

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021

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Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair)- Broads Authority, Simon Curl- Suffolk County Council, Donna Dean- Natural England, Emma Dixon- IDB, Peter Doktor - Environment Agency, Victoria Egan- National Trust, Kevin Hart- Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Charlotte Hounsell – Norwich City Council, Mark Johnson - Environment Agency, Sarah Luff- Norfolk County Council, Gavin Rumsey- Environment Agency, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (minutes),

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) welcomed everyone to the remote meeting.

Apologies received from Julie Beeden, Rob Goodliffe, John Jones, Phil Pearson, Rob Wise.

2. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) provided an update for the following outstanding products.

Existing data sources/indicators (Product 8)

The second draft was circulated with Initiative Project Team (IPT) for review. This has now been completed.

BFI plan objectives (Product 11)

The non-technical summary has been completed and is now available on the BFI webpage. The Elected Members Forum (EMF) have also received a copy of the summary.

SEA scoping (Product 13)

A table of comments has been created in response to the feedback from the consultation. The product will be completed once all the comments have been responded to.

Salinity investigation (Product 17)

The first draft has been reviewed by the project team, a second draft is due to be circulated to the IPT by the end of January.

Coastal data analysis (Product 18)

The first draft of the technical note will be ready by mid-February 2022 for the IPT to review.

Hydraulic modelling

The hydraulic model is on schedule and is due to be completed by mid-2023. Work has started on looking at how the model will work and the areas which will be modelled. In adopting the adaptive approach, the modelling will test a range of different sea level rise scenarios up until 2125. Based on Environment Agency guidance, Sea level rise scenarios will be included in the modelling in line with national guidance and other comparable initiatives such as the Thames Estuary 2100 plan.

Appraisal methodology (Product 12)

The first draft has been reviewed by the IPT, a second draft is expected in early January 2022. The feedback received has highlighted that this is a technical document which is not easy to communicate about. Additional materials, including a video of a narrated presentation, will be provided to present the appraisal methodology to a non-technical audience.

Looking forward

As part of sections five and six for developing and implementing the BFI plan, a draft timescale for future activities has been produced from 2022 to 2025:

- Make the objectives SMART
- Define the management units
- Identify all possible actions
- Short list the actions
- Identify combinations of short list actions
- Build new hydraulic model
- Test action combinations against the objectives
- Optimise the action combinations
- Compile the plan

Comments and answers to questions

The timescale for future activities does not show any iteration processes. PD will think about how to take this on board.

Based on previous engagement activities, there seems to be a view from some stakeholders that the use of a barrier is an obvious solution and there is an expectation for action to take place now. The BFI is developing a strategy with a methodology to assess a range of options, including a flood barrier and other solutions. There is a response on the FAQ on this point.

The FAQ's also includes a section relating to the winter 2020 flooding event. The section can now be updated to reference the flood investigation report produced by Norfolk County Council.

GR agreed to review the FAQs on the BFI webpage.

BFI is a good opportunity to promote some of the messaging included in the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) [policy statement](#). The policy points out that it is not just the risk management authorities which are responsible for managing risk, but it is also the communities. People are required to take more ownership, either living with risk through resilience or adaptation.

Interpretation of the hydraulic model could be difficult due to its technical nature. Once the model has been checked and validated, it will be shared with stakeholders for feedback.

3. Update on communications and community engagement

GR provided an update to the IPT on activities since the last meeting.

- Edition no.8 of the BFI progress newsletter has been shared.
- The BFI objectives that were agreed have been published and the public facing summary is live on the BFI website.
- The BFI's vision statement "Together, we improve the resilience of people, places and the environment to flooding, as we adapt to the changing climate" has also been published.
- Meetings and public events scheduled for early 2022:
 - Upper Thurne Working group
 - Public events in Ormesby St Margaret
- Other business:
 - BBC Media enquiry
 - Contribution to Broads Society Harnser publication
- The draft timescale for future activities has been updated to include potential engagement opportunities.

Questions

- Do the suggested points for community engagement feel appropriate, or should there be more, or less?
- For the community what is the best and easiest means of providing input?
- How do we ensure community input is representative?
- How much technical or background information would you like to know?
- How to deal with the contradicting views we might receive from the community?

Comments and answers to questions

January and February will be used as a time to reflect before engagement commences in March 2022. The engagement timescale spans 3-4 years until 2025, during this time there will be periods where the focus is on delivering technical work. Meaningful engagement will be required to take place during this time. It was agreed that we should ensure engagement activities at least every year as a minimum.

The IPT will present options for the EMF to vote on, but it is possible that there will not always be a consensus. This is why it is important to involve the elected members, and for democracy to be at the heart of the decision-making process.

The latest BFI newsletter has emphasised that the BFI is a high-level strategy. The BFI plan will provide the directions for more detailed projects on the ground. Actions will come from partners within BFI.

The Thames Estuary 2100 is a good example of presenting a balanced high-level strategy whilst still providing detail for specific areas for those who would like further information. The plan is currently undergoing a 10 year review.

4. Elected Members Forum

MPT reported that there had not been an EMF meeting since the last IPT meeting and there were no further updates. The date of the next EMF will be decided at the next IPT meeting in February 2022.

5. Broads Plan review

The Broads Authority (BA) is reviewing its management plan, with a view to adopt a new management plan in 2022. The current version 2017 is available at [Broads-Plan-2017.pdf \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](#). BA officers and members have started to make revisions to the draft Broads Plan 2022. It consists of six “priority partnership action”, priority A on climate change is particularly relevant to the BFI IPT. MPT thanked IPT members who have already provided feedback.

A workshop with BA members will take place in January 2022, once this has taken place the IPT will be sent the latest full version of the Broads Plan review. The formal consultation is due to be approved by BA members at the May 2022 committee meeting.

6. Proposed meeting dates 2022

IPT members agreed to the following IPT dates for 2022.

Date	Time
Monday 7 February 2022	10.30-12.30pm
Monday 25 April 2022	10.30-12.30pm
Monday 13 June 2022	10.30-12.30pm
Monday 15 August 2022	10.30-12.30pm
Monday 17 October 2022	10.30-12.30pm
Monday 12 December 2022	10.30-12.30pm

7. AOB

The Broads Authority placed a bid for the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) Discovery Grant and has been successful. The purpose of the project is to address the risks and

barriers for rewetting land to create peat forming habitats with carbon and nature benefits. It also provides the opportunity to work with farmers and land managers to prepare the feasibility stages of potential future projects that would deliver multiple ecosystem services. 13 sites have been selected in the Broads, with £800,000 to spend before March 2023

Catherine Harris will be joining the BFI IPT as Senior User for a short-term period until Kellie Fisher returns.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 7 February 2022 via video conference.

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Send a copy of the WfT modelling briefs to PD	27/10/2021	JB
Review FAQs on BFI webpage	13/12/2021	GR