



Plan Objectives

Broadland
Futures Initiative



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1. Introduction

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 adapts to changing climate and rising sea level.

Being able to withstand or recover quickly from flooding is often described as being **resilient**. In an area as diverse as Broadland, there are several important characteristics which, when taken together, describe how people and places can become more resilient to flooding. For example, we can protect our natural resources so that, as far as possible, they better cope with floods which may contain water of poor quality or that is too saline.

Resilience is about our lives being lived and planned comfortably alongside the changing climate.

Our built environment can be designed to be more resilient to floods which cause material damage and negatively impact our urban and rural economies. Our communities - who have a wide range of skills, networks and ability to influence outcomes - must be empowered to take part in making decisions and developing solutions. In these, and other ways, we can be proactive in our planning and respond appropriately when floods occur, so that our **people and places suffer the least possible consequences and recover as quickly as possible**. These, and other, aspects of flood resilience are included in the **BFI objectives** presented in the next section. We have provided a glossary in section 4 which explains some of the terms used in case they are not familiar.



Horsey Gap © Jeremy Halls

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



2. BFI Plan Objectives

The BFI objectives will **guide how actions for managing flooding are developed and evaluated**. The transparent process for the selection of the preferred actions will be set out in a separate document and will show how legal and good practice requirements are integrated with the BFI objectives. The objectives to be used have come from careful consideration of the following sources of information:

- Desires for future flood management, expressed through a virtual exhibition and consultations with the people who live, work and visit the BFI area. This draws on the knowledge and experience of local communities.
- Strategies of the Environment Agency, Broads Authority and other BFI partner organisations, as well as the aspirations from local and regional bodies which are not yet as closely involved with managing flooding.
- Findings of technical studies undertaken for the BFI area, including investigations into natural processes operating at the coast, opportunities for improving natural capital, the likely impacts of climate change and the already extensive influence of flood management in Broadland.

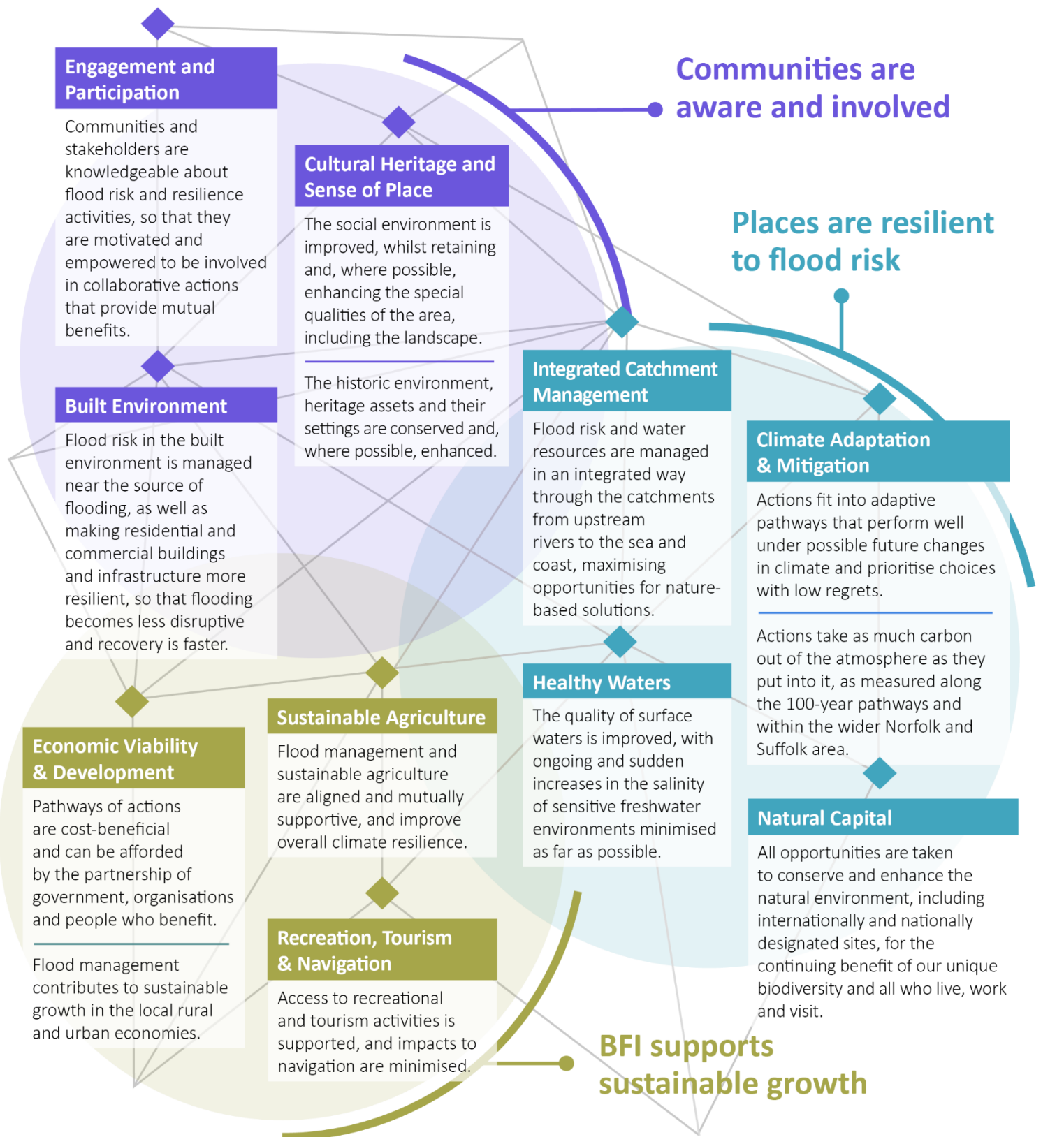
The **objectives are summarised in the graphic on the following page**. In the same way as the social, natural and economic characteristics of the BFI area are closely interconnected, so are the objectives. However, separating them into ten boxes, and using headings that represent the key characteristics, enables us to assign specific measures to each objective. The grouping of the boxes by colour shows how our BFI objectives provide a local link to the government's three national ambitions for flood resilient places.

The initial use of the objectives will be to **measure our current level of resilience**, to build up a picture of how resilient the BFI area is to the risk of flooding now, before any further investment in flood management is made. The objectives will then be used to **set minimum standards that any future action must achieve**, and to evaluate how far different actions go beyond these. This will help us understand the trade-offs that we will need to make in the future, when **deciding between different actions**.



River Ant downstream of How Hill. Piling removed and old bank lowered as part of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project. © Jeremy Halls

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



The BFI aims to put **people at the heart of decision making**. Therefore, a draft of the objectives was shared with the local councillors who have been chosen to make core decisions on behalf of local communities (forming part of the Elected Members Forum) and stakeholders. The following questions were provided to prompt responses.

- Do you agree with the proposed vision for the BFI Plan that “Together, we improve the resilience of people, places and the environment to flooding, as we adapt to the changing climate”?
- Are there any important aspects of the plan area which could be impacted by flooding and which may not be covered by the objectives?

Feedback from the Elected Members Forum and stakeholders was used to finalise the BFI objectives

We used the feedback from the Elected Members Forum and stakeholders to finalise the objectives presented here. The vision and objectives were then approved by the Elected Members Forum.

Note that the objectives as listed are not prioritised. However, this may be something we consider in situations where we are constrained (e.g. by funding) to fulfil some objectives more than others.



Halvergate marshes © Jeremy Halls

3. What is Broadland Futures Initiative?

The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) is a partnership for future flood risk management in the Broadland area. BFI is to be developed in partnership by organisations with flood risk management responsibilities as well as organisations which have environmental, social and economic interests within the plan area. The Environment Agency, Natural England, County and District Councils, Internal Drainage Boards, Broads Authority, National Farmers Union, Water Resources East, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust and others will work together in developing the plan.

Our main goal is to agree a framework for future flood risk management that better considers our changing climate and rising sea level over approximately the next 100 years. This framework will be achieved by putting people at the heart of decision making.

Local councillors representing local communities will be the decision makers. This will be a democratic process with local politicians making the core decisions in order to agree the future flood risk management plan. These decisions will be made having considered the latest projections on our changing climate.

The plan will be developed over a number of stages. This document is part of establishing the background to the plan. Other documents to be produced during this initial stage are shown below. Some of these are aimed at the general public while others are more technical in nature. They will be available through the BFI website: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>. For more information about the BFI and how it's organised see our Frequently Asked Questions document.



Aerial image of Hickling Broad © Mike Page

- Origins of the plan area
- Sources and nature of flood risk
- Coastal processes review
- Current approaches to flood risk management
- The influence of flood risk management
- Strategic plans and documents review
- Existing key data sources and indicators
- The result of initial stakeholder survey
- Objectives for the plan
- The methodology for options appraisal and preferred options selection
- Strategic environmental assessment scoping
- Frequently asked questions

4. Glossary

Action: A policy or engineering response to manage flood risk and improve resilience to flooding.

Adapt: The ongoing adjustment in natural, engineered and human systems in response to actual or changing expectations in climate and other drivers of risk.

Adaptive plan or strategy: Where actions or approaches through to the end of the period are proposed, but only implemented following monitoring and/or the availability of more certain information.

Biodiversity: Variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat. A high level of plant and animals is usually considered to be important and desirable and is referred to as being biodiverse.

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. Planning has started now with the strategy to be implemented from the mid-2020s onward.

Capitals: Natural, built, economic, human, social and political are the six capitals, or resources, demonstrated by people and places which provide a holistic picture of their resilience to flood risk and the impacts of climate change.

Characteristics: Describe ten key aspects or themes which are already evident in the BFI area and which the BFI plans to enhance to improve overall resilience to flooding and climate change.

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.

Climate resilience: The ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to climate change.

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation: Mitigation tackles the causes and minimises the impacts of climate change, whereas adaptation reduces the negative effects and takes advantage of any opportunities.

Cultural Heritage: Historic assets and the environment including landscape, townscape, seascape character and sense of place.

Economic: The costs and benefits of flood damage and actions in monetary terms.

Elected Member 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.

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.

Indicator: Used here to denote an aspect of people or places which is observable or measurable and provides a useful insight into resilience to flooding and the impacts of climate change.

Natural Capital: Parts of nature which directly or indirectly underpin value to people.

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

Option: An option is a choice between two or more flood risk management actions.

Pathway: 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 incident will occur and the consequence to receptors associated with that incident.

Stakeholder: An individual or group with an interest in, or having an influence over, the success of a proposed project or other course of action.

Sustainable agriculture: Farming in ways that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability to farm in the future.