

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024

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Attendees

Dan Hoare (Chair)- Broads Authority, Giles Bloomfield- IDB, Libby Bush- Jacobs, David Cobby- Jacobs, Peter Doktor- Environment Agency, Catherine Harris- Environment Agency, Fiona Johnson- Norfolk County Council, Andrea Kelly- Broads Authority, Ian Robinson- RSPB, Tom Say- Environment Agency, Yvonne Smith- Coastal Partnership East, Rob Wise- NFU, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (minutes).

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Dan Hoare (DH) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Mareth Bassett, Wendy Brooks, Victoria Egan, Kellie Fisher, Hannah Gray, Kevin Hart, Fiona Hinds, Rob Kelly, Sarah Luff, Phil Pearson, Marie-Pierre Tighe.

2. Update of technical work

Peter Doktor (PD) and David Cobby (DC) provided an update on the technical work and shared an overview of the programme through to the completion of the project. At its highest level, the project team are anticipating that by the end of this year the long list of flood risk management options will be reduced to the short list and the public consultation will take place. 2025 is about the appraisal of the short listed actions and assessing their performance. 2026 will take the results of the appraisal process and add them to an adaptive pathway. Partners are expected to formally agree the adaptation plan by mid-2027.

Hydraulic model deliverables

- Early deliverables for the Broads hydrological model have been provided for review.
- Calibration meeting to tap into local experience was held on 29 April 2024.
- Model build and update still in progress for standalone watercourses and coastal models.
- The prototype Broads model that is being used to test the impact on flood risk of significant dredging on the lower section of the River Bure will take two months to complete.

Possible flood risk management actions (Product 21)

DC provided a presentation at the last Initiative Project Team (IPT) meeting on the initial stages in the identification of possible flood risk management (FRM) actions and action combinations. The draft report on the approach, outcomes, and next steps has now been circulated to the IPT for review. DC provided a summary on the key points of the report:

- The starting point for the FRM action concepts included:
 - Past FRM studies
 - A review of other studies which are taking place national and internationally.

- Suggested schemes from the public and stakeholders such as a direct connection between the Lower Bure and Breydon Water.
- Each workshop theme was based on an aspect of flood resilience as proposed in the Environment Agency (EA) National Strategy.
- 16 FRM actions were sorted into three themes. The task highlighted the FRM action concepts which will work best together to deliver the theme outcomes:
 - Respond and recover
 - Placemaking
 - Protect
- Action concepts were applied across the BFI plan area.
- Applying themes through the 100 year BFI plan horizon
 - Placemaking Pathway: adapting 'place' naturally & social empowerment.
 - Transitional Pathway: medium term protection for smoother adaptation
 - Alternative Pathway: longer-term protection.

Andrea Kelly (AK) commented on the language that is being used in today's slides and asked if it is suitable to describe the overview of the programme as an adaptive plan when adaptation is still being deliberated as a transitional pathway in the 100 year BFI plan horizon. AK requested that clearer language is used in the reports and visuals, especially when using text from various flood risk approaches which could be quite confusing to the reader. DH agreed that there will be critical points where stakeholders will be asking for members/boards buy in and there will be key words which need to be consistent and bind everything together.

Rob Wise (RW) commented, the language used in the 100 year plan BFI plan horizon slide is not in the report that has been shared with the IPT. RW also asked if the Placemaking Pathway is the same as the do nothing* approach. DC responded, do nothing is a term that comes from the EA appraisal process and refers to the legal minimum. The Placemaking Pathway is an emphasis on the kind of actions that focus on achieving natural flood management, for example, improving social resilience through flood planning and warning. The Placemaking Pathway is not the same as the do nothing approach.

DC acknowledged that there is a lot of language associated with adaptation pathways, but they should be broadly similar and will consider the language going forward. Resilience is something that the project is trying to achieve now. How the resilience is achieved through time is adaptation.

Giles Bloomfield (GB) suggested that the 100 year BFI plan horizon could include another column displaying the benefits of capital investment and the economy that would also be

protected. DC responded, economic cost benefits has not been included as it is not clear what the benefits are going to be at this stage.

RW asked who was present at the workshops and why the IDB were not involved given their critical role in owning and operating many of the assets. DC responded, people were not purposely left out, instead, the workshops were the start of the process and intended to generate ideas to share. DC added, they have already planned a meeting for later this week with the IDB to discuss their current and future works.

The report talks about adapting naturally and puts nature in one category and people in place in another, RW asked where farming fits in. There are not many references to farming in the report and it is not clear to what extent agriculture was discussed at the workshops. DC responded, farming was discussed at the workshops, and it was noted that farming could fit under each of the three pathways. DC agreed to emphasise the conversations that took place around agriculture in the report in the future.

Appendix B of the report is the consultation on the 16 actions and the subsequent analysis that took place last year. The appendix has been added to show that the comments from the public on the tool kit are being taken into account as the process moves forward.

*Do nothing to manage flood/erosion risks. Do nothing represents an alternative to investment which must be included in Government FCERM economic appraisal. It acts as a counterfactual reference against which the benefits and impacts of future investment can be measured.

Social value indicators (Product 25c)

- Jacobs are starting work on the development of a 'wellbeing' indicator.
- There are a variety of techniques to monetise social value indicators which need to be explored. Monetisation to be considered later.

Yvonne Smith (YS) asked what information was used to back up the indicators. PD responded, at this stage, Jacobs are still developing the indicators and undertaking survey work but they can share the results once the work is complete.

Salinity modelling (Product 25d)

- HR Wallingford have completed a report on their initial analysis of fixed monitoring data and proposed next steps.
- Review meeting with stakeholders held this morning. Any further comments to be passed on to PD.
- Initial observations from the interim report are that there is a strong correlation between salinity levels and tide levels, but the relationship is not as strong between salinity and fluvial inputs. PD agreed to share the interim report and slides with the IPT.

Coastal boundary conditions (Product 31)

- Workshop held on 25 April with the Upper Thurne Working Group to consider the existing coastal flood management structures and possible scenarios of alternative alignments.
- Jacobs are currently drawing together the outcomes.
- The workshop has started the conversation about what different scenarios along the coast may look like, but it could be more appropriate for the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) to carry on the discussion.

DH concluded, the overview of the programme is helpful and illustrates the complexities of when several interlinked products start to come together, whilst also exploring new material and new ways of thinking. PD added, the process will become clearer as the programme progresses. It is important that the core project team continue to make it as clear as possible when material needs to be reviewed and when contributions are required for decisions.

3. Update on communications and community engagement

Tom Sayer (TS) provided an update on communications and community engagement.

- Working with the Broads Authority, the BFI webpage has been updated and is now easier for users to follow.
- TS is creating an engagement strategy and plan with costings for the Hello Lamp Post project.
- Work has started on updating the BFI engagement plan and how BFI can engage with stakeholders. Face to face and online options are being considered for engaging with more parish councils. An online forum would be an accessible way to engage with more parishes.
- Mareth Bassett (MB) has been working on the next BFI and Broads Society newsletters and would like to add an article about the presence of BFI at the Norfolk Show and its location next to the Broads Village.
- Changes have been made to the mailbox which make it easier for users to sign up to the BFI mailing list. Users can sign up by visiting the BFI website [Broadland Futures Initiative \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk) or scanning a QR code.
- BFI attended the Potter Heigham Parish Council meeting and East Runton Parish Council meeting and received positive responses from the presentation.

4. Update on Elected Members Forum

Following local elections there have been changes to the BFI EMF membership. Local authorities are currently in the process of appointing their representatives to the EMF for 2024/2025. Once all of the members have been confirmed, they will be asked to express their interest in the Chair role ahead of the next workshop taking place on 2 July.

The BFI core team are meeting this week to discuss the content for the next workshop and how to engage the EMF on the process of moving from the long list to short list of options.

5. AOB

At the last EMF meeting there was a query on the use of ‘futures’ for BFI, as change is happening now, and it has been suggested that BFI could be considered as an action plan with rapid change on the ground. DH asked if any of the IPT have received similar feedback. TS responded, there has not been any further feedback to the communications team directly and they have carried out meetings with various councillors to brief them on the BFI plan and its role as a long term flooding strategy.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 11.30am-1.00pm 22 July 2024.

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Create a list of all products (public and technical) for the BFI website	25.03.2024	PD
Share the interim salinity modelling report and slides with the IPT	22.05.2024	PD