



# Broadland Futures Initiative

## Progress Newsletter

- Technical updates
- Engagement updates
- Partner updates on current flood risk management

### Summer 2026 Edition 17

Welcome to the latest edition of the Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) Newsletter. The BFI is developing a 100-year strategy for future flood risk management within the Broadland area, which comprises the Broads river network, the adjacent low-lying coast, and Great Yarmouth.

#### Modelling update: Baseline scenarios

Our computer-based hydrological modelling work of the Broads river system and coastal frontages is close to completion. In our last newsletter we described how we are using the models to test two baseline scenarios, which are required for any strategy appraisal process. We are using the set of 22 criteria developed by the partnership to appraise and score how well those baselines would achieve our 10 BFI objectives. This gives us a comprehensive comparison for the Flood Risk Management (FRM) actions that we later appraise, shortlist, and take forward into business cases and a funding strategy as part of the BFI Plan. [Read more about our objectives](#)

#### Applying recent policy updates

The Government recently updated its Green Book, which is guidance the BFI must follow as we will develop business cases that involve spending public money. We're incorporating those updates into our appraisal of the baseline scenarios, ensuring it's fully up to date.

In addition, in April the Environment Agency updated its flood and coastal erosion risk management funding policy guidance. We're also applying those updates to our economic appraisal of the baseline scenarios, and later on this and the Green Book guidance will underpin how we appraise the FRM actions. [Read more about the Green Book](#) and the [flood and coastal erosion risk management funding policy guidance](#)

#### Modelling update: Flood Risk Management actions

The second part of the modelling – the FRM actions – is also almost complete. We are assessing different combinations (pathways) of FRM actions – such as in-channel structures, barriers, on-line and offline water storage – to see how effective they are at adapting to and reducing flood risk in three time periods: 2040, 2070, and 2130.

We're reviewing the modelling outputs with our partners and planning how we will further explore those actions, particularly those for the 2040 period. In the months ahead we'll start to engage with landowners and other stakeholders who may have a role in delivering actions – the first step in developing potential projects for delivery.

Later this year and into 2027 we will engage more widely with stakeholders whose local knowledge and expertise will add broader insights to our appraisal of the FRM actions that have been modelled.

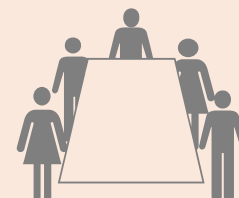
#### BFI web page updates

We've added some shorter summary documents of the work completed to date and updated our Frequently Asked Questions. We'll add more content about our modelling and next steps once it has been reviewed and agreed with partners.

<https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>

## Broader BFI updates

As well as our technical updates, we'd like to mention some of our other work to develop our strategy, and importantly, how it'll be used by BFI partners once complete so that we achieve our vision of improving the resilience of people, places and the environment to flooding as we adapt to a changing climate.



- **Local Planning:** once complete, the BFI Plan will need to be incorporated in local planning activities. In March we ran a BFI introductory webinar for planning colleagues in the local authorities. We'll continue this engagement, including with the Norfolk Strategic Planners, where we also want to understand more about the growth ambitions for Norfolk and Suffolk and the importance of flood resilience in the BFI area to those ambitions.
- **Wider benefits:** our BFI objectives set out what we want to achieve through improving flood resilience which includes protecting habitats, water quality, and sustainable agriculture. We are broadening engagement with our environmental partner organisations, including recently presenting to Norfolk Wildlife Trust Trustees, and we've engaged with groups such as the Broadland Catchment Partnership to discuss opportunities where our ambitions might align.
- **Funding:** any FRM actions that we take forward, as well as asset maintenance work to sustain the current level of flood risk management will need substantial funding contributions. Our baseline modelling and appraisal will help us make the economic case for investing in FRM in the BFI area. We're exploring funding options with partners, but we'll also need contributions from others, for example, organisations whose operations depend on or benefit from flood resilience and how flood water is managed.



Please get in touch if you would like to discuss how your organisation could support the BFI with any of these themes.

## BFI timeline

This is an overview of where we are in BFI programme and the next steps through to completion of the BFI Plan in early 2028.

### Autumn 2025 – Summer 2026: Modelling and appraisal

- Model and appraise the baseline scenarios (do nothing + sustain) + 4 pathways, based on climate change projections for 2040, 2070, 2130, applying different combinations of FRM actions
- The outputs of the modelling will provide flood outlines and depths on maps

### Autumn 2026 – Summer 2027: Develop and appraise FRM action pathways

- Sequence and appraise the longlist of FRM action combinations into pathways
  - Non-monetary appraisal against the BFI Objectives
  - Appraise shortlist of FRM action pathways, including economics
- Define future decision points and monitoring approach

### Summer 2027 – Spring 2028: Develop and finalise the BFI Plan

- Finalise pathways based on the shortlist appraisal
- Funding Strategy and draft business cases for potential 'next step' FRM actions in first phase (2030s)
- Sustainability Assessment (inc. Strategic Environment Assessment)
- Write the BFI Plan > Agreement from partners and RFCC > Publish

### Stakeholder engagement

- Using the modelling outputs to explain future impacts if we continue with the current FRM approach and why we need to take an adaptive approach
- Using the modelling outputs to explore the effectiveness of pathways and potential opportunities linked to future FRM actions
- Seek feedback that our appraisal conclusions are correct
- Seek feedback on our final outputs and Plan
- Plan publication engagement

## Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)

The Broads IDB and Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland IDB continue to deliver a wide range of flood risk management works across the Broads. This includes maintenance and capital works on IDB assets and work with partners including the Environment Agency (EA).

Key projects over the last 12 months and upcoming include:

### Work on IDB assets

- Upgrade to pumping station water level and control monitoring equipment
- Major capital works ongoing to replace Horsey and St Benets pumping stations and works about to start on the replacement of Martham, Brograve and Potter Heigham pumping stations as part of the [Upper Thurne Drainage Improvement Project](#)
- Completion of construction of [the new Norton pumping station](#) on the River Waveney

### Work undertaken for the EA

- Flood embankment grass cutting across the Broads
- Channel maintenance work on main rivers including Acle Landspring, Lake Lothing Landspring and Barsham Brook
- Flood embankment crest level maintenance and repairs at Hickling and Geldeston and further work planned for this summer at Reedham, Postwick and Heckingham
- Maintenance of navigation markers on groynes at Horsey and signs on reefs at Sea Palling
- Repairs to timber work on flood defences at Thurne Staithe



Work on the embankment at Hickling

## Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has recently completed a series of maintenance activities across the Broads area including:

- Erosion protection works at Stracey Arms have been delivered, along with leak repairs to the embankment at Ludham Bridge
- Crest level maintenance works have started at Postwick Marshes and Reedham to ensure continued resilience of flood defences, and to maintain the designed height of the defences
- Recapping works on crest piling on the south side of Breydon Water over the summer
- The team remains on schedule with the routine maintenance programme, including grass cutting, channel clearance, and associated wall repairs, helping to maintain the condition and performance of assets



Re-piling works at Stracey Arms

Are you planning for how your community can be more resilient to emergencies?

Your **Local Resilience Forums** offer advice, training and support to create Community Emergency Plans.

They also have advice for developing Business Continuity Plans. Find out more:

[Norfolk Prepared - Norfolk Resilience Forum](#)  
[Welcome to the Suffolk Resilience Forum](#)

## Contact us

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