

# Broadland Futures Initiative

## Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2021

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## Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) - Broads Authority, Shirley Bishop -South Norfolk and Broadland District Council, Simon Curl- Suffolk County Council, Donna Deane- Natural England, Emma Dixon -IDB, Peter Doktor- Environment Agency, Kellie Fisher - Environment Agency, Rob Goodliffe- Coastal Partnership East, Kevin Hart – Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Ross Holdgate- Environment Agency, Charlotte Hounsell- Norwich City Council, Mark Johnson - Environment Agency, John Jones – Norfolk County Council, Andrea Kelly- Broads Authority, Sarah Luff- Norfolk County Council, Andy Millar- Natural England, Phil Pearson – RSPB, Gavin Rumsey - Environment Agency, Rob Wise - National Farmers Union, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (Minutes).

## 1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Matthew Philpot

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

## 2. Update on communications and community engagement

Gavin Rumsey (GR) provided an update on the communications and community engagement to the Initiative Project Team (IPT). The closing date for the online survey has been extended until the end of May to allow more time for participation. The extension will be announced this week in the BFI newsletter.

An A4 postal flyer will be circulated to 2000 targeted properties which sit within a flood risk zone and inside the BFI plan area. The flyers will be distributed w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> May to raise awareness and to invite residents to take part in the survey who many not be able to access the internet.

### In the media

- Two interviews on BBC Radio Norfolk Breakfast Show with Kirsten Thorne
- Article in Eastern Daily Press
- BFI Website 1296 page views, 740 link clicks to study reports and accessing the virtual exhibition
- Broads Authority's Facebook & Twitter Account–13,548 interactions (not including social media activity through our partners)

### Virtual Village Hall Events and Virtual Exhibition

For each of the village hall events (3 in total) there were 15-20 members of the public join virtually for each event, asking questions and interacting with the project team. The virtual exhibition space has been visited by 750 people. Recordings are available online.

### Working Groups

Presentations have been provided to the following groups:

- Norfolk Public Sector Leaders forum

- Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
- Broads Authority Local access forum
- Somerton Parish Council
- Upper Thurne Working Group
- University of East Anglia

### Survey highlights

- Key themes of the Broadland area focus on the landscape and getting back to nature.
- Damage to wildlife habitats and damage to property are the largest area of concern when considering the impacts of flooding. Concern for wildlife habitats since the 2019 survey has increased considerably.
- There is a general acceptance that change is required within the Broadland area to manage the risk of flooding.
- The survey is largely being completed by people who work and/or live in the Broadland area, local voices are being captured.
- The age of participants highlights that young people are not engaging with the survey. Covid-19 restrictions and school closures have made it difficult to present BFI in an education setting over the last year. The IPT have been working with Norfolk Youth Parliament and colleges, and plan to develop focus groups to engage with young people in the future looking at their specific perspectives (navigation, angling, agriculture).
- The insights so far will be presented in a public facing mid-term summary to be shared with the next BFI newsletter.

### Comments

- There has been an increased in concern for wildlife habitats and greater appreciation for green spaces around where people live since the first lockdown.
- 134 survey responses have been received so far, it is anticipated that with the leaflet drop and mid-term summary the responses will increase.
- Presenting flood risk management as an opportunity to save wildlife or make a positive impact on climate change is a good way in to engage with young people.
- Emma Dixon (ED) and Donna Dean (DD) provided additional contacts and suggestions to enable GR to engage with schools and extracurricular groups. Norfolk Museums sixth form debates and online STEM activities were also suggested to encourage youth engagement.

### 3. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) noted that extension in engagement work will cause a delay in some of the outstanding products.

#### **Product 8**

Existing key data sources and indicators for the plan area. Jacobs have commenced work on this product and will also be looking into resilience and its definition.

#### **Product 11**

The draft BFI plan objectives will be derived from the stakeholder engagement. Objectives will be shared with the Elected Members Forum (EMF) for agreement and adoption.

#### **Product 12**

The methodology for options appraisal and preferred option selection. Work is due to commence in May 2021. The Broads have been selected as a pilot study for the OpenCLIM project (Open Climate Impacts Modelling Framework). PD attended a workshop on physical and social-economic models linking together and provided feedback.

#### **Product 13**

An introduction letter about the SEA scoping process has been circulated to the IPT members and statutory consultees. The draft report is due next month followed by a 6 week consultation.

#### **Salinity Review**

Jacobs are drafting a proposal for a study which will look at the impact of salinity across all sectors including nature conservation, agriculture and water resources.

#### **Hydraulic modelling**

After reviewing the tools currently available it was concluded that an updated model is required. The scope has been defined, Jacobs will begin to start the work at the end of the month which will take approximately two years. It is important that the modelling is thorough as it will support the 100 year strategy.

The modelling will test the options available and what the impacts are likely to be. It is not anticipated that that the model would impact on the objectives, only to test that the objectives are being met.

#### **Breydon Water topographic survey**

A drone survey was undertaken last week, the remaining portion of Breydon water will be completed later this month.

#### **Strategy Development**

The strategy has been presented as a circular process with 5 key questions organised into 10 stages. The circular process ensures that at any point the IPT can review the direction of the BFI and respond to the situation as it changes. The process will allow for options to be prioritised and identify the situations in which they will be useful.

Objectives are being brought together under three themes: places are resilient to flood risk; communities are aware and involved, and; BFI supports sustainable growth. The next stage is to develop SMART objectives. All work in progress will be reviewed after the stakeholder engagement.

## 4. Elected Members Forum

MPT and Mark Johnson (MJ) reported that the first EMF meeting has successfully gone ahead. There were 6 out of the 9 local authorities represented and a positive amount of feedback and engagement provided. EMF members will review the Terms of Reference, ready to agree at the next meeting. The IPT agreed that a copy of the minutes will be shared on the BFI webpage.

The IPT will review the draft plan objectives before they are presented to members at the next EMF meeting. PD agreed to discuss the delivery date with Jacobs before setting the date of the next EMF meeting.

## 5. Nature recovery network

Andy Millar (AM), Senior Advisor for Natural England presented Nature Recovery and the role that BFI can play with current and emerging policy drivers in FCERM.

### Nature Recovery Terminology

- Nature Recovery Network (NRN) -A nationwide network building on Lawton principles, large scale commitment to connected nationwide coverage. It is not the whole land area.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) -Statutory spatial strategies within the Environment Bill, to underpin the NRN, likely to be local authority-led (appointed by Secretary of State). Will cover the whole land area.
- Landscape/Nature Recovery Areas -25 Year Environment Plan -25 catchment or landscape-scale nature recovery areas. expand wildlife, build resilience to climate change, provide wider benefits for people.
- National Nature Recovery Partnership- Launched 5th November, a 'call to arms' to all sectors of society to join in natures recovery and help develop the network.

### Nature Recovery Network Building Blocks

- Enhanced individual or clusters of protected sites will be at its heart
- Newly created or restored habitat, corridors and 'stepping-stones' will connect wildlife-rich areas to help wildlife be resilient and populations grow and move through the landscape.
- Buffer zones of sustainably managed land will protect key network areas
- Green and blue infrastructure and networks of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, improving landscape resilience, ecosystem services, health, wellbeing and environmental equity

- Nature Recovery Areas at a large landscape or catchment scale, will make a significant contribution to nature restoration, net zero, economic, health and wellbeing benefits

### **Changing Flood Management Policy: National Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy**

- Increased weighting in Outcome Measure 4 for habitat creation and restoration in FCERM strategies inland and at the coast
- Specific commitment to flood authorities and NE working together to help FCERM projects contribute to 'local nature recovery strategies'
- Protected Sites: new approaches to working with habitats to help build adaptation
- Land Use and land management: flood authorities, landowners and working climate change resilience into agriculture

### **Glover Review, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and Biodiversity**

- Proposal 1: National landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature, and be supported and held to account for delivery by a new National Landscapes Service
- Proposal 3: Strengthened Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery including, but not limited to, wilder areas and the response to climate change
- Proposal 4: National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks –joining things up within and beyond their boundaries

### **The Broads**

Andrea Kelly, Environment Policy Adviser for the Broads Authority presented Nature and Landscape Recovery within the Broads, and feedback from mapping exercises carried out by Broads Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) and Broads Land Managers Board BLMB.

National Parks England have created a delivery plan for nature for each National Park, presented as an illustrative opportunities map. The map identifies 6 core nature areas (SSSI and breeding waders). The remain areas are highlighted as areas with opportunities to create and improve habits, nature and carbon or as buffer zones for restoration and connectivity for water and habitats.

### **Challenges**

- Fine scale water control
- Freshwater supply
- Water quality
- Adequate payments

- Expert advice provision
- Sustainable wildfowling

### **Policy and investment context**

Environmental policy is made up of long term environmental targets, environmental principles, water and waste, Biodiversity Net Gain and The Office for Environmental Protection. There is now an opportunity to feed into the policy cycle.

The Agricultural Transition Plan will move away from direct payments to other kinds of funding over a seven-year period from 2021 to 2028. There is an emphasis on landowners working together and private contracts to deliver Natural Capital. ELMs is due to start in 2024 and will have 3 elements:

- Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

### **Local prioritisation**

The first BLMB seminar reviewed the suitability of existing mapping and data to aid natural capital prioritisation. A further two seminars are planned to look at the longer term view with speaker on climate change adaptation and a seminar on funding sources. Key principles for prioritisation will be produced after the final seminar.

BBP reviewed the maps and summarised the following:

Map benefits:

- Maps are fit to identify overall baseline condition and areas where nature recovery might be targeted
- Maps show nature recovery could occur over the whole Broads area and provide a buffer around the edge, particularly within and between the rivers
  - Core nature areas (6) -opportunities to improve and expand
  - Restoration areas -opportunities to create and improve habitats for nature and carbon (improved management for species/habitats including rewetting)
  - Expansion areas -opportunities for restoration and connectivity for water and habitats (hedges, woodland patches, grassland and in field options)

Map gaps:

- Some maps are hard to interpret e.g. EA National Floodplain reconnection potential – which probably was not intended for use in extensive lowland drained landscapes
- Recovery type and schemes required to support it not set out on the maps (discussion required with farmers and land managers)

- Maps do not pinpoint where breeding wader investment or reedbed options could go (lidar and water availability data could be added to achieve this)
- Further site-specific feasibility work is required
- Maps do not show future scenarios (e.g. different water levels or climate scenarios)
- Only some maps are available online

### **Project Delivery**

Land management policy:

- ELM –Broads T&T Number 2 –ends in July 2021.
- Defra Lowland Agricultural Peatland Taskforce: Chaired by Robert Caudwell (ADA). Road Map as key component of the government’s forthcoming England Peat Strategy

Holistic Governance:

- Broads Land Managers Board -ELM
- Countryside Stewardship facilitation/cluster groups (Protected Landscapes supporting a coastal group)
- Super NNR (excellence for nature, access, engagement and science)

Investment, Business Case, Feasibility:

- EA approved feasibility study informing business case (Upper Thurne)
- Buttle Marsh (CANAPE) wetland
- Nature for Climate: Discovery grant -engagement of new partnership and the dev of capital restoration grant applications in the next round -100% funding
- Natural Environment investment readiness fund (NEIRF) application

### **Comments**

- The Governments response to the Glover Review is still outstanding.
- The Nature Recovery Network is welcomed; however, the BFI is a strategy for 100 years, there needs to be confidence that the network will have longevity.
- There is an appetite for more collaborative working across different sectors, now is a good time to be taking this forward. Norfolk and Suffolk have successfully been working together (Natural Capital Evidence Guide) and agree that a degree of flexibility is needed around administrative boundaries.
- There is an overload of initiatives available for famers at the moment. Farmers are aware of public money for public goods, and engaging with decisions that will affect their business now.
- There are a lot of discussions on nature recovery strategies even though the environment bill has been delayed – likely until autumn.



- The message from the government is to continue establishing local partnership to develop practical nature recovery on the ground, investment in roles has already began.
- The full rollout of the ELM scheme by Defra is 2024, the first pilot (SFI) is already underway.

## 6. AOB

Kellie Fisher (KF) noted that there are two relevant projects to BFI that have been selected as part of the innovative resilience programme. Both projects were recommended for future agenda items.

- Suffolk and Norfolk - This project will deliver an innovative approach to integrated water management – helping to manage floods and drought. The project aims to capture surface water runoff during periods of flood and high rainfall, and reusing water for groundwater recharge and agriculture, improving water security in rural communities.
- East Suffolk and Norfolk – This project will pilot a coastal adaptation toolkit and a community adaptation masterplan to prepare the coast for a climate resilient future in an area with one of the fastest eroding coastlines in Europe.

## 7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 14 June 2021 10.30am via video conference.

## Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
PD to discuss the delivery date of draft plan objectives with Jacobs	19/04/2021	PD