



Broadland
Futures Initiative

Prioritisation of the BFI Objectives



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1. Introduction to the BFI

The Broadland Futures Initiative

The **Broadland Futures Initiative** (BFI) is a partnership for future flood risk management in the Broadland area. Our main goal is to agree a plan for future flood risk management that better copes with our changing climate and rising sea level. The focus will be on what will happen over the next 100 years, however we need to start planning now to secure support and make well-informed decisions.

This document reports on the **prioritisation of BFI's 13 objectives**. The BFI Elected Members Forum (EMF) consists of elected local authority councillors that represent the public and make important decisions. The EMF was invited to complete surveys to arrange the 13 BFI objectives in order of importance and attend workshops to discuss the results and agree a representative prioritisation.

The objectives express our aspirations for the BFI area that go beyond meeting legal requirements

The Plan Area

The BFI plan area includes the majority of the Broads Authority executive area and key stretches of the coast which could influence flooding in the Broads. Refer to the map on the next page. The plan area is predominantly in east Norfolk but also crosses into northeast Suffolk.



Sunset at Breydon Water ©Jeremy Halls



BFI plan area. The figure contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2020.

2. Purpose of the Prioritisation

Previously, **13 BFI objectives**, shown on the next page, were agreed by the EMF. These objectives will guide the development of future flood risk management actions, to assess their likely performance and to monitor the implementation of the BFI plan.

As the BFI plan develops, decisions will need to be made about which flood risk management actions are chosen to invest in. Across the BFI area, we will most likely require a mix of actions and we will aim for this mix to achieve as many of the 13 objectives as possible. However, it is possible that some objectives will be fulfilled more than others. Prioritising the objectives ensures that the objectives which are most valued by the EMF – on behalf of the wider public – are given more weight when choosing flood risk management actions.

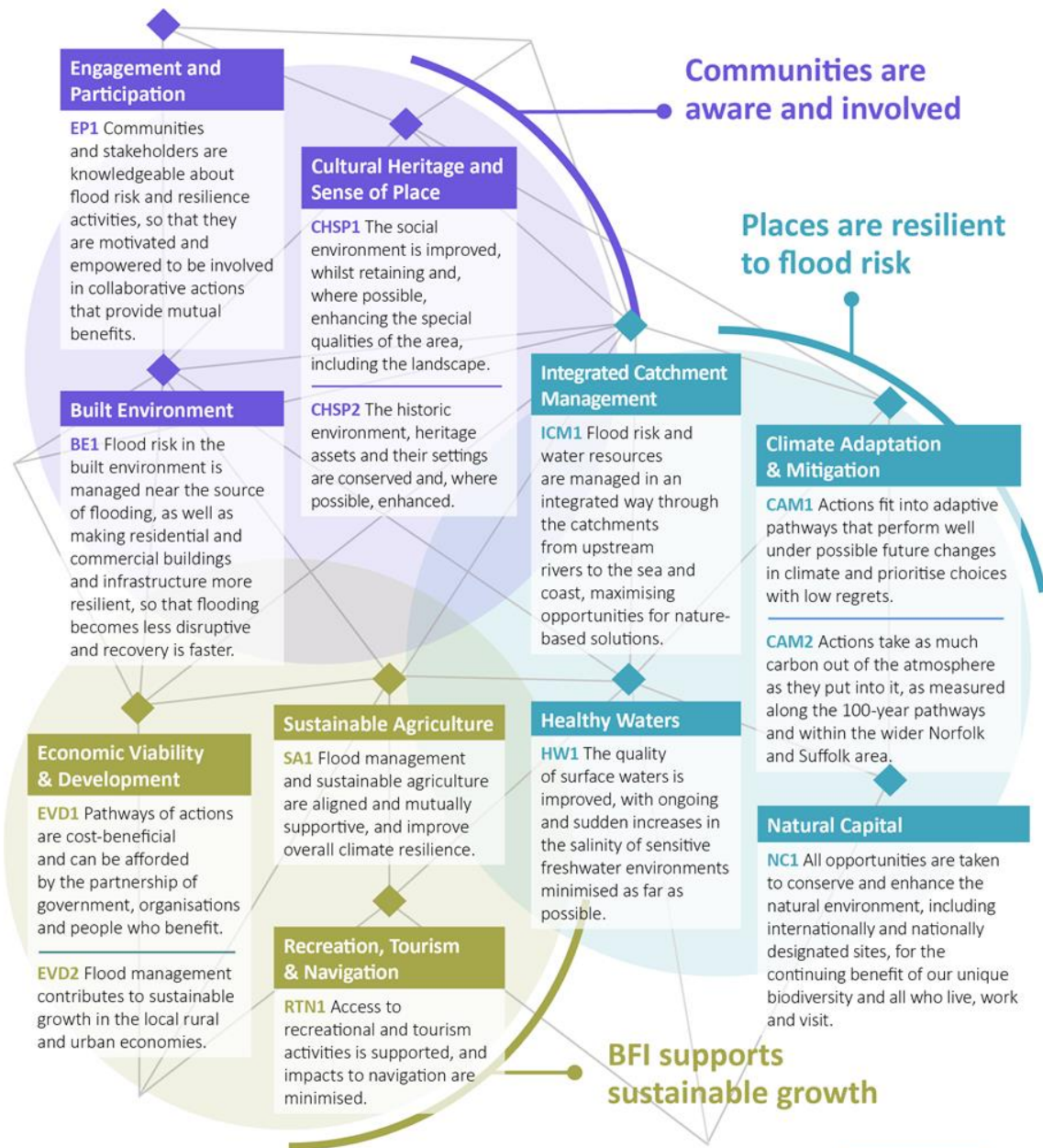
The Elected Member Forum consists of local authority councillors that have been elected to represent the public

The process of prioritising the objectives does not override the need for the BFI plan to comply with possible legal obligations or standards, for example maintaining navigation or following funding rules.



Horsey Gap ©Jeremy Halls

Together, we improve the resilience of people, places and the environment to flooding, as we adapt to the changing climate



BFI Objectives as Agreed Previously through the EMF

**Broadland
Futures Initiative**

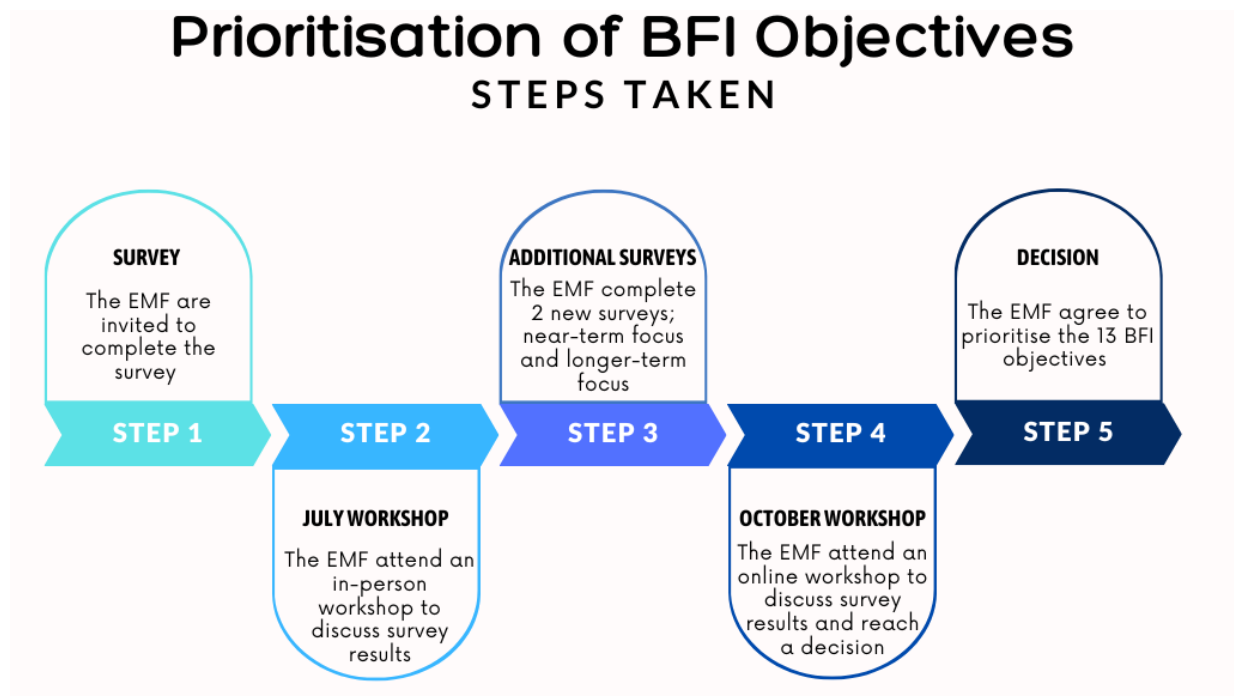
3. Approach Taken

Prioritisation of the BFI objectives was achieved through the following five steps:

- 1) Firstly, members of the EMF were asked to individually undertake a short online survey, designed to aid group decision-making. This was completed before attending an in-person workshop to discuss initial findings in July 2023.
- 2) At the in-person workshop members were presented with the online survey results and asked to discuss the prioritisation of objectives as a group.
- 3) Following discussions at the workshop, EMF members were invited to complete two new surveys:
 - The first survey focused on the BFI objectives in the ‘near-term’; approximately 25-30 years until 2050.
 - The second focused on the same BFI objectives over the ‘longer-term’; approximately 100 years to 2125.
- 4) EMF members attended a workshop in October 2023 where results from the ‘near-term’ and ‘longer-term’ surveys were presented and recommendations regarding the prioritisation of objectives made.
- 5) Members agreed to the prioritisation of the BFI objectives in October 2023.

A five-step process was followed to prioritise the BFI objectives

The below image summaries the five step process above.



4. Outcome of the Prioritisation

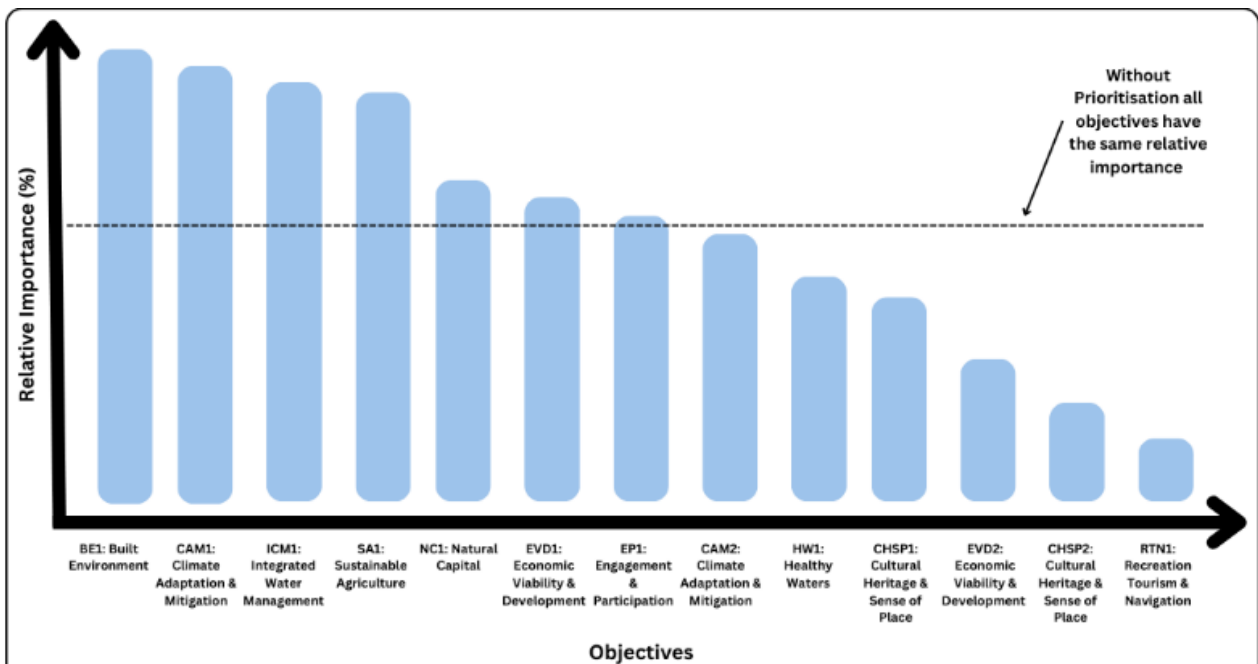
As a result of the process set out in Section 3, the members of the EMF decided that:

1. *It is worthwhile to prioritise the 13 BFI objectives,*
2. *Priorities change when separately considering the near-term (25-30 years into the future) and longer-term (100 years into the future), and*
3. *Pathways of Flood Risk Management actions planned for the 100-year strategy should represent this shift in priorities.*

The following sections expand upon these decisions.

BFI objectives should be prioritised

There were clear differences in the importance placed on each of the 13 objectives, compared with treating all objectives equally. This is illustrated by the spread of relative importance in the chart below and supports the use of prioritised objectives to help choose flood risk management actions.



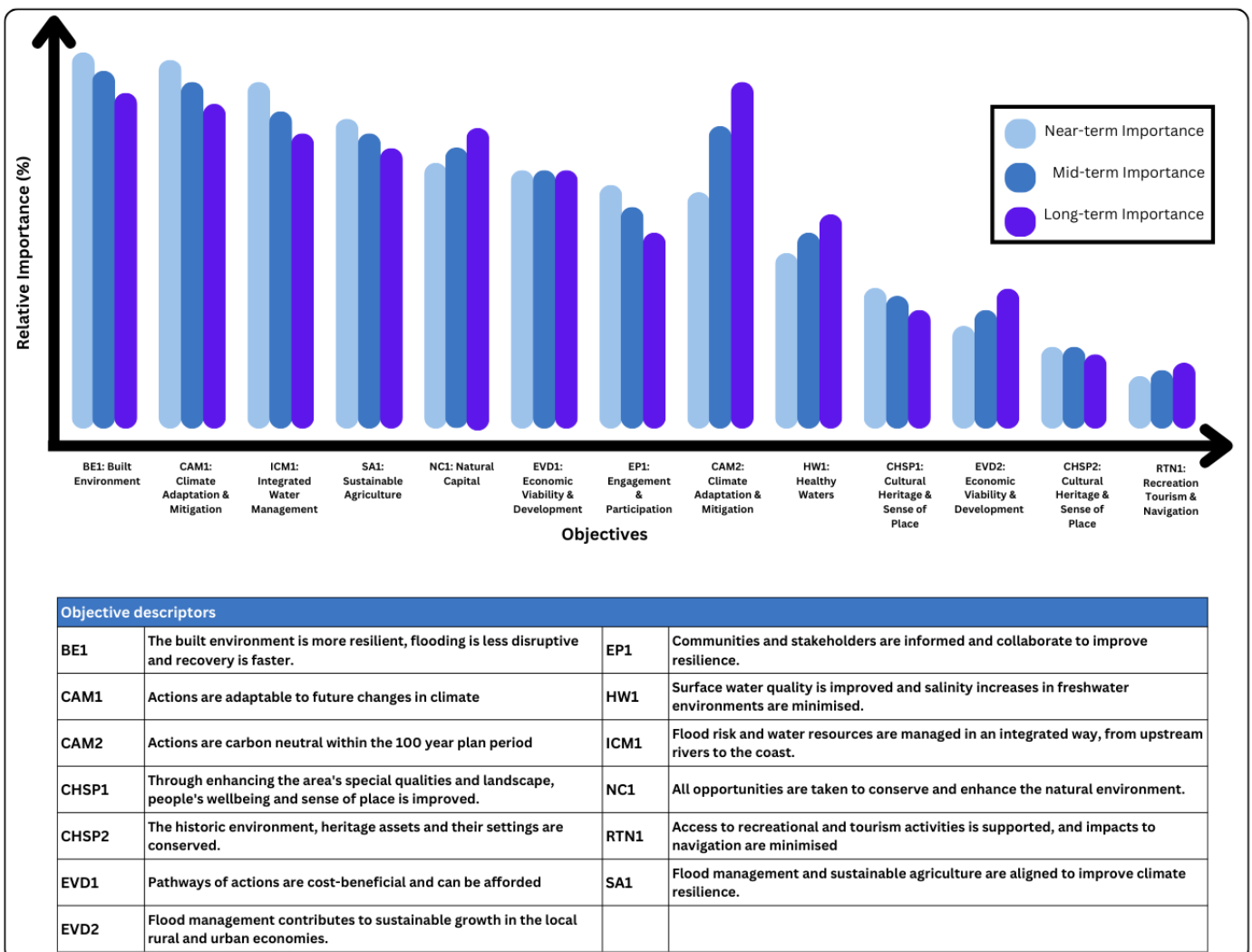
Objective descriptors			
BE1	The built environment is more resilient, flooding is less disruptive and recovery is faster.	EP1	Communities and stakeholders are informed and collaborate to improve resilience.
CAM1	Actions are adaptable to future changes in climate	HW1	Surface water quality is improved and salinity increases in freshwater environments are minimised.
CAM2	Actions are carbon neutral within the 100 year plan period	ICM1	Flood risk and water resources are managed in an integrated way, from upstream rivers to the coast.
CHSP1	Through enhancing the area's special qualities and landscape, people's wellbeing and sense of place is improved.	NC1	All opportunities are taken to conserve and enhance the natural environment.
CHSP2	The historic environment, heritage assets and their settings are conserved.	RTN1	Access to recreational and tourism activities is supported, and impacts to navigation are minimised
EVD1	Pathways of actions are cost-beneficial and can be afforded	SA1	Flood management and sustainable agriculture are aligned to improve climate resilience.
EVD2	Flood management contributes to sustainable growth in the local rural and urban economies.		

BFI priorities may change into the future

Our BFI plan aims to adapt over time and respond to future changes in climate. Some BFI objectives are currently viewed as more important in the ‘near-term’ and others in the ‘longer-term’. Our certainty in ‘longer-term’ priorities will increase with time and regular review. For now, we will explore a range of possible longer-term scenarios so that we are prepared for these changing priorities. This will give us confidence that our near-term decisions set us on a longer-term direction towards sustainable investment.

Pathways of actions should represent the shift between ‘near-term’ and ‘longer-term’ priorities

Our possible pathways of Flood Risk Management actions will contain points in the future when decisions will be made to either continue with current approaches or adapt to a new approach. For now, we can only suggest what Flood Risk Management actions may be most appropriate at these future points, and we will use a gradual shift between ‘near’ and ‘longer-term’ prioritisations throughout the 100-year period of the BFI Plan to develop this range of future choices. The gradual shift is illustrated below for a mid-point between the ‘near’ and ‘longer-term’ prioritisations.



5. Summary

The 13 BFI objectives express our aspirations for future flood risk management in the area. Through the surveys and discussions, the EMF confirmed that all 13 BFI objectives should be used when deciding between different flood risk management actions, but that they should be prioritised.

Prioritisation of objectives will be reviewed periodically as the BFI Plan is implemented

EMF members prioritised the same 13 objectives for the 'near-term' (approximately 25-30 years until 2050) and the 'longer-term' (approximately 100 years to 2125). We will use a gradual shift between the near and longer-term priorities to anticipate decisions required throughout the 100-year strategy.

It is important to note that, since the BFI Plan will adapt to future climate changes, and as more information becomes available, there will be periodic review of the Plan, including choices of Flood Risk Management actions and the prioritisation of objectives which guide these decisions.



Halvergate Marshes ©Jeremy Halls

6. Glossary

Adaptation Scenarios: A series of proposed actions or approaches through to the end of a time, but only implemented following monitoring and/or the availability of more certain information.

Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI): A partnership formed to agree a framework for future flood risk management in the Broadland area. The strategy aims to better cope with our changing climate and rising sea level. The focus is on what could happen over the next 100 years, however we need to start planning now to secure support and make well-informed decisions.

Elected Members Forum (EMF): Comprises one appointed representative from each Local Authority within the BFI area, to provide a strategic steer, receive advice and recommendations, review progress and reach agreements based on financial, environmental and technical evidence.

Climate Change: Any significant long-term change in the expected patterns of average weather of a region (or the whole Earth) over a significant period of time.

Flood Risk Management: Flood risk management aims to reduce the likelihood and/or the impact of floods. Experience has shown that the most effective approach is through the development of flood risk management programmes incorporating the following elements:

- **Prevention:** preventing damage caused by floods by avoiding construction of houses and industries in present and future flood-prone areas by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding, and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices;
- **Protection:** taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood of floods and/or the impact of floods in a specific location;
- **Preparedness:** informing the population about flood risks and what to do in the event of a flood;
- **Emergency response:** developing emergency response plans in the case of a flood;
- **Recovery and lessons learned:** returning to normal conditions as soon as possible and mitigating both the social and economic impacts on the affected population.

Longer-term: approximately 100 years to 2125.

Near-term: approximately 25-30 years until 2050.

Objectives: Together, the plan objectives will guide how different flood risk management actions and pathways will be appraised, compared, and preferred actions and pathways selected.

Pathways: A sequence of actions that can be regarded as a unique route through a decision tree. Changing to the next action is triggered by meeting a pre-defined condition.

Risk: Combination of the probability that an event will occur and the consequence to receptors associated with that event.