

Summer 2025 Edition 16

Welcome to the latest edition of the Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) Progress Newsletter. The BFI is developing a 100-year strategy to manage flood risk across the Broads, the adjacent low-lying coast, and Great Yarmouth.

Since our last newsletter in October, we've experienced a relatively dry winter, followed by an even drier spring. This creates drought related challenges, but also means we avoided a repeat of the flooding that occurred during the previous winter.

BFI work continues with computer-based hydrological models of the Broads river system and coastal frontages. Early results from these models are already showing how flood risk and extents of flooding are likely to increase in the future due to climate change and rising sea levels.

Over the coming summer and autumn, we'll be using the models to test two 'baseline' scenarios which are a requirement of the standard appraisal process. In the coming months, those baseline scenarios described below will be compared with other scenarios which are being developed.

1. No further action

This scenario assumes no additional flood risk management and no maintenance of existing defences. It helps us understand the potential consequences and costs of taking no action.

2. Continuation of current measures

This assumes that current

management actions remain unchanged, including maintaining flood walls at their current height and operating pumps at current capacity. This scenario will show how well our current systems can cope with the projected increases in winter river flows and sea level.

We plan to share the results of this baseline modelling late this year. However, our initial findings suggest that the current approach for managing flood risk is unlikely to be effective in the long term. This reinforces the need to explore a wider range of options.

Given the multiple sources of flooding in the study area, a combination of multiple different flood risk management actions will be needed at any given time. As such, we'll also be using the model to test how effective various combinations of actions would be at controlling flooding.

Furthermore, some of these combinations will perform better than others if thinking over the 100-year perspective of the BFI when there will be increasing impacts from climate change.

We intend to share the proposed action combinations late this year, and report in 2026 on their effectiveness in managing flooding.

As mentioned, the BFI is a strategy to manage flood risk over the next 100 years, informing the actions needed for the bigger, overarching plan.

When completed it will not result in immediate actions being taken. Those next steps will be the responsibility of the appropriate risk management organisations who will add further detail to the actions and seek the required permissions and funding. Importantly the BFI's job is to ensure flood risk management actions are implemented in a planned and coordinated manner.

News from the BFI partner organisations

Starting in February this year the Broads Internal Drainage



Board working through the Water Management Alliance are replacing 'end of life' land drainage pumping stations at Horsey and St Benets .

This work is due to be completed by spring 2026 and more information on the project can be found using the following link [Upper Thurne News Apr25.pub](#) . The two pumping stations are the first part of a much wider plan for pumping station replacement within the Thurne catchment.

The Environment Agency (EA) is undertaking a range of maintenance activities this Spring/Summer. They have recently refurbished an outfall on Carlton Beck which will result in better upstream water level management. On the Thurne Dyke timber boards that have been damaged as a result of boat strikes are being repaired. Leak repairs to the Ludham bank will also take place. These works have to be timed to coincide with the end of bird breeding season. At Stracey Arms, on the Acle Straight, further erosion repairs will be undertaken. Finally collaborative work with the Internal Drainage Board will deliver bank height maintenance near Hickling and Geldeston. Dredged sediment resulting from Broads Authority navigation maintenance will be used at Geldeston.



The [Broads Peat Initiative](#) aims to restore and protect vital peatlands in the Broads National Park. Areas of the Broads store vast amounts of carbon, making their protection and restoration essential in the fight against climate change. However following years of drainage many peatland areas now release carbon rather than storing it. The initiative identifies sites where higher water-tables can provide climate and wildlife benefits. Additionally wetland farming is being investigated as a way to manage increasingly waterlogged floodplains. This collaborative approach brings together many individuals and organisations to shape a low-carbon, resilient future for the Broads. The initiative was recently a finalist in the East Anglian Clean & Green Awards 2025.

Norfolk show

BFI was represented on the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) stand at the Royal Norfolk Show. This provided an opportunity for many people to chat with members of the team about projects and future consultations.



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Contact us

Broadland Futures Initiative

Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1RY

info@broadland-futures.org.uk

www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative