



Mutford Lock, Oulton Broad, Harbour Revision Orders (HROs)

Suffolk County Council is the highway authority for the A1117 road. That road is carried over the western end of Lake Lothing (to the immediate east of Mutford Lock) by a lifting bridge. The A1117 (Saltwater Way at this location) is one of the two road connections between the northern and southern parts of Lowestoft which are separated by the salt waters of Lake Lothing and the fresh waters of Oulton Broad. There is also a pedestrian/cyclist route which runs across Mutford Lock itself, with another lifting bridge (Freshwater Way). The other road connection between the northern and southern parts of Lowestoft is on the A12, at the eastern end of Lowestoft Harbour, connecting to the sea.

As highway authority for both the vehicular and pedestrian/cyclist routes at Mutford Lock, the County Council has worked closely with the Broads Authority on the combined operation of the two bridges and the lock from the control tower next to the lock. In recent years, the two bodies co-operated on altering operation of the lock from mechanical to hydraulic. Bridge and lock operations are carried out by one team, who are jointly financed by Suffolk County Council and the Broads Authority.

The County Council welcomed the original proposals to carry out works to refurbish the lock, which were incorporated into the new road and bridges contract. The County Council saw the refurbishment of the lock as an important contribution to the economic, environmental and social well-being of Lowestoft and especially so as putting in place an arrangement which served to improve water access between Oulton Broad and Lake Lothing. An arrangement for agreed opening hours was devised which would accommodate vehicular traffic demands as well as vessels passing between the two water areas.

The making of the HROs will mean that the operational arrangements which have now existed for many years will be given final ratification in law. The success of the original objective can be measured in the co-operation over the years between the County Council and the Broads Authority and the achievement of improved connections for vessels.

The County Council appreciates the position of ABP and recognises that, from the perspective of effective and efficient port operation, it makes sense also for jurisdiction over, and ownership of, Mutford Lock and adjoining land to be transferred to the Broads Authority.

The County Council has worked closely with ABP and the Broads Authority on this long-desired objective and supports the making of the HROs, as applied for by ABP and the Broads Authority

Mark Stevens
Assistant Director Operational Highways

12th July 2018