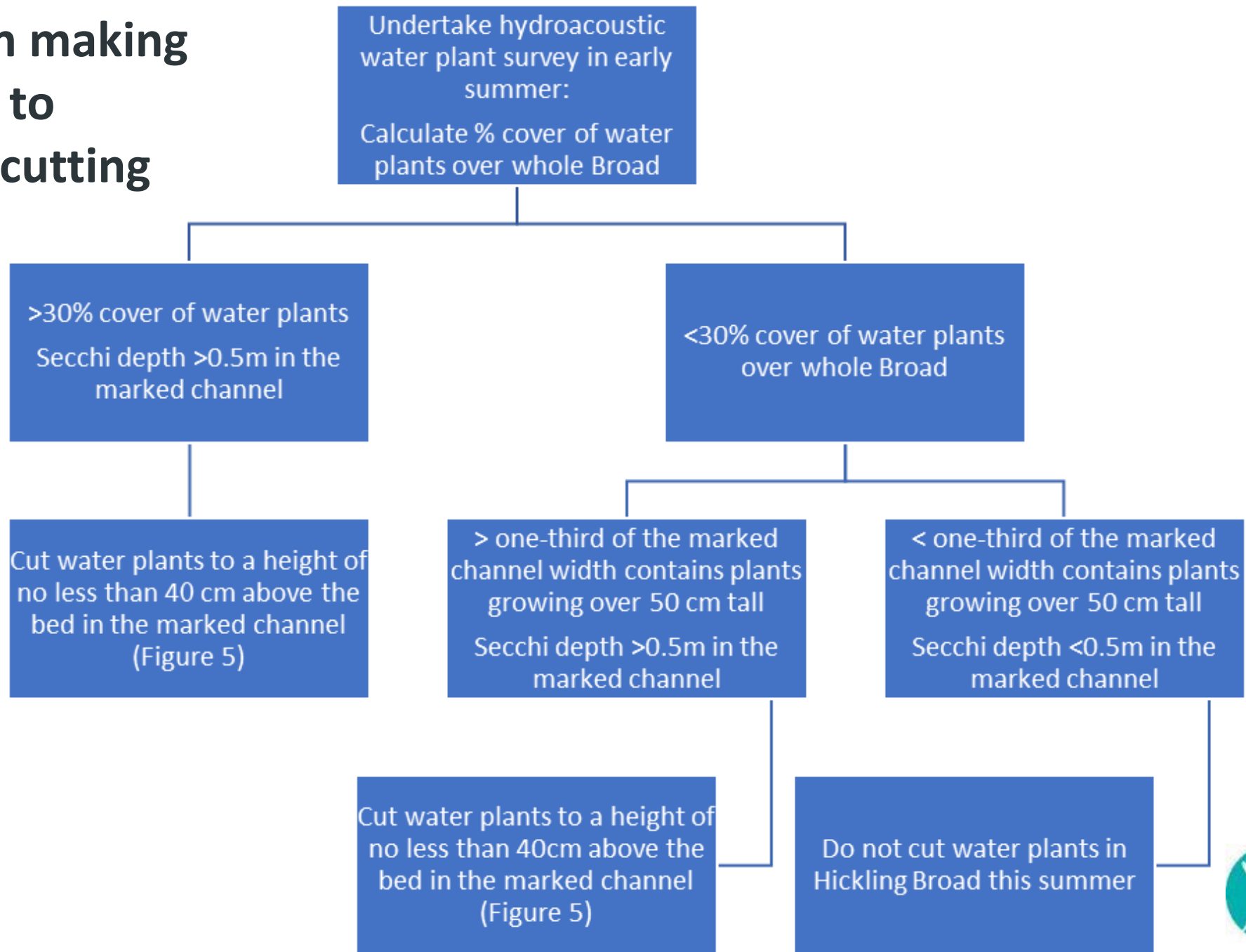
Managing cut water plants



Impacts identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening

The Broads SAC Annex I habitats		
Sensitive Interest Feature	Potential hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect / impact if known
3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	Physical damage	Moderate likelihood x Low severity = Low risk (high certainty) Physical Damage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the height of plants in the channel • growth will be retained at least 40cm from the bed
	Increased turbidity	Increased Turbidity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cutting height to 40cm above the bed, risk of turbidity is low. • retained root structure maintains stability of the sediment.
	Increased nutrient input	Increased nutrient input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing aquatic vegetation will remove some nutrients • cutting of the plants, promotes growth, locking up further nutrients. • bankside piles will be kept small

Decision making process to initiate cutting



Potential for extending cutting area in Hickling Broad

Location	Area (ha)	Proportion of whole broad
Hickling Broad	128.04	100%
Marked channel (cutting zone)	12.54	9.8% (maximum area if all cut)
<i>Example 10 m width extension on all sides</i>	<i>5.04</i>	<i>3.9%</i>
<i>Marked channel plus 10m width extension</i>	<i>17.58</i>	<i>13.7%</i>



Pros and Cons of cutting width extension proposal

Strengths	Weaknesses
Reduced frequency of vessel fouling issues	Increased area of impact on plants
Greater confidence for motorboat helms	No current capacity for additional cut material
Fewer vessel recoveries	Limited capacity of BA operational capabilities
Increased navigation access opportunities	Funding sources currently insufficient
Increased opportunities/stability for regattas Stability for local economy & businesses	More evidence required to be collated and submitted to NE
Opportunities	Threats
Investment in day boats	Negative impact on SSSI/SAC features
Re-use of cut material for compost	Reduced conservation value of nature reserve