

**Broadland Flood Alleviation Project:
Consultation on Flood Defence Works for Compartment 17
– Postwick Marshes**

Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report provides Members with a summary of Broadland Environmental Services Ltds (BESLs) consultation proposals for Compartment 17 (Postwick Marshes) on the true left bank of the River Yare between Postwick Grove and Ferry Lane, Postwick immediately adjacent to the Broads Authority's 24-hour mooring at Postwick Wharf. The report also outlines officers' response to the consultation upon which members' comments are welcomed.

1 Background

- 1.1 Compartment 17 is located on the true left bank of the River Yare between the Postwick Grove and Ferry Lane, Postwick which is immediately adjacent to the Broads Authority's 24-hour mooring at Postwick Wharf. Land in the compartment is protected by earth floodbank defences, concrete floodwalls and short lengths of steel sheet piling which provide erosion protection.
- 1.2 A planning application for flood defence works in Compartment 17 was submitted by the Environment Agency in 2008 which proposed major flood defence works along the complete length of Compartment 17. This application was withdrawn as Natural England was uncertain about how the proposed works might impact on the undefended Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI which is situated upstream of Rockland Dyke. NE required the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project to carry out study work to assess how flood defence works would affect water levels and flooding patterns in the Yare Valley.
- 1.3 Since 2008 a number of emergency repair schemes have been carried out in the compartment to protect vulnerable banks. This work, which included the installation of plastic crest piling in the centre of the compartment to reduce the risk of catastrophic floodbank breach, did not provide a long term sustainable solution for the defence of Postwick Marshes.
- 1.4 BESL has recently carried out further surveys of the flood defences in Compartment 17 and has concluded that there is a need to carry out further works in the area of the crest piling and also additional work near an Internal Drainage board pump and at a piled area near Hall Farm Postwick.

2 BESL's Proposals for Compartment 19

- 2.1 BESL's proposals for Compartment 17 are small in scale and will have no impact on the navigation. The works involve 74m of floodbank strengthening,

515m of floodbank rollback and a short length of maintenance of existing piling. The location of these works is shown on the plan at Appendix 1.

- 2.2 The strengthening works amount to crest raising and widening of the existing bank and placement of material on its rear face. These works will reduce the risk of the bank breaching during flood events.
- 2.3 Floodbank rollback will take place in the area of the previously installed crest piling and will involve the construction of a new bank on a slightly different alignment. These works accord with the standard flood defence solutions used by BESL elsewhere in the BFAP area and present officers with no concerns.
- 2.4 The erosion protection maintenance proposed will involve works to waterproof a short run of piling in the area of Hall Farm, Postwick and the installation of further erosion protection. No detail of the proposed erosion protection has been provided in the consultation document.

3 Summary of the Broads Authority's proposed response to the consultation

- 3.1 Officers are confident that the small scale floodbank works proposed by BESL will have no impact on the navigation. Officers therefore propose to raise no objections to the works set out in the consultation but to require agreement of the details of the proposed erosion protection and that conditions relating to these details and any channel marking required are placed on any planning permission granted for the scheme.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 Due to the scale of the works and the fact that ongoing discussions have taken place with Natural England about works on Postwick Marshes since 2008, officers do not envisage that the designated sites on the River Yare will be affected by this scheme. BESL has indicated that there will be no change to water levels or flooding patterns as a result of the works and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be submitted with the planning application. Provided that the EIA demonstrates that the designated sites will be unaffected, officers consider that this scheme should be supported.
- 4.2 Members' comments on the report and officers proposed response to the consultation are welcomed.

Background papers: Nil

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Broads Plan Objectives: CC3.1

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Compartment 17 consultation map.

