

View of Halvergate Marshes © Jeremy Halls



Broadland  
Futures Initiative

## Progress Newsletter

### UPDATE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

IN THIS ISSUE: 'OUT AND ABOUT' – 'ONLINE FLOOD MODELLING SURVEY' - 'CORONAVIRUS: A CHANGE OF PLAN'

## Out and about

Set to be the first of many BFI public engagement events planned for 2020, February saw us attend Norfolk Wildlife Trust's 25<sup>th</sup> Trinity Broads Anniversary at Ormesby St Margaret.

With many people of all ages from local villages, Great Yarmouth, and Norwich coming along, and asking questions, the event, "A conversation about climate change" featured an introduction to the Broadland Futures Initiative by Gavin Rumsey and Peter Doktor from the Environment Agency.



Photo from left: Eilish Rothney (Norfolk Wildlife Trust), Peter Doktor and Gavin Rumsey (Environment Agency), Asher Minns (UEA) and Hannah Gray (Chapel Coffee House) © [www.networkyarmouth.co.uk](http://www.networkyarmouth.co.uk)

Asher Minns from the UEA's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research also spoke about the science of climate change in an engaging and insightful presentation.

We found it a very well organised event and a valuable opportunity to network and talk in person with members of the community about the BFI, climate change and future flood risk in the Broads.

We also recently met with representatives of Horsey Parish Council and Somerton Parish Council who got in touch with us to talk about the flood modelling techniques that the BFI will use and undertake as part of its modelling study. It was a really beneficial and interesting morning to hear experiences and local knowledge from members of the community. The minutes of this

meeting are available on our dedicated BFI webpage.

Another recent event saw the meeting of a number of partners and organisations involved with the BFI looking to incorporate a natural capital based approach to the current study. This approach will help ensure that the natural and managed environment will be fully represented during decision making and help identify opportunities for environmental enhancement.

Such an approach is becoming increasingly prevalent and links with the Defra 25 Year Plan and initiatives such as recently published government guidance '[Enabling a Natural Capital Approach.](#)' "Natural capital can be defined as the world's stocks of **natural** assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all

living things. It is from this **natural capital** that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible.”

([www.naturalcapitalforum.com](http://www.naturalcapitalforum.com), 2020).

Our first step in following this approach has been to produce a baseline natural capital assessment for the study area. This will gather existing information on the quantity, location and quality of assets, together with initial work on constraints and opportunities and will be shared in our public consultations and on our webpage for you to read and comment upon.

## Online Flood Modelling Survey

We wish to continue to keep stakeholders and communities at the heart of the BFI project and this includes our flood modelling approach. The BFI online flood modelling survey gave our stakeholders this opportunity, and it ran from 28 February 2020 and closed on the 29 March 2020.

New flood models are complex, however, all flood models require calibration and validation using real-world observations and this is where we wanted to get your insight, your knowledge and experiences to ensure our modellers are as informed as possible and to ultimately allow

you to contribute to our latest computer-based flood modelling.

With a concentrated number of responses received the survey gave us some valuable and thorough intelligence to build in to our modelling studies.

Using the views and comments from the participants where they have highlighted key elements, or points to consider, for example, to include depth representation of potential flooding in certain areas, will allow us to factor in these requirements into our modelling approach where appropriate.

### What we learnt

The analysis of the survey is based on the participants' responses. We have categorised the comments we have received under the 4 following headlines which the new model and accompanying documents will take into consideration:

- Checking of flood extents in certain geographical areas.
- Depth representation on Environment Agency Maps of potential flooding in certain areas.
- More information on flood modelling techniques and Environment Agency flood maps to be shared.
- More information of the effects of dredging on flood risk to be shared.



*Flooding along Postwick marshes © Jeremy Halls*

### What we will do

Taking into account the themes and information mentioned above our modellers will begin incorporating all of this into their study work. We will ensure that the public feedback received is fully considered and investigated. This leads us to a better and more refined model and one that is built on a shared blend of science and local knowledge. Where more information is needed, our engagement specialists will be sharing the need with you via our webpage as you may be able to provide us with additional data.

We will be developing content to share with you about the science behind the modelling that the Environment Agency undertakes to help you better understand the process and the excellent level of detail that it can achieve.

Additionally, we will be sharing some useful information on the effects of dredging on flood risk, sharing with you the best parts of some fantastic research and studies that have taken place over time.

Lastly, a thank you to those that took part and engaged with us through the survey and if you would like to share any further comments that you feel maybe useful to us please do feel free to get in touch via the contact details in this newsletter.

## Coronavirus – a change of plan

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic is being felt by us all, sadly and tragically for some more than others. Therefore, as we all continue to follow the government's guidance on social distancing, the responsible decision has been taken by the BFI Project team to postpone this summer's public consultation events in the Broadland Area to spring 2021. Even if rules were relaxed enough by September it would be practically and logistically impossible to safely plan these events for this year as we would need to be doing that now. We also hoped to raise awareness at local events such as the Norfolk Show and many more locations throughout the area leading up to September. Unfortunately, these are no longer possible due to Coronavirus.

Whilst we hope to see you all in person as soon as possible, it cannot be ruled out that the mass gathering of people will be banned for the remainder of the year,

hence our decision to delay our series of public events.

The good news is this doesn't mean radio silence from us. Work will continue as before using all of the techniques modern technology affords us. The BFI project team are working as hard as ever and whilst our public consultation events are delayed, we will be hosting an online virtual exhibition for you to interact with us this autumn.

Even if it doesn't quite beat the interactions we can have when we are together in person, we will monitor the situation to come visit you at the appropriate time. In the meantime, we will continue to use online tools such as online consultation and our digital newsletter to share our research. Our aim is to give you plenty of opportunity to influence the project and be kept up-to-date about the decision making process to better cope with a changing climate and flood risk for the Broads.

### Things to look out for

With new plans afoot for this year, our fresh digital focus has given us plenty of food for thought and we will provide you with a regular stream of updates on the work we are doing via our digital newsletter. We will share details on how you can have your say, informative videos and content about climate change, flood risk,

modelling, an interactive FAQ and much more.

Keep an eye out for BFI emails as well as tweets from our partner organisations which will share opportunities for you to stay in touch with us.

More general information about the BFI can be found on our dedicated webpage which will continue to evolve as we work towards our online public event for this autumn.

If you would like to contact or speak with us please do feel free to get in touch via the contact details section.

### CONTACT US

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### BFI WEBSITE

<https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>

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