

# PROJECT TROLL



## LIVE BRIDGE HEIGHTS ON THE NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS

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Accurate, realtime information helping you make navigation decisions and improving safety on the broads

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## Real Time Bridge Clearances Online

Nick Drew and Jeremy Glenn are keen boaters on the Norfolk Broads.

While tootling around the rivers of Norfolk and Suffolk, it was important for them to know if they would get under the bridges, **but BEFORE they got there.**

There were no real time clearances available and no way of working it out without being at a 'bridge board'. Will they get through Potter Heigham? Will they make it to the Locks at Geldeston before they close? Are they going to get across Breydon?

The Norfolk Broads' great unanswered questions! The only way to answer these questions was to design and build their own network of sensors, communications, cloud software and mobile web app. So that's what they did back in 2018.

Whilst they now have a small amount of funding from a local boatyard, all the R&D, hardware and running costs have been met by themselves. Free to all users, they don't come close to covering their running costs, but they think it's an invaluable service for navigation and safety, and so do around 4,000 users a year, so they keep on self-funding it.

At the moment, they cover Beccles, Great Yarmouth and Potter Heigham Bridges (some of the most important ones), but which bridges are next? Nick and Jeremy said *"Lots of people ask us which bridge is next. At the moment we can't afford to add any more bridges to Project Troll without some commercial sponsorship, and the Broads Authority aren't interested."*

Not only are funds an issue for expansion, but also finding sites on the river within half a mile or so of a bridge – so they would be grateful to hear from boatyards that can help them.

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